Washtenaw Equity Partnership (WEP) Data Subcommittee

August 1, 2022, 11:30am-1:00pm

- **Present:**
    - Eli Savit
    - Linda Rexer
    - Grady Bridges
    - Trevor Bechtel
    - Jeff Rose
    - Joe Ryan
    - Angela Tripp
    - Meghan O'Neil
    - Shahd Elbushra (Vera)
    - Alex Roth (Vera)
- **Co-chair reviews the outline previously sent to the subcommittee and notes that the outline will be used as a guide for what to include in draft report that the co-chairs will be writing for subcommittee to consider at 9/14 meeting**
- **Discussion of outline**
    - The subcommittee reviewed the proposed Table of Contents laying out the structure for the report.
    - Member asks whether the Working Group could reject the subcommittee's recommendations. Vera staff explains that they could do this, but unlikely. More likely they would suggest refining or adding to recommendations.
    - Discussion about including findings/analysis and whether those should come before recommendations.
    - Question about what systems/agencies should be included in data warehouse recommendation.
    - Question about whether Vera has a specific template that subcommittees should be using for reports. Alex (Vera) explained that other subcommittees probably won't be writing their own reports—Vera will write things up for them—but co-chairs of data subcommittee decided they wanted to write their own.
- **Discussion of recommendations re: data warehouse**
    - Should report include recommendation for data warehouse? Members agree that it should.
    - Should recommendation be that the County create and run this or should it be third party? It may depend on how the recommendation is framed; perhaps the subcommittee doesn't need to get to that level of specificity.
    - The subcommittee should note the importance of having a champion, need for different agencies to buy in (and to have participants from those be high enough level to make or strongly influence decisions).

- o Would the data warehouse be used for case management (like in Allegheny) or just for broader policy and planning? Member suggests that recommendations could be broader and include checklist for governance group to consider the more specific questions like that. Other member says that thought the group was looking at using the warehouse more for policy and planning rather than case management.
- o Concern about leaving it open about who should own and maintain warehouse – could be obstacles that come up if don't specify this. Member suggests that the subcommittee should list the resources/capabilities (funding, expertise for planning, expertise for creating/maintaining, analysts to clean/combine/use data) necessary to maintain a data warehouse. Members with technical expertise will work on generating a list to include.
- o Question about whether some of these more specific things should be included in the body of the report, not just the checklist. Members agree that the more important things about resources/capabilities should be in the body of the report.
- o Discussion about having one general recommendation for data warehouse and then having a bunch of more specific sub-recommendations. Should the recommendations specify that the County will lead/fund this? There was agreement to be specific.
- o Question about building warehouse out over time starting with criminal legal agencies and then building out to other systems/agencies like schools, behavioral health, etc.). Should specific details like this be included and, if so, should it be a sub-recommendation or just in checklist? Should something be included to show how warehouse will benefit the County?
- o County is currently having discussion about providing greater visibility/transparency in data and program outcomes, so a data warehouse and public dashboard recommendations could fit within the County's goal of transparency.
- o Suggestion that it be left to the governance group to determine who should be included and what level of access people have. Member cautions about giving too much data to too many government employees – not everyone is going to know how to properly access and use data. Other member explains that analysts should be able to run queries/reports that provide information people need without sharing individual or identified data.
- o More discussion about how broad warehouse should be (e.g. including behavioral health and school data) and whether to recommend that the warehouse start with criminal justice agencies and then expand to others or to leave that up to governance group. Member suggests not being too rigid/specific about this.
- **Discussion of recommendations re: dashboards**
  - o What are main things that the subcommittee should recommend here? Member with expertise in dashboards suggests four main things: that it be

comprehensive, accessible/understandable to public, include a racial equity focus (i.e. analysis of system, not just descriptive statistics) and have the ability to track emerging practices like restorative justice and unarmed response.

- o Members agree with this.
- o Members with technical expertise will work on generating a list of features dashboard should have.

- **Co-chair reviews next steps again**
  - o Co-chairs will write up draft of report, get it to subcommittee members by 8/31 or 9/1 so they will have two weeks to review before 9/14 meeting.