Welcome – Jason Purnell

Last week’s raw conversation covered not only the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 but also the pandemic of racism. The team discussed how “recovery” is not an adequate response. We need to work in new ways to respond to the many crises in which we find ourselves. We appreciate all of you being on this journey.

Vision and Principles – Jason and Rebeccah Bennett

Last week we shared a vision and a set of principles. We incorporated your thinking. We sent this revision to a select group of some of you (sharing with a few seemed wiser than trying to have 70 of us trying to wordsmith a document). We appreciate those who weighed in this week. We received valuable information from many of you and are presenting the revision here.

Revised Vision:

The Greater St. Louis region responds collaboratively, equitably, and effectively to the needs of our most impacted neighbors and communities in the context of the long-standing pandemic of systemic racism and the immediate COVID-19 pandemic.

The team showed positive response to the revised vision, with comments such as “powerful” and “excellent.” One team member noted, “Form follows function, so I look forward to hearing more about the functions and seeing the rest of the package.”

Revised Principles:

- **Partner Intentionally with Impacted Individuals and Communities**
  - Impacted individuals and representatives of impacted communities are part of the decision-making process.
  - We recognize and respect the strengths, assets, wisdom, and resilience in impacted communities and acknowledge the need for resources to support community-based organizations.
  - We hold ourselves accountable for inclusion and make meaningful changes when we fall short.
  - We share our work with impacted individuals and communities broadly and transparently.

- **Orient Towards Urgency, Solutions, and Coordinated Regional Action**
  - We bridge the bi-state region in our activities, recognizing that no single jurisdiction, sector, institution or organization can create systemic change alone.
  - We leverage the unique strengths of individual organizations to contribute to shared goals.
  - We align with existing disaster response (e.g., SLARCC, COADs) in times of crisis.
  - We act with urgency to address needs in and out of moments of crisis.

- **Center Racial Equity and Commitment to Anti-Racism**
  - More recovery from COVID-19 to an unjust baseline is inadequate.
  - Individuals and communities most impacted by long-standing racial discrimination and disinvestment must be the focus of our regional transformation.
  - Economic development in historically disinvested communities must be prioritized.
  - We identify and change white supremacy culture in our organizations (e.g., power hoarding, either/or thinking, perfectionism) identified by anti-racism frameworks like those offered by Tema Okun and others.

- **Adopt Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Equity Principles**
  - Disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, age, disability, and other demographics.
  - Identify and address policy gaps while advocating for federal support.
  - Invest in healthcare, public health, and social infrastructure to foster resilience.
  - Establish and empower teams dedicated to promoting racial equity in response and recovery efforts.
  - Include in decision-making the people most affected by health and economic challenges, and benchmark progress based on their outcomes.
The RRT is made up of various orgs and people representing those orgs. Do we need to ask people to go back to have people ask their orgs/institutions?

- It is our hope this becomes a way of operations within organizations, both internally, and with collaboration. We are looking at partnering with Forward Through Ferguson, and there are a number of orgs that can help orgs as they make these commitments. To your point, it does require a commit beyond just an individual sitting at the table.

The other piece is accountability. How do organizations hold themselves accountable for the reporting and transparency that are critical for change to happen?

- We will talk more about here and how people will line up around this work. Part of the accountability comes from doing what you said you were going to do, delivering on the outcomes that are tied to areas of work that people are signing up for. This is about having broad ownership of the RRT – or whatever the RRT is named in the future.

Are these commitments and principles for partner organizations? Or is this for the RRT team?

- It is both.

In case people were not familiar with Tema Okun, Grace Kyung shared Okun’s piece, “White Supremacy Culture,” in the chat. It will also be added to the RRT website resources.

**Frameworks for Systems Change – Jason and Rebeccah**

The discussion pivoted to long-term activities and infrastructure, organized under the Forward Through Ferguson work and the reports “Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide” and “For the Sake of All.” We are putting Medicaid Expansion on the table to take up now (Ryan Barker of MFH talks about this later in the meeting). The areas of focus were organized in the following slides:

**Forward Through Ferguson**

- Opportunity to Thrive
  - Medicaid Expansion*
  - Ending Hunger for Children and Families
  - Child Development Accounts
  - End Predatory Lending
  - Build Healthy, Affordable Housing
  - Enhance Education and Employer Collaboration

- Justice for All
  - Alternative Budget*
  - Improve Officer Wellness

**Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide**

- Affordable Housing Trust Funds
- Eviction Prevention and Tenant Rights
- Affordable Housing in Areas of Opportunity
  - Supporting Mobility Programs
- Investment in Community Development
- Consciously Inclusive Communities

**For the Sake of All**

- Coordinate and Expand Chronic and Infectious Disease Prevention and Management
  - Healthcare, public health, and social service
  - Community-based partnerships

Questions and comments about these frameworks:
Did you review or retrieve information from any document or work that has an Illinois focus?
  - Yes. We will look at East Side Aligned and our plan is to review IL documents.

For some of these, there are already efforts underway (e.g. for coordination of healthcare, public health, and social services, United Way is leading the Community Information Exchange). Could RRT do a regional environment scan of the work already happening? That way RRT can continue to locate gaps in infrastructure.

