



Minutes of the Environmental Justice Task Force
Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting
February 2, 2020
Bullitt Center; 1501 E Madison St Seattle, WA
98122 & Zoom Conference Call

Subcommittee members present:

Emily Pinckney, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Megan MacClellan, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Brett Houghton
Bridgette Valdez-Kogle
Tomas Madrigal
Shirlee Tan

Myra Hernandez
Julia Havens
Ignacio Marquez
Stephanie Celt
Sinang Lee
Bill Bennion

Task Force staff present:

Elise Rasmussen, Manager

Guests and other participants:

Megan MacClellan, Subcommittee Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS & COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

Members introduced themselves and the group reviewed the adopted community agreements (on file).

2. SURVEY REPORT OUT

Subcommittee members continued their ongoing conversation about which communities or groups are not represented on this subcommittee, and discussed the importance of being transparent about who is and is not represented.

3. JANUARY TASK FORCE MEETING RECAP

The subcommittee reviewed Task Force and community feedback on the Barriers to Participation document (on file). Members discussed the tradeoffs of allowing agencies to amend the final Barriers to Participation document to design the tool to fit specific agency needs, to keep the document up-to-date, and to continually address gaps in the tool.

Sinang Lee, Member discussed the potential for forming recommendations that focus on process improvement or how to implement community feedback to improve community engagement.

Tomas Madrigal, Member stated that it might be helpful to create a set of best practices for how to use the Environmental Health Disparities map to inform community engagement and the distribution of government resources to organizations that serve communities that are highly impacted by environmental injustices.

Shirlee Tan, Member discussed the importance of addressing barriers to community engagement on a systems level. For example, government agencies often are not able to compensate a community member for their time under existing contracting systems, or how to

redefine what “expert” means so community can bring their lived experience to the table, or how to make the contract and contracting process clear for communities.

The subcommittee also discussed several resources and community engagement guides to inform upcoming work.

4. DISCUSSION: HOMEWORK RESULTS & APPROACH FOR DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES

Megan MacClellan, Subcommittee Co-Chair, proposed matching barriers to meaningful community engagement to associated best practices to remedy those barriers. After which the group would use the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) procedural safeguards document (on file). The rationale for this proposal is that it would allow the group to be broad and innovative, but would also connect recommendations to existing federal government mandates.

Tomas Madrigal, Member said the goal of this addressing this work is to have some alignment for agencies, not necessarily to have agency specific recommendations. Bridgette Valdez-Kogle, Member added that the Subcommittee’s goal is also to make expectations for community engagement clear so we can galvanize agencies and employees around this common purpose and collaborate on tools and training opportunities. Sinang Lee, Member discussed connecting this work to the Environmental Health Disparities map to highlight disparities because doing so would allow more employees and professions to have a visual representation for why community engagement is important to their work. Members also discussed integrating local examples of meaningful and innovate community engagement into the final deliverable.

5. DEFINE NEXT STEPS

Subcommittee Co-Chairs and staff stated they would take this guidance to formulate a deliverable that incorporates what members discussed today.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Megan MacClellan, Subcommittee Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

GOVERNOR’S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

First Name Last Name, Chair

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