

# *Equity for All Arizonans*

## **KINGMAN COMMUNITY TOWN HALL**

**October 17, 2023 – Kingman, AZ**

### **DEFINING EQUITY AND ITS IMPACT**

Equity is meeting people's needs and meeting them where they are. It means distributing resources to everyone in a way that provides opportunities on an individual need's basis. It allows everyone to get to the finish line together while incorporating principles of personal responsibility. It is providing equal opportunity to access the tools for success. It increases the opportunity to overcome both known and unknown barriers, addresses social determinants of health and takes lived wisdom and experiences into account.

It may mean extra services to veterans or students so they can succeed, services to families—especially those with children—or investment opportunities and support for small business. It also means additional investment in rural areas of Arizona for transportation, housing, and other services.

### **OPTIMIZING EVERYONE'S POTENTIAL THROUGH EQUITABLE APPROACHES**

An equitable approach is super important, especially for Mohave County where people have to work harder than other more urban communities to obtain a better quality of life, specifically with housing, transportation, social and court services.

Listening and hearing what people really need can help to create a bridge to the resources needed as can reducing the stigma for seeking assistance. It's important to let people know about programs that do exist and we need additional resources—including in our schools.

Programs like the WIOA (Workforce Investment Opportunity Act) program that specifically targets the needs of those in the program and provides services that allow for economic mobility are important. These types of programs provide additional access to education which is an investment in the community that helps the overall community economy.

To have a more equitable and successful community, we need to revisit historic and "old boy" systems that do not provide equal opportunities for success. If we don't allow everyone to come to the table, we are not going to succeed as a community. We need to create a culture that is attractive to young people and that invests in their success. We need to maximize our resources to support all of our children because they are our future. We need them for our community to be successful.

### **IMPROVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EQUITY**

We should focus on growing our own--giving equitable opportunities to local people to become health care providers. This type of action and others, such as scholarship waivers, can help fill the void of serviced providers. We have serious shortages of doctors, nurse practitioners, optometrists, specialists, and other healthcare providers and this is impacting the ability of our community to thrive.

Barriers to care also include red tape, such as when health care cards are changed that create access challenges. With a lack of local providers, there are challenges with having to travel out of the county for services. It would be helpful to have agreements with other states for services since it is sometimes easier in this tristate area to get to service in neighboring states.

Housing is healthcare. Providing equitable housing services will improve health care and health outcomes. Our aging population is especially impacted by these issues.

Expanding outreach, using prevention tools, and providing more mental health services and rehabilitation services would help address many of our needs—including the rise in suicides. We have major issues in our community with substance use and mental health. Yet, those who need help are not able to get the help they need in a timely manner. We need to address changes that are needed with our healthcare systems—including major barriers and challenges with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

### **NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS**

1. Access to resources.
  - a. Investigate and research local resources to provide a holistic approach.
  - b. Educate providers about resources.
2. Collaborate and partner.
  - a. Work with partners who can provide resources to reduce transportation barriers.
  - b. Convene stakeholders, community leaders, government councils and community members to get buy-in and to use their influence to make a difference.
3. Find a way to effectively address the “good old boy” system.
4. Individual action: It begins with each of us.
  - a. We all need to treat each other with love and care.
  - b. Live a healthy lifestyle and employ self-care.
5. Looking at changes to laws that govern about how wages impact access to Medicare and Medicaid to make it more equitable.
6. Insurance companies could work on how to get people cross state lines to get services when it is more convenient.
7. Incentives to get doctors to come to rural areas—even if just for a day or one day a month.

### **INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION**

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Kingman Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

#### ***I WILL...***

- Spend time helping people who are elderly.
- Organize meds or visit talk to the elderly so they aren't lonely and stay happy.
- Use my skills, talents, and voice to be an agent of change.
- Talk about inequities and do my best to work toward equity.
- Work with an organization on writing.
- Continue to advocate for my community in any way possible.
- Whether that is more community outreach, collaboration with other entities or offering my own services.
- Better educate myself to do as much as I can to help in the areas I can.
- Reach out to additional resources to educate myself on the subject to further assist the community and state I reside in.

- Work to find a member of our healthcare community that is interested in joining Kingman Economic Development Commission to include their prospective as we look at moving forward so we can build better together.
- Commit to learning more about Mohave Community College's current offerings.
- Be dedicated to creating equitable environments and support systems to increase educational attainment and economic mobility for all!
- Keep the needs of the community in mind while trying to serve as many as possible with the available resources.
- Continue to have a vision of an equitable future.
- Advocate for others' needs.
- Speak out against misinformation.
- Continue providing services to those who are in need.
- Continue to gain new knowledge to use in the behavioral health field.
- Be a resource for others and assist all others to get the help and care they may need in the field of healthcare.
- Find areas and information in the community to better relate and discuss equity with others in the community.
- Work on bringing in new housing developments specifically for low income and workforce housing.
- Work with businesses to provide high paying jobs and identify training MCC can help provide.
- Continue to advocate for system involved youth opportunities in education, employment, healthcare, and community involvement.
- Speak with the members of my community about the issues in Kingman.
- Continue to work towards fair and equitable services including Housing for SMI Clients.
- Provide JEDI (Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) training to community members.
- Be part of the community discussion and help find solutions.
- Continue to be a resource through our "no wrong door" policy and connect individuals in need with resources.
- Take what I have learned tonight and utilize it within the judicial system.
- Address my concerns and community needs so we can be heard and have some changes made.
- Continue to advocate for my community.
- Work with people so that we can achieve equity in our area.
- Be the Change.
- Do the next right thing.
- Help as many people as I can.
- Lead by example.
- Type up my notes.
- Give Phone Number to the KRMC research director for the upcoming CHA.
- Embrace a positive future.