St. Clair County Health Department has a "Healthier Together" initiative – with which East Side Aligned is familiar.

**Invitation**

Jason invited members and organizations of the RRT to:

- Affirm membership and commitment to principles
- Participate in process of co-designing RRT
- Recruit those who are missing from the table
- "Sign up" for aligned racially equitable transformation efforts
  - Collaborative capacity building
  - Organizational capacity building
  - Explicit commitment to specific parts of the work

**Medicaid Expansion – Ryan Barker**

In Missouri, MO HealthNet is the name of the Medicaid program. A lot of people think that all people with low income are covered, but this isn’t true. MO covers kids and families up to 3x the poverty level. For kids at 150% of the poverty-level, there are premiums that apply. Pregnant women are covered at 2x. The blind are covered at 100%, aged and disabled at 85% and parents at 22%. MO does not cover homeless adults, which includes majority of our homeless population.

A single mom with 2 children would need to make less than $4,700 a year to be eligible.

Ryan discussed the coverage gap and what that looks like – some are eligible for Medicaid, others fall under the Affordable Care Act, but then there’s a group that doesn’t fall into either and ends up with no coverage (unless they pay full cost for private insurance, which those people cannot afford).

Medicaid Expansion changes those eligibility levels. Currently, 36 states plus D.C. has expanded Medicaid. Before Expansion:
The role of MFH is through a campaign they created called Makes Sense Missouri, which is an educational campaign intended to show how Medicaid Expansion is a smart choice for the state. Resources, fact sheets, and social media content are available at www.MakesSenseMO.org.

There is an advocacy campaign, Healthcare for Missouri, that can be found at www.YesOn2.org. You can endorse the ballot initiative here and there are ways to get involved.

Makes Sense MO information includes:

High-level Benefits:
1. Improves health and access to care
2. Sustains rural hospitals and communities
3. Grows our economy
4. Helps the state budget
The public health crisis of COVID-19 makes a strong case to support Medicaid Expansion since the health disparities have been magnified even more with the reach of the virus.

Ryan shared several slides showing how Expansion helps grow the economy and helps the state budget.

Questions and Comments:

- I know this year Medicaid Expansion is going to the voters instead of legislators, but a) what are the perceived downsides/why wasn’t it voted it before and b) what other states have put this on the ballot and how has that gone?
- Can you talk about absentee balloting?
  - If you are over 65, you can request absentee ballot related to COVID. We are not completely sure if that will apply to all voters in Missouri or not. There are two presentations in July about voting.
  - Requesting absentee ballots has begun and must be requested by July 22nd
- Missouri Chamber of Commerce has thrown their support for this measure.
- Here is another way to engage in activating the vote: [https://www.yeson2.org/](https://www.yeson2.org/). June 29th at 8:30 am or 4:30 pm there will be a “Yes on Amendment 2 STL Champions Virtual Roundtable” to discuss Medicaid expansion which is on the August 4th ballot. Anyone from RRT that needs more information can contact Mikel Whittier, mikel@healthcareformissouri.org.
- People must register to vote by July 8th for the August 4th Election.
- Some helpful links:
  - [https://www.votemissouri.org/](https://www.votemissouri.org/)
  - [https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Business/Notary/newNotary](https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Business/Notary/newNotary)
- There are zoom presentations with Healthcare for All - highly recommend for education purposes.
- MFH is also giving presentations of all different lengths for those interested.

Ryan mentioned these resources (they were provided after the meeting):

MFH also compiled voter registration resources that Ryan shared after the meeting:

To help clarify the voting process, Missouri Foundation for Health is offering a set of plain language, downloadable resources and two upcoming trainings for organizations conducting non-partisan voter registration and engagement activities for the August and November elections.

**Plain Language Resources**
MFH partnered with Health Literacy Media to create customizable resources that outline what voters need to know to register to vote and how to vote in Missouri. Feel free to follow the links to access, download, and customize the following materials for your activities:

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<tr>
<th><strong>Handouts and Phone Scripts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Social Media Tools</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handout -- How to Vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handout -- Register to Vote</td>
<td>Message &amp; Graphic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handout -- Vote by Absentee or Mail Phone Scripts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graphic -- Are you ready to vote?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graphic -- Can you register?</td>
<td>Graphic -- Are you registered?</td>
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We will update these resources with new information if changes occur regarding absentee voting and vote-by-mail processes.

**Trainings**
MFH partnered with Denise Lieberman from the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition to offer two upcoming virtual trainings on voter registration and engagement practices and on voter rights and voter protection efforts. See more details and register below:
- July 1, 10:00-11:30 a.m. – Voter Registration & Engagement Training. [Register here.](#)
- July 8, 10:00–11:30 a.m. – Voter Rights & Voter Protection Training. [Register here.](#)

Feel free to use these materials and trainings as you conduct voter registration and get out the vote (GOTV) activities and share these with any organizations who are also engaged in this work.
Two key dates to keep in mind:
• July 8 – the last day to register to vote for the August election
• July 22 – the last day to request a mail-in ballot for the August election

Jason thanked Ryan and everyone on the call for their time.

Adjourn