



# Notes

Thursday, July 30, 2020

## Welcome – Jason Purnell

As was announced in an email earlier in the week, Jason will be taking on a new role with BJC Healthcare as Vice President of Community Health Improvement. He will be retaining a role with Washington University. He appreciates all the good wishes he has gotten from the team. This does not mean he will be stepping away from the work of the RRT but it does mean creating a reconstituted steering committee. Jason will be less involved in the day-to-day. Campaigns and the work will continue. The rest of the structure envisioned will be discussed over the course of this meeting.

## RRT 2.0 – Jason

Jason restated some of the standards of the RRT thus far - Zoom norms, the vision and principles developed for the RRT. Everything is being done with an eye towards lasting infrastructure that addresses needs during the pandemic and beyond. While we thought this pandemic would be going away after a number of months, we see that this is now not the case. At the beginning we talked about what kind of structure we wanted this team to have. We formed campaigns with strike teams to be able to lean into those more difficult places that were particular pain points for people affected by COVID and in general.

As we turn toward the future, we look at the structure once more and ask what structure will help us serve in this role. We already have coordinated campaigns, but we will be adding some other areas. The campaigns are comprised of teams with project managers from the RRT and service providers. The campaigns have had very focused goals. If we want to do work well, we have to address building collective capacity and make sure the direction we move in is well resourced and well supported with eye towards racial equity, having some upstream impact in terms of how our systems are structured.

The structure of RRT 2.0 will include three components: the Steering Committee, Coordinated Campaigns, and a Collaborative Action Network.

- The new **Steering Committee** (chaired by Jason) will function to:
  - Mobilize resources and responses for RRT campaigns
  - Advance cross-sector action and engagement on community priorities
  - Pursue policy and systems transformations in concert with other regional efforts
  - Maintain a regional focus on racial equity
- A new managing director will support the RRT as a whole.
- The **Coordinated Campaigns** will function to:

- Assess available resources to undertake coordinated action on needs and priorities
  - Facilitate relationships, within and across sectors and jurisdictions, that drive collective action
  - Leverage assets, including funding, expertise, and material supports to advance campaign efforts
  - Activate solutions that effectively address needs
  - Grace Kyung will serve as Campaign Director (Grace Kyung) will provide oversight and support for the campaigns and the individual campaign project managers.
- **A Collaborative Action Network** will function to
    - Leverage the the RRT’s membership base to build a critical mass of service providers able to respond collaboratively, equitably and effectively
    - Hold the vision, mission and principles of the RRT
    - Identify the region’s infrastructure, capacity and resource gaps and pressing community needs
    - Set campaign priorities based upon gaps and needs
    - Mobilize people and expertise to help execute RRT campaigns
    - Build the collective capacity necessary to advance racial equity, systems change and community collaboration
    - Katie Kaufmann will be leading the CAT

### **Coordination Team Transitions**

The current coordination team has been made up of Jason, Rebecca, Doneisha, Karishma, Grace, Kelly, Aviva, and Katie. Jason noted how it has been an honor to work with this team and he can’t say enough about the wisdom, knowledge, and “get it done” spirit and attitude. Some of this team needs to get back to their “regularly scheduled programming.” This is Doneisha’s, Kelly’s, and Monique’s last call as members of the coordination team, though they will continue to be involved as team members.

Each spoke briefly to the team:

Doneisha thanked everybody for their time and support, being willing to jump on texts and phone calls at all times to get the work done, particularly around food insecurity and reemployment work. The RRT has been a personal and professional highlight for her, working with incredible partners across our region in ways she hadn’t before. She is sad to leave but will stay engaged and connected. She wanted to stress that everyone make sure to take a moment for one’s self for self care.

Kelly thanked everyone for the privilege of working alongside them in this important initiative. The plans Rebecca and Jason present today is the result of a lot of hard work. The work will continue and her support of it all is unwavering.

Monique thanked everyone for allowing her to enter back into this work (she last did something like this 5 years ago for the Ferguson Commission). Specific thanks to those who did work in the unhoused space, which she called a “spiritual journey.” She hopes everyone will continue working knowing that what they are doing is unusual and extraordinary. She thanked everyone for their

willingness to plan with their hearts and allow organic partnerships to form even when they didn't feel natural.

Jason and Rebecca shared their heartfelt thanks to Doneisha, Kelly and Monique for all the hard work they've done.

As mentioned, Grace Kyung will be director of campaigns and Katie Kaufmann will lead the collaborative action work. Jason noted being very grateful for the partnership of United Way that Katie's role reflects.

Cristina Garmendia will be leading the PPE campaign. She worked on the equity indicators project so having that knowledge and skill to make sure our frontline service providers have to remain safe will be significant.

We are working to fill out the rest of the coordination team, which will include a managing director to take over the day to day oversight and management of the RRT work in 2.0.

We're also in the process of putting together the Steering Committee and are waiting for some responses to invitations that went out.

**Important investment announcement:**

As of today, a commitment of \$250K per year over 3 years has been made by the Regional Response Fund that is housed at the St. Louis Community Foundation for the work of the RRT. This tremendous investment will allow us to continue to do this work at a high level of productivity and output. Many thanks to Elizabeth George and the rest of the foundation team.

**Crisis Counseling Program – Neva Brooks from the Behavioral Health Network**

The BHN has received funding for this CCP that has partnership possibilities with the RRT. The CCP is a short term disaster relief grant that the U.S. has through FEMA. This is the first time that all 50 states have been granted these funds. Neva is a retired registered nurse that came back in as an independent contractor for the CCP for St. Louis City and County. Sally Haywood is the director of the initiative but couldn't make it today. Also on the call was the Program Manager of Hopewell Center, Angela Blumenthal. The Hopewell Center works with BJC and Places for People.

The CCP has two different phases:

- 1) Immediate service program, active for late June-late August 2020
- 2) Regular services program, budgeted for \$1.6 million to help through June 2021 – this grant is being pursued and hasn't been awarded yet, even though they are functioning as if they will get it.

They are working with three centers for mental health in St. Louis City and County:

- 1) Hopewell Center
- 2) BJC
- 3) Places for People

“Extender organizations” are backbone organizations to support the centers for mental health and has greater opportunity to reach communities who are particularly affected by COVID-19. These include BHN, Safe Connections, Mental Health America, Casa De Salud, and Alive and Well. They are doing things like webinars, Facebook lives, and other types of things to try to reach a larger volume of people at higher intensity.

They have come up with Missouri Show-Me Hope to address the ongoing stress and anxiety caused by COVID-19. They disseminate information and education on stress management, coping techniques, problem solving skills, and connections to community services and resources. A big part of their mission is connectivity to the community to build resilience for the future.

The CCP is asking the RRT to distribute the Show-Me Hope information. They have flyers that they would like team members to distribute.

Questions from the chat box:

What about coverage in Illinois? They should have also gotten the same grant funds, but she will find out and let us know.

Are there any income eligibility requirements? No.

### **Wrap Up**

The RRT meetings will be moving to every other week for these calls so look for a new meeting invite.

Take care everyone and thank you.

### **Adjourn**