

## **NC BoS CoC Racial Equity Subcommittee**

5/18/22

**Attendees:** Tracey Gruver, Erin Gaskin, Tambra Chamberlain, Lori Watts, Teresa Robinson, Kenett Melgar, Deniece Cole, Elle Evans Peterson, Sade Crain, Lori Watts, Makala Perez, Jeffrey Rawlings

**Staff:** Laurel McNamee, Debra Susie, Andrea Carey

### **Celebrations:**

Erin Gaskin – got married a week ago! Yay!

Tambra Chamberlain – Most kids at her school are above grade level on their tests!

### **Advocacy 101: How a Bill Becomes a Law - Debra Susie**

Staff member Debra Susie has done a lot of her advocacy work in FL. Here to talk about how bills become law. She brought a couple of illustrations that show the process.

Debra highlighted that a bill must first be assigned to committees. Can tell if a bill is popular by how many committees it is assigned to. Needs to be high on the agenda or it's not addressed. Need a quorum to vote or it's killed. You can have someone who supports your bill with their heart but can't afford to vote for it because of their constituents. You can convince them to "take a walk" and not vote.

There are 2 forms of power in American politics: money and people

Debra illustrated examples of advocacy successes, including the story of how school breakfast was available via federal funding but not utilized by all school districts.

Also talked about how timing is everything – having advocates all call within a few hours rather than spread out – makes such a bigger impact!

Debra showed people we should develop relationships with if we want to advocate for housing: Patrick McHenry, Alma Adams, Ted Budd, David Price (see the slideshow to see which counties they represent)

Debra recommended the book – The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America by, Paula Giddings. Talks about ways that women have advocated throughout history.

If you are interested in getting MORE involved with advocacy, attend monthly Local Leadership Response meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

### **RE Dialogues Work Group Update - Tambra Chamberlain**

Thank you for coming to the RE Dialogues! Next one is June 21 at 11:30am – 1:00pm. Topic – Impacts of Stress and Trauma on People of Color Experiencing Homelessness. They are looking for speakers with lived experience as a youth. Contact Tambra if you have someone. Save the date!

They need more people on this work group. If you are interested, contact Tandra.

**Edits to NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy - Laurel McNamee**

Anti-Discrimination policy – currently has strong protections for LGBT people seeking services, Families, People of all faiths, and People with grievances against their provider

\*\*Discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity is prohibited, but protections don't go beyond overt acts of discrimination (hard to prove).

NEW – new section – Racial Equity Policy – making it similar to the language on the scorecard.

BENEFIT to including racial equity here – ALL agencies must have their own P&P's and can be leveraged later for ESG funding.

CHALLENGE - we can't force agencies to do this work/training. And we don't offer specific trainings that they have to attend.

This should be seen as a starting place for the policy.

Discussion? None

Motion to Approve?

Teresa Robinson moved to approve.

Denise Cole – second.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Month's Meeting** – June 15 – email Laurel McNamee if you have agenda items.