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Health, Human Services and the Arts Committee

Documenter name: Janenell Smith

Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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Summary

- The committee appeared to be pleased with the updates from the Division of Health Equity and Social Justice and only had a few questions. Unfortunately, as an in-person attendee, it was difficult to hear Commissioner Lita Wills' explanation of the presentation slides.

Follow-Up Questions

- It was difficult to hear the commissioner. What programs are included under the Division of Health Equity and Social Justice as of September 2023 and how will their equity inventory and future work relate to the community?

Notes

Meeting began 9:39 a.m. and adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Attendees: Council Members Kevin Conwell, chair; Rebecca Maurer, vice chair; Kris Harsh, Stephanie Howse-Jones, Charles Slife and Richard Starr.

Five staff members attended from the Department of Public Health, including Commissioner of Health Equity and Social Justice Lita Wills and Director Dr. David Margolius.

The Health, Human Services and the Arts Committee of Cleveland City Council reviews and discusses legislation relating to a healthy environment for the city and its residents. The committee considers legislation from the Departments of Public Health and Aging and related to the visual and performing arts. In addition, the committee monitors population trends, international affairs and outreach to ethnic communities and set limited English proficiency priorities.

The meeting focused on updated information from the Division of Health Equity and Social Justice.

The Division of Health Equity and Social Justice's mission is to improve health outcomes and overall quality of life and to remove barriers to resources to create a thriving city.

Wills presented slides from the Division of Health Equity and Social Justice. Topics included creation and content and current staffing and organization.

Programs offered:

- HIV/STI programs to reduce the rate of new infections among Cleveland residents.
- MomsFirst to support both new and experienced parents.
- Offices of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery services offer intensive outpatient treatment, case management, crisis intervention and group/individual counseling.

The division focuses on three buckets of work:

- 1) Community - align with the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Coalition for external initiatives.
- 2) City of Cleveland - operationalize equity in policy and practice, create interdepartmental equity, and develop a strategic plan.
- 3) Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) - prioritize health inequities and address equity in specific programming.

Social determinants of health work focuses on five domains:

- 1) Education access and quality
- 2) Economic stability
- 3) Social and community context
- 4) Neighborhood and built environment
- 5) Health care access and quality

Internal programs:

-Interdepartmental Equity Team (IET) consists of representatives across city government departments concentrating on dismantling inequitable outcomes in practices, policies, procedures and services.

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