



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

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CONTACT: Hazel Brewster
(802) 636-7047

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Lt. Governor Molly Gray to Host “Seat at the Table” on Equity in Public Health

Montpelier, Vt. — Vermont Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray to host the second virtual “Seat at the Table” speaker series on equity in public health on Monday, February 22, 2021 from 12:30 - 1:30pm.

The event aims to highlight lessons learned from local and state public health responses to COVID-19 and opportunities to build a more equitable and culturally competent healthcare system in Vermont. Speakers include Dr. Maria Mercedes Avila, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Adjunct Professor of Nursing at the University of Vermont; Amila Merdzanovic, Director at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (Vermont); Dr. Jules Wetchi a Public Health Specialist representing Vermont’s New American community; and Dr. Pablo Bose, Associate Professor of Geography and Director of Global Studies at the University of Vermont. Lt. Governor Gray will moderate the event.

“As we work to build a more diverse and welcoming Vermont that promotes and ensures equity, and particularly with regards public health, I am pleased to convene this timely conversation,” Gray said. “I look forward to elevating the panelist’s expertise as we identify lessons learned from COVID-19 and opportunities to develop a more culturally competent healthcare system.”

Members of the public wishing to attend can register and find additional information here: <https://ltgov.vermont.gov/seatatthetable>.

The bi-weekly “Seat at the Table” is hosted every other Monday from 12:30pm – 1:30pm and features community, non-profit, and business leaders from across Vermont. Each “Seat at the Table” is open to the public, lawmakers and press and highlights topical issues facing Vermont communities.

The first “Seat at the Table,” hosted on February 8, 2021, highlighted the diverse and evolving needs of Vermonters linked to broadband access. Video of that event is available to view here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_7qbAasgPU

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