

# Health Equity Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 10, 2026

**Attendees:** Andlea Brett, Xusana Davis, Kheya Ganguly, Mark Hughes, Zack Hughes, Monica Hutt, Kate Jerman, Sarah Launderville, Lauren Layman, Alex McCracken, Kirsten Murphy, Song Nguyen, Ken Russell, Breanna Sheehan, Katie Stetler, Tom Tench, Diana Wahle, Sandi Yandow

Agenda item	Notes
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the HEAC in attendance introduced themselves, indicating who they represent.</li> <li>• Heather Michaud, Administrative Services Coordinator for the Health Department, introduced herself as the new administrative support for the Commission.</li> <li>• Lauren Layman, General Counsel for the Health Department, introduced herself as the new legal support for the Commission in its transition from the Agency of Administration to the Health Department. Lauren expressed interest in getting some time on the next meeting agenda to provide an overview of her role in more detail.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment was made.</li> </ul>
Review Minutes of January 6, 2026 Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes were requested and the January 6, 2026 Minutes were accepted as presented.</li> </ul>
Updates (Kate Jerman – 15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expressed appreciation for the great turnout for today’s meeting and the new administrative and legal support from Heather and Lauren.</li> <li>• Thanked Katie Stetler for her past support of the Commission.</li> <li>• Provided an update on her recent work, as well as highlights from her initial seven months in her new role as Executive Director for the State Office of Health Equity.</li> <li>• Provided an update on the new HEAC website.</li> <li>• Discussed plan for development of future updates.</li> <li>• Advised Commission on the new membership survey and explained that it will initially be sent to all current members to obtain baseline information.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified and explained purpose of the new announcement section on the agenda.</li> </ul>
Rural Health Transformation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct name is <b>Rural Health Transformation Fund</b>.</li> <li>Discussion and concern regarding the program's equitability, as it targets rural areas and a significant number of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color live in Chittenden County.</li> <li>Discussion regarding overview of project (purpose, funding, goals, application parameters, etc.) – see <a href="#">H.R.1/Rural Health Transformation Fund   Health Care Reform</a>.</li> <li>A current project list was provided, see <a href="#">Vermont's Rural Health Transformation Program Activity Details 12-2025</a>.</li> <li>Projects for the first year of this funding opportunity are relatively decided at this point and the work of the HEAC now is to examine how identified projects can be influenced and how the Commission can be involved in next steps.</li> <li>A suggestion was made to identify a group of commission members to create a strategy on a path forward.</li> </ul>
Other Business	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andlea, Diana and Sandi volunteered to serve on the work group to identify next steps. They will examine a previous model from 2020 identified by Xusana and explore options for influencing identified projects. Kirsten volunteered to review a selective group of the RFPs to identify where the opportunities are.</li> </ul>
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.</li> </ul>