

Public Comment

Dear members of the Quality Council,

My name is Dashni Sathasivam. Thank you for the opportunity to publicly comment on behalf of Health Equity Solutions (HES), where I serve as Manager of Policy and Outreach. HES is a nonprofit organization with a statewide focus on promoting policies, programs, and practices that result in equitable health care access, delivery, and outcomes for all people in Connecticut. Our vision is for every Connecticut resident to attain optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

I have been following the Council and appreciate your time and intentional efforts to ensure that health equity is embedded within these quality measure conversations and decisions. At the last meeting, the Council approved a recommendation to adopt two health equity related measures: a social determinants of health screening measure and another to stratify measures by race, ethnicity, primary language, and disability status (RELD). I ask that the Council consider amending this recommendation to also include a measure that assesses the collection of RELD data for completeness, as the ability to stratify by RELD is only as good as the quality and completeness of the RELD data being collected. As reported by the Health Equity Data Analytics (HEDA) team in a [2020 report](#), only 9% of the 1.4M unique individuals who had commercial insurance from 2012-2018 had listed primary race data, only 6% had secondary race data, while 10% had primary ethnicity data. One of the recommendations of this report was to “assess, track, and publicly report the existing baseline completeness” of race, ethnicity, and language data, which were identified as critical health equity data elements by the HEDA team.

By actioning the HEDA team’s recommendation and following [Rhode Island’s example](#), Connecticut will be able to benchmark the completeness of its RELD data while simultaneously setting itself up to advance best practices in data collection and stratification throughout the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Dashni Sathasivam, MPH