



City of Madison

Minutes - DRAFT

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Council Legislative Agenda Work Group: Demographic Change

Thursday, July 18, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Meadowridge Library
5740 Raymond Road

CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Ald. Lauren Cnare, Ald. Scott Resnick, and Ald. Matt Phair

Members absent: Ald. Anita Weier (notified)

Others present: Erica Nelson, Torry Winn, Melissa Gombar, Paul Kasuda and Heather Allen

Ald. Scott Resnick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the June 18, 2013 meeting were approved.

PLAN FOR AUGUST MEETING, A. LOCATION, DATE, FOCUS

The next meeting will take place at the Lakeview Public Library at 2845 N. Sherman Avenue on Tuesday August 20, 2013 at 5:30 PM. The focus of the meeting is tools, best practices and emerging strategies for combating poverty.

DISCUSSION: DEVELOPING PLAN TO PRESENT MATERIALS TO COMMON COUNCIL

The Work Group will present an update to the Council as part of an agenda item for the Common Council. Alder Resnick will make the remarks, and the work group will prepare a 3 -5 page summary document which details the work already completed. Heather Allen will circulate a draft among the work group to initiate the development of the paper.

PRESENTATION FROM ERICA NELSON, WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Race to Equity Project is working to identify sentinel indicators that affect all kids and families. The project is gathering "useful numbers" numbers that are accessible and measureable over time.

The first phase of the project is setting the baseline. Later phases of the project will highlight best practices and promising solutions to reduce racial disparities. Ultimately the goal is to create a structure for on-going collaboration and improvement in meaningful outcomes on key measures for African Americans in Dane County.

Indicators

Poverty and Unemployment

- Locally, poverty and inequality pose challenges similar to those faced by communities across the nation, yet some critical measures indicate that inequality is worse in Dane County than in other parts of the nation.
- 54% of all Dane County African Americans lived below the poverty line in 2011 (8.7% for Whites). The Dane County African American poverty rate is nearly twice the rate of poverty among African Americans nationwide.

- African American children in Dane County are worse off (74.8% live below the poverty line) than White children (5.5% of White children in Dane County live below the poverty line). African American children are 14 times more likely to be poor.
- African American children in Dane County are worse off than other African Americans in WI, or in other parts of the country.
- Median household income in 2011 for African American families in Dane County was \$20,664, less than 1/3 of the median income of Whites. The median income for Whites, not Hispanic or Latino, was \$63,673.
- Unemployment in Dane County was 25.2% for African Americans – 5 times worse than the 4.8% rate of White unemployment in Dane County.

Family and Health

- Dane County has similar levels of teen/single motherhood to other parts of the country – yet much higher rates of African American childhood poverty. Therefore African American childhood poverty rates cannot be solely attributed to teen motherhood or single motherhood.
- African American children are 15 times more likely to be in foster care than White children in Dane County.
- With respect to health insurance, Dane County has less disparities and higher rates of health insurance coverage than other regions.

Education

- The Wisconsin standardized test scores (WCKE) for 2012 indicated that 86.2% of African American 3rd graders are not proficient in reading. Reading levels going into 4th grad are critical for mastering other subjects.
- African American children are 15 times more likely to be in foster care than White children in Dane County.
- School attendance and suspension rates are also significantly worse for African Americans. School suspension is triple for African American students compared to White students in total numbers. However if you consider the ratio of the various groups within the student body, African American students are 15 times more likely to be suspended than White students.
- African American students were nine times more likely to be habitually absent - leading to difficulty in graduation. In the 2010-2011 school-year, half of African Americans did not graduate on time.

Arrest and Incarceration Disparities

- Dane County arrest rates are 6.1:1 with African Americans being arrested more than six times as often as Whites. This disparity is among the worst in the country.
- African Americans are 20 times more likely to be incarcerated in Wisconsin than whites.

Summary

African Americans and Whites in Dane County are significantly farther apart on many of these key measures than in most other places in the country. Anecdotal information indicates that middle and upper class African American families are putting their children in private schools, perhaps to avoid their children being lumped in with the “bad” kids.

Question and Answer session

What works?

- Community Based Case Management programs like Joining Forces for Families can work – but need to be scaled up (the Education Committee is looking into this).

- Sherman Middle School is partnering with technology leaders to offer opportunities for children to learn about technology and gain exposure to engineering.
- Better transportation
- Better employment
- Community based structures that are linked with the schools.
- Investments in out-of-school time. Madison's Education Committee is also looking at this issue. The Committee is looking to establish a Madison Out-of-School Time system which will be more coordinated, standardized and accountable.

We need to approach these issues comprehensively – need a two generation strategy. Need to focus on workforce development, transportation, job-training, jobs, and housing. If jobs are not available to high school graduates – there is less value in graduating.

There are economic advantages of increasing equity. Diversity is attractive. Several studies have looked at diversity issues in Madison and Dane County. If you only look at the statistics you may miss some of the problems or relevant solutions. Some important information is anecdotal. The Applied Population Lab Neighborhood Indicators are looking at race, income and migration data. Perhaps we could consider whether there is migration out of the city by wealthy African American families. We need to improve access to opportunity. The future of the city and the county are wrapped up in our ability to address diversity.

All are invited to attend the [October 2nd YWCA Racial Justice](#) Summit where the Race to Equity Project will release the disparities report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.