

From: [Barbara Foushee](#)
To: [Catherine Dorando](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tonights Conversation on COVID19
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 6:36:08 PM

Please include this letter in the Disproportionality of COVID 19 agenda item

Barbara M. Foushee
Mayor Pro Tem
Carrboro Town Council
919-270-4087
www.townofcarrboro.org
A Tree, Bee and Bike Friendly Community

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eliazar Posada <eposada@elcentronc.org>
Date: June 2, 2020 at 11:18:20 PM EDT
To: Lydia Lavelle <LLavelle@townofcarrboro.org>, Barbara Foushee <bmfoushee@townofcarrboro.org>, Damon Seils <dseils@townofcarrboro.org>, Randee Haven-O'Donnell <havenod@gmail.com>, Jacquelyn Gist <JGist@townofcarrboro.org>, Sammy Slade <sslade@townofcarrboro.org>, Susan Romaine <sromaine@townofcarrboro.org>, Catherine Dorando <CDorando@townofcarrboro.org>
Subject: Tonights Conversation on COVID19

Buenas noches everyone,

I wanted to follow up my comments tonight with this email to make sure my message came through.

1st - Thank you for creating a space for folks to speak to yall tonight. I do have one suggestion to increase accessibility for folk; in the future would it be possible to send a "how will this meeting will work" info with the link, so folks are prepared. I got a few texts asking me how the meeting worked form folks whose first time it was talking to y'all tonight.

2nd - I apologize for my rambling and at times incohesive comments. As I said, this week has been hard for me, as it has been for so many others. I am glad you were able to hear from a few of our members to really highlight some of the issues I was not able to articulate tonight.

3rd - I took the liberty to bullet point some things I heard form folks tonight, and those I wanted to touch on.

- Outreach. As I have said before and we have heard before, we need to meet people where they are. We have been doing our best to reach as many people as we can with real and culturally competent information for people, yet it's not

enough. We have a robust way of getting to folks, but we can not do everything. I know the Town does great work and we know all of you are allies, but we have seen COVID-19 show some faults in community outreach, for everyone including our organization.

- Mental Health assistance. While there are some places in Carrboro to get some help for depression, substance abuse, abuse or other issues, many places are limited to provide assistance in spanish. If you have additional resources we do not know of, I would very much love to have that so we can begin to refer people.

- Rent assistance. We need some financial assistance as soon as possible for our community. As you may know, many of our community members did not and will not receive assistance from the federal government. This is a time to find creative ways to ensure peoples' immigration status does not cause them their homes, health or lives.

- Testing and PPE. We have heard that Latinx folks, while making up only about 15% of the state's population, are accounting for about 35% of the positive COVID19 tests. We have made a partnership with a clinic to get folks tested as well as distributed a few thousands masks but there needs to be more areas where our community can go to get tested, receive PPE and relevant information in a culturally competent way. We know many of our community do not have the ability to get masks and other PPE, or understands why it's important. If possible create a targeted multimedia outreach plan to inform not just the need to use a mask but why that is.

- Immigration Status and Public Charge. We have been educating our community on how their immigration status may or may not affect them receiving services, and frankly there are not enough resources to meet the need for undocumented folks. We have received the question of how the public charge rule may impact their immigration cases. Maybe a step forward in proving some trust and visibility in accessing whatever aid exists from the town, is answering that question as a town. "Will receiving these benefits impact people's immigration case through the public charge rules"

Lastly - My Personal Thoughts. (not as ECH Rep) This is a very emotionally heavy and hard time for many in our community. Racial equity and the deconstruction and elimination of systematic racism has to be at the core of any action Carrboro, heck any government takes. I know and trust yall. I know you are a huge support for El Centro Hispano, but we can all do more. COVID is something that has shown in many ways what we have been talking about for years, from the number of people of color who get tested to those who get the virus to those who are able to get PPE to the way we distribute assistance, the inequity is undeniable.

I believe it takes all of us working together to address all these issues and I am more than willing to do anything in my power to assist the town.

I also want to add that I didn't mean to break down tonight, but I am glad you got to see it. For me, and everyone working to support our communities, this

situation is beyond personal. We have to be at many times the rocks our community needs to stand on or the person to help them understand that we will get through it, and it takes a toll. I know you can feel it too, so I do have a personal ask, as you look towards our local nonprofits to help in this time, which we are all willing to do, please consider the emotional work you add to those organizations. I would even go further to ask that you provide additional funds to give organizations the option to hold space for their staff to recover and receive any mental health assistance they may need, if the organization wants that assistance. I struggle to ask for organizational funding at this time because I want all the available help to go directly to our community, so I won't actively ask for funding but that you keep it in mind.

Thank you so much for all the work you do everyday for our town.

Please know I care very much for all of you and trust you.

Eliazar,



El Centro Hispano (ECH) is a grassroots community-based organization that works to strengthening community, build bridges and advocate for equity and inclusion of the Hispanic/Latino community in the triangle area of North Carolina.

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