



BHPOC Work Group on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Behavioral Health

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www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: Alice Forrester and Selma Ward

Agenda

October 3, 2023 11:00 AM via ZOOM

The BHPOC is committed to creating to an environment that provides equal access to behavioral healthcare in a culturally competent capacity, with particular attention to social and racial justice.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://beaconhealtheoptions.zoom.us/j/92035438730?pwd=cGluU1IibjU2UkhRY3ZWdFBXZVpFdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 3543 8730

Passcode: 557201

+19292056099,,95844380526#,,, *971141# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95844380526#,,, *971141# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 980 3203 0015

Passcode: 660830

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adF88NqOqJ>

Join by SIP

92035438730@zoomcrc.com

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162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

Meeting ID: 929 6974 4605

Passcode: 336456

David Kaplan, Alice Forrester, Yvonne Jones, Brenetta Henry, Kelly Phenix, Loida Reyes, Mark Vanacore, Amy Soto, Lois Berkowitz, Sean King, Crystal Williams, Stephney Springer, Yohanna Cifuentes

Guest: Mark Abraham, MPH, Executive Director, Data Haven

Scribe: Christine Maziuk

Prior to the launch of the agenda item, Alice Forrester suggested the consideration of a third Co-Chair for this work group.

1. Review of Health Equity.

- Data Haven is a non-profit celebrating 30 years that provides assistance to about 200 agencies each year. Data Haven receives requests for doing presentations from all the state libraries and

towns and mayor's offices and pretty much everyone. The data provides granular, local level information in a way that no other public aid sources currently do for certain topics. Data Haven looks at existing data sets, federal, state and local and have ways to break those down to the local level that are very innovative. Data Haven also does their own surveys to get qualitative and quantitative data. The surveys collect information about family incarceration, history, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and other demographics. Data Haven's detailed demographics on local level focus is what makes it unique.

U.S. life expectancy is rising, while in past years it has actually been going down. China has surpassed the U.S. in life expectancy. When the data is disaggregated by gender, race, income, you see very different patterns (see chart in presentation for breakdown). Most countries don't have such a strong connection between income and life expectancy than that of the U.S. Life expectancy in the low-income neighborhoods dropped by about 6 years during the pandemic, whereas for the wealthy neighborhoods, it didn't change at all in Connecticut. Looking at the large cities where mortality increased, and most say about 80% was due to increases in Covid, but the other 20% was due to more motor vehicle crashes, gun violence, and Fentanyl overdoses. There were some connections between the pandemic and the risks that increased during that time. There is a lot of evidence that we little progress has been made in reversing at least issues like overdoses and food security as it relates. The presentation provides links to various reports that are available. The Well Being indexes are a catch-all program. A lot of hospitals, health departments, and foundations need to compile data and present it for health assessments in behavioral health clinics. Data is also collected through an advisory council, which Data Haven is currently growing.

- The community well-being indexes go into the town reports on the housing crisis: if you can get mortgages, if you can get apartments, eviction rates and cost of housing, and how that's changed. If you look at like causal diagrams of mental health issues, gun violence, etc., these issues are very interrelated. Stress from not having healthcare, having unresolved trauma along with financial and food insecurity and stress from housing can be shown to relate to one another pretty strongly. The survey also looks at community assets as well, such as having trees and parks. It also looked at gun violence, which is a major source of stress. Referring to the chart, the percentage of adults who are afraid of gun violence is 2% in wealthy towns versus 44% in the urban core, which are the larger cities in the State. Questions on discrimination are also included. Historical data can make outcomes more powerful.
- The overall finding of the report is the mortality rates are about 21% higher for black adults in Connecticut that translates to about 14,000 deaths over 6 years from 2017 to 2022. That translates to about 150,000 years of life lost in in the black population due to the higher mortality rate. If white people had the same mortality rate as the black community in Connecticut, there'd be another 226,000 among white people in the State over those 6 years who were affected by gun violence.
- A discussion ensued about reactions to the data, the slow progress and the need to move the needle, becoming advocates, getting involved with media, legislators and others and addressing the issues around structural racism. Getting consumers of color into the seats of the Oversight Council was discussed.
- A link is provided in the chat on how to join the advisory council.

Join the Advisory Council (more than one organization can join)

<https://www.ctdatahaven.org/blog/join-advisory-council-datahavens-statewide-survey-participant-incentives-available>

- **New Business, Announcements, Adjournment**

None discussed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 11:00 AM via ZOOM