

Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion – Staff Report – June 2021

Staff Report

Term/Vacancies

Currently seven commissioners

Two vacancies

Coronavirus update

- Effective June 2, 2021, Dane County ended its mask mandate as per the latest public health order.
- Nearly 70.0% of Dane County residents have been vaccinated with at least one shot.
- Dane County Departments can start their Workplace Normalization plans on Tuesday, September 7.
- Businesses can require customers to wear masks.

Mental Health

Per Todd Campbell, Adult Community Services Division Administrator, in Dane County there is a new Behavior Health Resource Center located on Madison's South side at 818 W. Badger Rd, Madison, Wisconsin. This is a place to go for support for mental health, substance abuse issues et al. A Clinician will complete a standard assessment; there will be case management, transportation and childcare assistance. Later there will be peer support from people with lived experiences. This is considered a "one stop shop".

Tenant Resources

County Executive and Mayor have joined Tenant Resource Center (TRC) Executive Director in creating a \$16.2 million emergency package to help with eviction prevention until more assistance can be provided.

Small Business

Dane County's Grant assistance with Small Business Pandemic Support Grant Program is another round of grants totaling \$4 million. This is being issued to assist with small businesses most impacted by the pandemic.

Other Countywide Actions/Initiatives/Discussions re: Community Based Program Funding, Community Engagement

- County Executive Parisi introduced a new initiative – "Hotels to Housing" to combat homelessness for people living in hotels. This assistance will be for up to two years and includes rent, utilities, home searching and case management.

- The previous hotel assistance for the vulnerable populations, many that had been residing in shelters, will remain available through federal COVID-19 relief funding through August 31, 2021.
- Dane County has partnered with Urban League to create an economic development project on Madison's South side for black owned businesses.
- OEI has an ongoing Driver's Education Scholarship Program, to assist impoverished and disadvantaged youth.
- OEI's contract compliance program collaborated with a woman-owned business to initiate a cohort pilot program for women and minority business owners working in construction.
- There has been an increase in the amount of meals being served to older adults, a transition to have meals delivered via drive through, and partnership with restaurants to assist with meal sights.
- OEI/Dane County, partnered with City of Madison Department of Civil Rights and United Way for equity and inclusion presentation of "Niceties", Friday, April 2 – Monday, April 5, 2021. OEI scheduled follow up Zoom meetings for County department talkbacks, overall they were well received as per a poll taken.

Dane County Equity Plans update

As per Theola Carter, OEI's Manager of Policy and Program Improvement, the equity plans are a part of OEI Advisory Committee's duties and not the duties the EOC. When the Chair of the EOC who is also a part of the OEI Advisory Committee meets, she can update and provide the EOC with equity plan updates and other information from the OEI Advisory Committee meetings as needed. This helps with not having overlap in information.

Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors

Updated Per Diem form for resident members – Updated electronic per diems to allow completion no matter the platform. The signature box has been replaced with a check box to certify the information on the form. The document will still need to be downloaded onto their device and then emailed to board.office.staff@countyofdane.com. The form has been updated on our website, and can still be found at the following link <https://board.countyofdane.com/PerDiem>.

District Attorney's Office (DA) Deferred Prosecution Unit (DPU) position change follow up

Re-classed DPU case management position (Social Worker level) went to Victim Witness Unit. DPU will request to hire two limited term employees (LTE) to assist with the increase of referrals coming to the program when courts open back up.