

Race Equity Advisory Council

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: NorthPoint Conference Center

Council members present: Farhio Khalif, Amber Shannon, Cedric Dildy, Erikka Ryan, Catherine Bouie, Alejandra Medina, Josephine “Josie” Thao, ocho smith, Raquel Jarabek, Hol Flor, Angela Cuellar

Council members not present: Heidi Garrido, Kandis York, Ralphe Yehle, Nathania Amenuvor, Adjoa Kusi- Appiah, Saint Saice, Michiah Van Syckle, Nathaly Maldonado, Nat Kirk, Tai Giwa

County Staff: Letty Rogers, Shawn Sorrell, Vernona Boswell, Sheng Khang, Kareem Murphy

Minutes

Approved current month’s agenda: ***March***

Motion: Placed Motion: Seconded

All in favor – motion passed unanimously

Approved previous month’s meeting notes: ***February***

Motion: Placed Motion: Seconded

All in favor – motion passed unanimously

Check In

Council members spent most of the meeting checking in with one another, sharing how they have been personally and professionally impacted by recent decisions of the federal government. Emphasizing the importance of community support, collective grounding, and staying committed to REAC’s work during times of uncertainty.

Guest Speaker

Kareem Murphy, Deputy County Administrator who oversees REAC within the Disparity Elimination Line of Business and leads the Health and Human Services Line of Business, provided an overview of Hennepin County's current priorities and operational environment.

- Updated REAC on Operation Surge (ICE) and the County's efforts to ensure safety, wellbeing, and access to services for impacted residents.
- Gave Context regarding County Commissioners and ongoing federal lawsuits involving Hennepin County.
- Information about reparative work within Health, including the leadership of the new Assistant County Administrator, Sara Hollie, and her early guidance on what may or may not be effective in advancing health-related reparations.
- Discussed early insights into the coming Reparative Task Force, emphasizing that REAC will have autonomy in shaping priorities, and vision for this work.

Updates

- Hennepin County Commissioners are scheduled to meet with REAC later in 2026 to discuss collaborative goals and expectations.
- New REAC member terms begin April 1, 2026; approximately half of current member terms conclude March 31, 2026.
- Co-chairs are planning an appreciation and transition event for outgoing members and incoming members. Date and details TBD.

Adjourn: Motion Placed Motion: Seconded

All in favor – motion passed unanimously