

2022 Second Quarter Health Equity Report

1. Please provide a brief update (no more than three paragraphs) on your grant award, including progress made on the goals and objectives you outline in your proposal.

Michigan State University (MSU) and University of Michigan (U-M) continue to work on the quantitative data analysis. A meeting was held on May 31, 2022, to review the first draft of demographic data for MI Health Link, MI Choice Waiver and PACE. A second meeting was held on June 27, 2022 to review data for Home Help and Home Health. Data analysis will continue during this grant period. The next step will be to compare program data with Michigan census data and nursing home data.

A press release was sent out on March 30, 2022 to recruit candidates for the five advisory committees. We received 114 applications. Two orientation meetings were held on June 1st and June 8th for all applicants. We are finalizing the committee members for the Wayne County, Kalamazoo County, and the Statewide Advisory Committees with a focus on ensuring balanced and diverse representation on each committee.

We have been working with MPHI to onboard community researchers for this project. We believe we have located someone to do research in Wayne and Kalamazoo counties and are still searching for someone to assist with research in Grand Traverse and Chippewa counties.

2. Is the project proceeding on-schedule, as anticipated in your work plan? If not, comment on the circumstances affecting your grant.

We have completed all action steps for Phase 1, and we are currently working on Phase 2 of the proposal. We will be kicking off advisory committee meetings for Kalamazoo County, Wayne County, and the Statewide committee's next quarter. The advisory committees for Chippewa County and Grand Traverse are being delayed as we did not receive many applications for those two counties. We are working with our Medicaid program staff and advocates to strategically identify people in those two counties. Our goal is to kick-off those advisory committee meetings before the end of 2022.

3. Have you run into any unexpected challenges? Would you like technical assistance?

We are excited about having the resources to work on Health Equity issues within the Medicaid program but have begun to realize how much work needs to be done. While we continue to work with MPHI to onboard community researchers, it is challenging to acquire the resources to complete this work in all four counties. If the Health Endowment Fund staff have experience with community partners who can assist with community research in Grand Traverse and Chippewa County, we would find that information helpful.

4. Please share any additional comments, insights, and lessons learned.

We have learned a lot of work needs to be done in this area and more staffing resources are needed. Having the project coordinator onboard will help move this project forward but we

should have budgeted a full-time project coordinator instead of a part-time coordinator as there is a much that needs to be done. We have recently added a new member to our MDHHS Health Equity Team, and she has offered to provide some assistance. It is hoped that with her help, and the onboarding of our community researchers that we can achieve adequate support for this project.