

# Health Equity Workgroup

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January 26, 2021

Co-chairs: Janelle Palacios and Belinda Pettiford

# Workgroup Participants

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- Paul Jarris
- Paul Wise
- Ed Ehlinger
- Joya Chowdhury
- Ashley Belton
- Lily Bastian
- Dana Meyer
- Cheryl Clark
- Michael Warren
- Kamisha Busby
- Sean King
- Vickie Clement
- Jasmonique Jones
- Lauren Nunally
- Avareena Cropper
- Toni Means
- Pat Loftman
- Milton Kotelchuck
- Rachel Tetlow



# Letter for President Biden

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- Initial letter, not final communication planned
- Suggest clearly stating social determinants of health
- Questions as to why the letter was framed around the Executive Order as to broader issues impacting infant and maternal health
- Suggest including a request to meet with the new Secretary for HHS and copying them on letter, based on timing.

# COVID-19

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- Improve universal access to care
- Vaccine hesitancy vs. no plans to take the vaccine (trust, intergenerational concerns)
- Clarify the plan for follow-up of pregnant women after the vaccine is received – data collection
- Develop a plan for follow-up of individuals of reproductive age who get pregnant within year of receiving the vaccine – data collection

# Immigrant Health

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- Agree with recommendations from speaker, Ms. Leone (CNM)
- Rescind the public charge regulation for pregnant women
- Do not separate pregnant individuals from their primary support person
- Re-instate pre-release of pregnant individuals (presumptive release)
- Support Community Health Workers, Birth workers, Doulas, and Certified Nurse Midwives



# Racism

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- Discussed role MCHB can play with requiring equity focus with funded programs including specialized TA
- Requirements to collect and report data by race & ethnicity
- Equity assessment of HHS and all federal programs
- Equity assessment of all HHS funded programs
- Anti-racism training connected to outcomes

# Racism

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- Value-based care – what gets paid for gets improved; require equity to be a component
- Lack of paid family leave for many individuals which may include a higher percent of people of color
- Training is important, but must move beyond training

# Environmental Health

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- Inclusive of environmental justice efforts
- Secretary of HHS partner with Secretary of EPA in order to recognize that toxins impact birth outcomes and maternal health
- Encourage EPA use a Social Determinants of Health framework in addressing environmental issues