



## Racial And Structural Equity

### INTRODUCTION

#### Who we are – some background

The Healthcare CART leads implementation of over 40 RASE recommendations. Over the last five years, we have advanced health equity by advocating for removal of systemic barriers and addressing social determinants of health.

Made up of health agencies, hospital systems, educators, local government, community organizations, and insurers, the CART members worked and volunteered countless hours to serve as a connector, catalyst, and accountability partner to ensure lasting impact.

*RASE seeks to dismantle systemic and structural racism and building a more just, equitable, and inclusive Rochester and Monroe County.*

#### KEY ISSUES

1. Government Systems and Infrastructure
2. Access and Affordability of Healthcare to Increase Racial Health Equity
3. Impacting Social Determinants of Health to Increase Racial Health Equity
4. Preventative Care to Reduce Race Disparities in Health and Well-Being
5. Anti-Racist, Respectful, Integrated, and Quality Care
6. Anti-Racist Training and Leadership

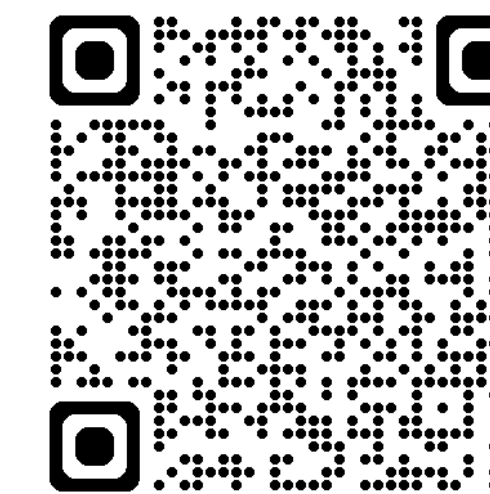


## Healthcare



### Community Advancing Recommendation Team (CART)

**CART Facilitators:** Jackie Dozier, Dr. Thomas Green. **Current CART Members:** Ronieka Burns, Dr. Paula Cupertino, Greg Ewing, Jacqueline Lindsey, Dr. Candice Lucas, Joyce Lucas, Kelly Luther, Yasmin Mattox, Dr. Sanford Mayer, Shannon Regelsberger, Jennifer Sahrle, Joseph Searles, Jonathan Siegel, Laura Sugarwala, Jamia Williams.



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### PROGRESS

#### What got done – some examples

##### Make a formal declaration that racism is a public health crisis (ref. R3)

- County Executive Bello signed a declaration that Racism is a Public Health Crisis
- Mayor Evans joined the Black Agenda Group to remind community members to sign the “Racism is a Public Health Crisis” pledge
- 181 community members signed the “Racism is a Public Health Crisis” pledge

##### Establish a standing Health Committee in the Monroe County Legislature with a charge that includes eliminating health disparities for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (ref. R4)

- Actively working with county legislature to create a Health and Wellness Commission within the Monroe County Legislature
- The committee will work in collaboration with Dept. of Health and other stakeholders to assess, implement, and evaluate health improvements across the County with a focus on the social drivers of health

##### Decentralize Monroe County Department of Public Health services and put locations in neighborhoods with high populations of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (ref. R13)

- Through ARPA funding, Monroe County provided grant funding to expand CNA Programs, LPNs, home health aids, and training caregivers and faith leaders to share health information in trusted places
- Monroe County and St. Joseph’s Neighborhood Center launched a Medical Outreach and Engagement (MOE) vehicle, which brings healthcare services directly to neighborhoods

**5th Annual RASE Community Update October 6, 2025**  
Urban League of Rochester - Successor organization to the Commission on RASE

### CHALLENGES

#### What slowed us down – some examples

##### SILOS & COMMUNICATION

- Many entities working with healthcare operate independently with limited communication, leading to gaps and/or duplicated efforts
- More collaboration is needed to have a seamless healthcare system, as recommended through RASE

##### COMMUNITY CAPACITY & RESOURCES

- Implementation of recommendations was constrained by limited time and staff capacity
- RASE recommendations were specifically focused on the Department of Health and did not include health systems, and other relevant entities responsible for healthcare

##### EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

- Need representation from key stakeholders, including public health, FQHCs, health systems, insurers and others focused on social determinants of health

### FUTURE

#### What’s still to do – some examples

- Continue to work with legislators to establish a Health and Wellness Commission in the County Legislature
- Monitor and advocate for protections against state and federal changes to programs like Medicaid and SNAP
- Collaborate with the Monroe County Department of Public Health to fill gaps and enhance community health

