



Agenda Item Summary

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**File #:** 23-00579

**Agenda Date:** 9/26/2023

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Equity and Community Outreach Report**

**Presenter:**

Diedre Houchen, Ph.D. Equity & Community Outreach Manager, 352-384-3195

**Description:**

Update on the equity and related community work for Alachua County.

**Recommended Action:**

Hear presentation and provide direction on next steps of Equity and Community Outreach structure and plan.

**Prior Board Motions:**

At the Board of County Commission's August 24, 2021 meeting, Commissioner Prizzia moved the following:

- 1.A. Recommendation 1 Adopt the Phase I Plan
  - 1.B. Recommendation 2 Adopt the Revised Enabling Resolution for the Equity Advisory Committee
  - 1.C. Recommendation 4 Direct Staff to develop Community Outreach Management plan
2. Provide pay to staff for work as well as a stipend for advisory board members as part of the recommendation.

The motion carried 5-0.

**Fiscal Note:**

No Fiscal Request.

**Strategic Guide:**

Social and Economic Opportunity

**Background:**

The Board of County Commissioners directed the Equity Office to complete several tasks in response to the proposed Equity Plan presented on August 24, 2021. These tasks included:

- Assemble a 30-member Core Strategic Leadership team for equity across the organization and conduct an eight-month onboarding period.
- Create an Equity Advisory Committee and give priority to those with lived experience of

inequities.

- Define a community outreach management plan for the Board of County Commissioners.
- Provide the Board of County Commissioners with a formal social and racial equity onboarding workshop.

This report describes the progress made on these tasks and other activities, achievements, engagements, and plans of the Sustainability, Equity, and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS) Equity Office.

### Key Accomplishments

- The Core Strategic Leadership team was assembled and completed its eight-month onboarding period.
- The Equity Advisory Committee was created and is now working with staff to create implementation plans on equity in Alachua County.
- A community outreach management plan has been defined for the Board of County Commissioners.
- A formal social and racial equity onboarding workshop was provided to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Departmental goals related to equity have been created for the SEEDS and Growth Management departments.
- The SEEDS Equity Office has continued to build a three-legged stool approach to SEEDS projects, including local food, energy efficiency, solar, and the American Rescue Plan Act (AACRP).
- The Immigrant Liaison position has been onboarded, and the organizational foundation for the SEEDS GIS Analyst position has been laid.
- A detailed equity onboarding and biweekly meeting process has been developed and implemented.
- Many other projects have been undertaken by the SEEDS Equity Office, with indications for the next steps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and 2024.

### Conclusion

The SEEDS Equity Office has made significant progress in advancing equity in Alachua County. The office's work is ongoing, and the report provides a roadmap for future progress.

The SEEDS Equity Office is committed to advancing equity in Alachua County. The report provides a roadmap for future progress, and the office is confident that it can make a difference in the lives of all residents.