

Race Equity Advisory Council

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: NorthPoint Conference Center

Council members present: Farhio Khalif, Amber Shannon, Cedric Dildy, Erikka Ryan, Catherine Bouie, Nathaly Maldonado, Michiah Van Syckle, Nat Kirk, Tai Giwa, Alejandra Medina, Josephine “Josie” Thao, ocho smith, Raquel Jarabek

Council members not present: Heidi Garrido, Angela Cuellar, Hol Flor, Kandis York, Ralphe Yehle, Nathania Amenuvor, Adjoa Kusi- Appiah, Saint Saice

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

Minutes

Approval of Current Agenda

Motion: Placed Motion: Seconded

All in favor – motion passed unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

Motion: Placed Motion: Seconded

All in favor – motion passed unanimously

Welcome and Introductions

- REAC members introduced themselves and shared their background(s) with the guest
- Guest Speaker: Kelsey Dawson Walton, Hennepin County Be @ School Social Worker
 - Provided an overview of Be @ School initiatives:

- Connecting families to community resources and agencies
- Reviewing school reports and addressing absenteeism
 - Discussed root causes of absenteeism (e.g., food insecurity, unstable housing, violence, teen pregnancy)
- Explained state statutes and parental rights
- Shared insights on child protection and unresolved trauma impacting students, the “revolving door” effect.

Member Updates

- Raquel Jarabek: Commissioner Conley reached out to join the Income Subcommittee in January 2026; will share details with the group.
- Josie Thao: Proposed inviting Hennepin County Commissioners to meet with REAC in 2026 to strengthen collaboration.
- Chair Erikka Ryan Reminders:
 1. Engage with commissioners and elected officials; subscribe to newsletters for updates.
 2. Complete speaker request forms and coordinate with Letty for scheduling and connections.
- Member Celebration: Scheduled for January 29, 5–8 p.m. at Raquel’s residence; details to come via email/ Teams from the council.