



**Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Task Force
Mapping Subcommittee Meeting
January 8, 2020
GoToMeeting Phone Conference**

Subcommittee members present:

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Alison Beason
Beihua Page
Caroline Smith
David Mendoza
Deric Gruen
Edmond Seto
Elizabeth Lanzer

Erik Sagnic
Esther Min
John Stuhlmiller
Lauren Freeland
Paul Tabayoyon
Peter Godlewski
Richard Gelb

Task Force staff present:

Elise Rasmussen

Guests and other participants:

Adam Cole, Presenter
Ben Donatelle
Deibi Sibrian

Laura Johnson, Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

All Subcommittee members and other participants introduced themselves.

1. RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE PRESENTATION – MAPPING USE

Adam Cole from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) spoke about how RCO uses the Washington Tracking Network's Information by Location Tool to issue state government grants for parks and recreation spaces in the following three ways:

- To identify and prioritize the highest need for park grant funding across the state based on four indicators within a census tract: household income, percent people of color, disability, and Body Mass Index for teens.
- To lower barriers to grant funding for underserved, low-income communities that may not be able to meet all grant requirements with current community or local government resources on hand. RCO uses the income measure on the map to identify these high-priority communities.
- To define recreational land of statewide significance by identifying access to opportunity centers across Washington. This informs which regions of the state would yield the best return on investment or where RCO's grants would best contribute to eliminating health disparities across the state.

Mr. Cole also mentioned that RCO is looking to use a finer granularity than census tracts, such as block groups, blocks, and urban neighborhoods. RCO has used political jurisdictions and block groups in the previous grant processes. He also mentioned that RCO is beginning to create performance measures to evaluate how these tools have changed recreational access over time.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS UPDATE

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, discussed file sharing and collaboration options for members, asked the group about other potential membership additions, and spoke about the option to have video conference or in-person meeting options for future meetings. She also mentioned the WTN Information by Location instructional video would be ready soon and the [link](#) sent to subcommittee members.

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, shared that graduate students from the University of Washington will also be assisting with this project and asked if there were any ideas for the students' project or work plan.

3. MAPPING OBJECTIVES

The subcommittee reviewed their pre-work for today's meeting (on file). The pre-work prompts were:

- Does your agency/organization use the Washington Tracking Network (WTN) mapping tool? If yes, how is WTN used in programs, policies, and/or activities?
- Does your agency/organization use other equity or environmental justice mapping tools? If yes, what are these tools and how are they used to guide programs, policies, and/or activities?
- What activities (e.g. grants/loans, public engagement, rulemaking, permitting, etc.) do you think are potentially compatible with the application of the Environmental Health Disparities Map (EHD Map)?

Subcommittee members briefly discussed possible ways in which “highly impacted communities” could be defined and potential concerns for how to appropriately adjust equity tools if the criteria for what is considered a “highly impacted community” changes. Members also discussed adding priority hiring and site-specific assessments to the list of activities that may be compatible with the application of the EHD Map.

4. MEASUREABLE GOALS OBJECTIVES

The Subcommittee discussed the next set of objectives pertaining to measureable goals for state agencies for reducing environmental health disparities (on file).

Subcommittee Member, Richard Gelb presented his suggested amendments for the measureable goals objectives to the subcommittee. Rather than solely measuring health disparity reduction, Mr. Gelb proposed having a body of work that looked at progress toward equitable outcomes. He spoke about creating a method for monitoring agency progress toward more equitable resource distribution by tracking changing conditions over time. The purpose of this method would be to measure if agency efforts are making progress toward reducing environmental health disparities. Mr. Gelb shared some examples of potential questions this work may address:

- Government agency and community organization partnerships: How can an agency determine how that partnership is benefiting highly impacted communities?
- Policy: How can we measure if policies are making progress toward equitable outcomes?
- Capital projects: Are these investments (e.g. sidewalks to encourage active transportation in a highly impacted community) promoting improved environmental health outcomes?

Mr. Gelb then spoke about applying a standard rubric across state agency functions for benefits and burdens, and possible methods for how to measure the relative effect of agency work aimed at mitigating environmental health disparities. He proposed that measureable goals could focus on how outputs and outcomes have relative significance toward reducing environmental health disparities to build strong evidence of progress toward meeting health and environmental justice goals.

Subcommittee Member, Peter Godlewski asked whether this small group is the right group to make decisions that could have such a significant impact on how agencies make decisions.

Subcommittee members discussed the challenge of meeting the timeframe for recommendations with the potential extent of work that could be accomplished within measureable goals.

The subcommittee planned to revisit Mr. Gelb's proposal for the objectives and work plan pertaining to measureable goals during a future subcommittee meeting.

5. MODEL POLICIES OBJECTIVES

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, asked members to think about existing policies in their organizations or agencies that already directs programming and activities to integrate equity tools into their work.

Subcommittee members spoke about looking into policy recommendations put forward by Policy Link and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, and the importance of looking specifically at existing policies in Washington.

6. EJ TASK FORCE JANUARY 14TH MAPPING SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair shared details about the upcoming subcommittee presentation to the Environmental Justice Task Force to share the Subcommittee's work to-date. Subcommittee Member, Caroline Smith recommended we request direction from the Task Force as to the scope of measurable goals. Members said they would like Task Force member feedback on the scope of the measureable goals objectives.

7. NEXT STEPS

The group will be meeting again on February 12, 2020 via GoTo Meeting. Members also discussed potential pre-work plans in preparation for this meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

First Name Last Name, Chair

First Name Last Name, Chair

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov TTY users can dial 711.

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington • 98504-7990
360-236-4110 • wsboh@sboh.wa.gov • sboh.wa.gov