



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation**



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

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**Connecticut Department of Agriculture Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group
*Access to Capital and Financial Planning***

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday August 17, 2021
3:30-5:00 PM

Was held virtually, meeting recorded

Members Present: Deborah Caviness, Khadijah Muhammed, Shawn Joseph, Tymothee Anderson, Harold Blackwell, Matthew DiSciacca, Jiff Martin

Members Absent: Marlene McCaffrey, Kwaku Griffiths

Public Present: Dishaun Harris

DoAg Staff: Cyrena Thibodeau, Jaime Smith

1. **Welcome and Call to Order-** Meeting was called to order by Cyrena Thibodeau at 3:45PM
2. **Group Introductions-** Participants introduced themselves to the group and shared their affiliation.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Community Agreements-** Cyrena went over the community agreements while reviewing the overview of the agency and the Working Group Document.
 - b. **Presentation and discussion with DoAg on existing programs and purpose/task of topic group-** Jaime Smith gave an overview of the CT Department of Agriculture and its programs and Cyrena went over the Working Group Document that had been prepared in advance of the meeting. The floor was opened for questions and feedback
 - c. **Future meetings: dates, length, documents/organization-** Cyrena will check in with Khadijah and Shawn to get a few dates to put forward to the group.
4. **Public Comment-** No public comment
5. **Next Steps-** - Cyrena will send out meeting notes and recording. Members to provide any feedback on the guidance document. Core working group meeting is August 23, 11-12PM
6. **Adjourn-** Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM by Cyrena Thibodeau.
Respectfully submitted, Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR 1, August 23, 2021.