



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFING

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

APRIL 2, 2020 TASK FORCE MEETING



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

- Monthly public meetings from December to June
- **January – March Focus:** Exploring several different approaches to developing the “best practices” deliverable

I. BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Proviso Language:** *“Best practices for increasing meaningful and inclusive community engagement that takes into account barriers to participation that may arise due to race, color, ethnicity, religion, income, or education level.”*

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION FOR BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All Washington state agencies should **create an agency-specific Community Engagement Plan** that contains all relevant resources and information included in the Subcommittee's guidance document.

QUESTIONS WE'LL ANSWER

- Why didn't you provide a set of best practices?
- Where is the alignment with the mapping subcommittee?
- How can an agency with little to no experience with EJ principles implement this?

JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS APPROACH & RECOMMENDATION

- Abundance of best practice guides for community engagement exists, but are **NOT** often easily implemented

How is the subcommittee addressing this problem?

- Guidance will be tailored to agency implementers, with several WA-specific examples and elements designed to overcome barriers to meaningful engagement across shared agency activities
- Copy & Paste: Take language from this document for your community engagement plan tailored to needs and essential functions of your agency

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

- How do these things land for you?
 - **Our recommendation:** Each agency develops a community engagement plan
 - **Our presumed audience:** Agency staff (implementers), not necessarily executive leadership.
Any thoughts on benefits/limits of this model in terms of its utility for that audience?
 - **Our approach:** What about this approach gives you heartburn? Are there missing elements?

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT TOUR

- Current Rough Draft / Outline: Sections are written in different styles
- Three main sections:
 - Introduction: Why community engagement is crucial & guidance document's purpose
 - Recommended elements of an agency community engagement plan
 - Examples & resources
- Aligned with Mapping Subcommittee's approach
 - Will provide guidance on best practices for community engagement across major agency activities (e.g. permitting, grantmaking, etc.)

II. MEASUREABLE GOALS

- **Proviso Language:** *“Measurable goals for reducing environmental health disparities for each community in Washington state and ways in which state agencies may focus their work towards meeting those goals.”*

II. MEASUREABLE GOALS

- With no authority or auditing mechanism, we assume **agencies must measure and evaluate their own work.**
- Our resources section will include an expanded, organized collection of **evaluation tools** agencies can use, following those presented in January's Task Force meeting.
- **Requesting feedback**
 - This is a challenging section of the proviso to interpret – what are your thoughts?

III. MODEL POLICIES

- **Proviso Language:** *“Model policies that prioritize highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations for the purpose of reducing environmental health disparities and advancing a healthy environment for all residents.”*

III. MODEL POLICIES

- Resources section will include examples of:
 - Community Engagement Plans
 - Best practices guides
 - Novel tools for implementing best practices

FEEDBACK REQUESTED – CIRCLING BACK

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THANK YOU!

