

**Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) - Public Engagement Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 2, 2021 • 3:30pm**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance:** Steve Binder Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 13, Mike Norton Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 20, Lateria Garrett DAC Chairperson, Beth Roberts Winnebago County Human Services, Mandi Dornfeld University-Wisconsin Extension, Sarah Clarke World Relief, Mary Siebert Child Care Director at Neenah/Menasha YMCA, Deb Martin, Kathryn Noll-Arias, Mike Emery, Jody Bezio University-Wisconsin Extension.

**Meeting Minutes & Attendance:** Jody Bezio Administrative Associate - University-Wisconsin Extension

**Meeting was called to order at 3:32pm** by Committee Chairperson Lateria Garrett. Facilitation of the meeting agenda was passed to Mandi Dornfeld and Beth Roberts.

### **Agenda Items**

**Hispanic Heritage Month:** Beth Roberts shared information on Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from mid-September to mid-October: <https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

#### **Topics for Education? (Roberts)** Ideas/Requests from the Group:

- Norton: Immigrants & Refugees: Would like to share more about these groups with the community and help de-bunk myths/stereotypes about process for immigrants/refugees to come to this country, etc.
  - Martin: Two groups are very different - educate what an “immigrant” is vs. what a “refugee” is.
  - Binder: General public seems to believe immigrants/refugees are “dangerous.” Safety concerns - including fear that members of Taliban or other terrorist group are able to “sneak” in as an immigrant or refugee. Reality is that most immigrants/refugees are good people and law-abiding citizens.
  - Martin: Most, if not all, terrorist attacks in US are by citizens. Can we find some data on this to share?
  - Noll-Arias has staff that give presentations about immigrants/refugees - she will see what current availability is for a presentation.
- Noll-Arias: World Relief is extremely busy with recent world events. Please visit our website for more information on the Afgan situation and ways you can support including wishlists for Amazon and Target. <https://worldrelief.org/fox-valley/>
- Martin: United Way Fox Cities has a 21 week series on racism that she has participated in and highly recommends: <https://www.unitedwayfoxcities.org/resources/21-week-equity-challenge/>
- Siebert: YMCA’s “Welcome Week” is next week. Focus of this week is being welcoming to others.
  - If anyone has information on immigrants/refugees already created that they could share, they would be happy to do so.
- Martin: It can be helpful to share our own stories - remind us that we are all immigrants.
- Clarke: Appleton Public Library currently has a neat display on immigrants, including a journal for self-reflection that is available as a “hand-out”.
  - Dornfeld will follow-up with her Library contact to see if there is materials/handouts/speakers we would be able to use/share.
- Norton: Oshkosh Herald just ran an article about a Hmong group that just got a grant for a Hmong History display: <https://oshkoshherald.com/2021/08/31/september-1-2021-oshkosh-herald/> (page 3)

#### **By-Laws Update (Dornfeld)**

The Steering Committee met last night on Wednesday, Sept 1. The regular schedule of meetings was discussed. The upcoming meeting schedule will include DAC Steering Committee meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30pm and DAC Public Engagement meetings (this group) on the 1st Thursday of the month from 3-4:30. The goal is to split in half - provide six Educational Events and six opportunities for Public Engagement.

#### **Marketing Brochure (Roberts)**

Roberts shared a first draft of a DAC general information brochure she has been working on and asked for thoughts/suggestions.

- Dornfeld - Can we list the different “celebrations” and their dates/months to one of the blank panels?
- Garrett - Can we add more details about meeting dates/times so that people know how to get involved?
- Clarke - Could we add a QR code to front to direct them to website?

*(continued on next page)*

## **Marketing Brochure (Roberts) CONTINUED**

- Clarke - Another good visual to use might be the "Diversity Dimensions" - a wheel image that shows that Race is only one component of diversity. Image was created by the Intercultural Development Inventory - will look into ability to use this.
- Bezio - does website need updating? Brochure is directing people to it for more information, but currently there are only a couple of meeting videos posted there. Roberts is currently working with the County to determine scope of website and resources.
- Compliments on the overall brochure were shared by several people.
- Roberts will get brochure approved for distribution by the County Exec's office.

## **Goal Setting (Dornfeld)**

The Steering Committee is continuing to discuss goals and plans for educational opportunities based on prior input.

## **Open Comments:**

- Norton: Hmong Festival is happening this weekend.
- Binder: Mexican Rodeo is happening next weekend.
- Roberts and Noll-Arias both shared appreciation to the group for all of their hardwork thus far.
- Binder shared appreciations in particular to Roberts and Dornfeld and their departments for all of their time and hard work to help the County Board get the DAC up and running.

**A motion was made by Norton and seconded by Binder to adjourn the meeting. Garrett adjourned the meeting at 4:27pm.**

Respectfully submitted by: Jody Bezio, Administrative Associate Winnebago County Extension