

# Racial Equity Committee (REQC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 | 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM



SACRAMENTO  
STEPS FORWARD

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

[Recording of Zoom Meeting](#). The meeting chat and materials shared during the meeting (not included within the meeting materials packet) are below the minutes.

## Attendance:

Member	Area of Representation	Present
Angela Upshaw, Co-Chair	Veteran's	Yes
April Marie Dawson	People with Disabilities	Yes
Ardy Akhzari, Co-Chair	Sacramento	Yes
Bishop Chris Baker	South Sacramento	No
Bo Cassell	Sac. Emergency Shelter, Food Assist., Transitional Living, Workforce Dev.	No
Crystal Sanchez	Sacramento-Arden	No
Dawn Basciano	Sacramento	Yes
Deborah Hicks	Mental Health Services for Children & Adolescents, Medi-Cal, Special Needs	Yes
Deisy Madrigal	Homelessness Prevention, AB12 & TAY Housing Provider	Yes

Ejiro Okoro	Sacramento, Affordable Housing, Individuals with Low Income	Yes
Elizabeth Elliott	Pomo & Maidu Federally Recognized Tribal Members	No
Emily Zelaya	Sacramento, Refugees, Immigrants, Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes
Fatemah Martinez, MSW	South Sacramento, Unsheltered, Non-Profit, Outreach	No
Gina Nicole Lujan	Elder Creek, Florin, Southeast Sac.	No
Karisa Hyppolite	Sacramento	Yes
Kazoua Heu	Sacramento County, Underserved Southeast Asians, Hispanics, Whites	No
Lorraine Wilkins	Sac. County, Youth, Formerly Incarcerated	Yes
Quinn Jones-Hylton	Sacramento	No
Samantha Earnshaw	Northern California, Youth, Families, Single Homeless, Disabilities	Yes
Shalinee Hunter	Sacramento and Statewide	Yes
Stephanie D. Thompson	Oak Park and Marina Vista	Yes
Steven Seeley	Mental Health Services, Sac. County	No
Tiffany Glass	Elk Grove, Sacramento County	Yes
Viola Wells	South Sacramento	No

Zuri K. Colbert	Sacramento County, Under-Resourced Neighborhoods - BIPOC focused	Yes
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SSF Staff	SSF Title
Christina Heredia	Referral Specialist
Glen Merker	Referral Specialist
Jillyan Sylvia McKinney	Racial Equity Specialist
Lisa Bates	Chief Executive Officer
Michele Watts	Chief Planning Officer
Peter Bell	Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) Program Manager
Ya-Yin Isle	Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer

### Guests

Angel Uhercik, Emily Davis, Jill Fox, Koby Rodriguez, Patricia Chadwick, Ranji Shankar-Brown, Rick Loek, Robin Barney, Tiffany Rayford, Tina Glover

**I. Welcome and grounding into the space:** Angela Upshaw, REQC Co-Chair &

Jillyan McKinney Racial Equity Specialist

**No comments**

**II. “Spotlight on Equity”:** April Marie Dawson, Executive Director, Resources for Independent Living

April gave a review for new faces. They have 29 independent living centers. All staff and board have disabilities. Her company was run by a majority white board with a majority minority staff. They recently had a more balanced pay scale approved and recently diversified their board. Board is now almost all BIPOC members. Core services are peer support, independent classes on Zoom, caregiver registry, extensive housing list, advocacy and transition service with a youth component. Main point of the company is to help people with disabilities live independently. They are involved in outreach work but don't have an outreach worker. They do plan to find out who they haven't been reaching and make an action plan to reach out.

**III. Approval 1/12/22 Meeting Minutes:** Angela Upshaw

There were no minutes to share at this meeting. Both the following month and today's meeting minutes will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

**IV. Announcements (Upcoming Events & Recent Actions):** REQC Co-Chairs, REQC Members, & Guests & Jillyan Sylvia McKinney (SSF)

- Heritage and awareness month form will be sent out for feedback. Jillyan hopes to have this form go out every week to highlight what people are doing in the community.
- Crystal Sanchez- resources aren't connecting because people are losing housing/small RV's. Sweeps are being done in the City. Mainly in Evergreen, Del Paso Heights and Lexington areas. She will be filing a lawsuit on the 21st of February.
- Christina Heredia- Project Room Key participants are being vacated from La Quinta and are anxious they will have a street exit. SSF is helping to move them medically challenged will go first and they are expediting clients with vouchers. The county is working to make sure they don't have a street exit.
- Crystal Sanchez- working on the 100 day challenge. They have 20 of their 46 needed

## **V. HHAP 3:** Ya-Yin Isle (Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer, SSF)

- State HHAP-3 funding for homelessness requires a local homelessness action plan as part of the application due by the end of June. SSF and partners are developing the process for the action plan development now and the CoC Board and committees will be key participants asked to contribute.
- Access to additional announcements can be found in the meeting recording link near the top of the minutes (above the attendance).

## **VI. Bezos Funding:** Lisa Bates, CEO SSF

- Last October SSF was invited to apply for the Bezos Funding. \$5 million awarded with 4.5 million to go back out to community based organizations for families to end homelessness. The funds are to be spent over a 5 year period. SSF is interested in collaborating with Black Child Legacy and looking to bring on a consultant with Sierra Health. There will be more information on Bezos Funding in March/April because they are trying to align it with the HHAP 3 in the Summer.
- Two family housing projects coming online. One in Natomas and one in Citrus Heights

## **VII. Liaison Report-Outs:** PIT (Point in Time Count Committee) Liaison

No comments on Liason report-outs

## **VI. CA REAL:** Rajni Shankar-Brown and Donald Whitehead

- Sacramento is well above other areas in CA with racial equity but the work is fragmented. They shared the core team characteristics to help them advance equity in real ways
- State wants goals in place by end of February
- Goals created will mirror REQC workplan and goal setting

- **VIII. 2022 REQC Work Plan:** Angela Upshaw, REQC Co-Chair, Ardy Akhzari REQC Co-Chair, & Jillyan McKinney Racial Equity Specialist

Four goals already outlined. Work is being done on goal one and goal two.  
Comments on goal three

- It should be at a fifth grade level readability
- Should reach out to professional translators
- Find out what languages are needed to translate into

Goals may not be completed in one year. Goal four was created.

### **VIII. Comments and Questions**

Zuri Colbert shared information on hygiene kits for BIPOC.

### **IX. Meeting Adjourned**

**Next REQC Meeting is Wednesday, March, 2022 (9:00am to 11:00am)**

**Potential Topics to Cover: Liaison Report-Outs, Racial Equity Action Workplan**