

EHF Congregational Engagement | 2021 Health and Justice Advocacy Network

Purpose/Outcomes/Process Template

Purpose/Priority Area: To provide a space for Episcopal congregations and members to impact the health policy decisions affecting our state and communities.

Rationale for Priority Area:

- Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to *“love our neighbors as ourselves”* and in doing so, we commit to *“strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”*
- The Health and Justice Advocacy Network (HJAN) was created to help our congregations increase health for our members and for the larger community. We understand health to include both physical and mental health.
- The Health and Justice Advocacy Network will engage and equip Congregations in identifying pertinent current issues concerning health, sharing information, and taking the lead on moving forward with advocacy.
- We believe churches can shape health policy if they work together and are trained.
- We will pay close attention to the intersection of race, poverty, and health.

OUTCOME/GOAL: Episcopal Congregations are informed about Medicaid Expansion and how it could impact their community

BENCHMARKS (2 – 4): (How will you know you are successful?)

- Congregations and key Episcopal groups receive information about Medicaid Expansion: trainings, social media posts, emails, and presentations
- Twenty-five congregations are represented at trainings and webinars on M/E
- An additional 50 congregations are included in an email and social media campaign

PROCESS:

What are the 3 -5 key actions you will take to get to the goal?

By when?

Training sessions for interested leaders on the Legislature and M/E	January/Feb 2021
Develop a calendar schedule of social media posting and emails for regular outreach and push	January 2021
Expand contact with priests and deacons about the importance of M/E	Jan-May
Provide a template for presentations at Vestry meetings	January 2
Deacons put Medicaid Expansion in Annual Report	January
Presentation by HJAN at Diocesan council	Jan-Feb

Resource Implications (financial, staffing, technology, space, other)

Areas of intersection/overlap with other priority areas: Communications, Race

OUTCOME/GOAL: Create and enact an Advocacy strategy with Episcopal Congregations for Medicaid Expansion

BENCHMARKS (2 – 4): (How will you know you are successful?)

- Develop a plan that engages Episcopal congregations to advocate for Medicaid Expansion
- Develop a Media strategy that raises awareness of Medicaid Expansion and engages the Governor and Lt. Governor and key targets
- Create a repository for HJAN and Medicaid Expansion information, stories, trainings, and resources
- Make contact with every legislator whose district includes an Episcopal Congregation

PROCESS: What are the 3 -5 key actions you will take to get to the goal?	By when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize training in advocacy for congregations 	January 2021 Feb.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential strategic partners or congregations for advocacy 	Jan 2021-Feb.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a mechanism to tally legislative contacts 	Jan 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure webspace for HJAN 	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize legislative contacts for visits, calls, emails, card and/or (HJAN)testimony by legislative district and interest 	Jan-May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curate personal stories harvested regarding Medicaid Expansion for testimony, articles, and general information 	Jan-March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize Op-Eds, articles, and presentations about Medicaid Expansion from clergy, doctors, nurses, and others 	Jan- May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the Bishop about ME, request a spot on the Diocesan Council agenda, and encourage his participation through public statements, etc. 	Jan- May
Resource Implications (financial, staffing, technology, space, other)	
Areas of intersection/overlap with other priority areas: Community Engagement; State advocacy campaigns ie. Sick of it or others; Mi Familia Vota; IAF, Texas Impact	

OUTCOME/GOAL: Increase the size and depth of the Health and Justice Advocacy Network	
BENCHMARKS (2 – 4): (How will you know you are successful?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More congregations and members consider themselves part of HJAN after the Legislative session HJAN members gain experience with the legislature, public policy, and civic engagement Members have a good experience and are willing to continue engaging health public policy HJAN has a visible space with EHF and is known in the diocese 	
PROCESS: What are the 3 -5 key actions you will take to get to the goal?	By when?
Create a repository for HJAN that describes the network and houses information on public policy	Spring 2021
Hold a post-Legislative training to evaluate the work of HJAN during the Legislative session	June-July 2021
HJAN members document what they have learned and their experience in articles and statements regarding the legislature and working with HJAN and EHF	October 2021
Tally congregations working with HJAN during the session and end of year to set a benchmark for participation	June November
Resource Implications (financial, staffing, technology, space, other) Evaluation team, Melodee	
Areas of intersection/overlap with other priority areas: Evaluation team	