HEALTH EQUITY

Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Task Force
Mapping Subcommittee Meeting
March 11, 2020
GoToMeeting Phone Conference

Subcommittee members present:

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair
David Mendoza
Esther Min
Lauren Freelander
Sarah Vorpahl

Beihua Page
Elizabeth Lanzer
Richard Gelb
Alison Beason

Task Force staff present:
Elise Rasmussen, Task Force Manager
Esmael Lopez, Community Engagement Coordinator

Guests and other participants:

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
Laura Johnson, Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS UPDATE
The Subcommittee will hold virtual meetings only with no in-person option to abide by current social distancing mandates.

2. MEASUREABLE GOALS OBJECTIVES
Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, provided an overview of the cross cutting agency activity categories the group worked on (on file). Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, discussed the utility of prioritizing these activity categories. David Mendoza, Member, proposed the following method for prioritizing agency activity recommendations:
- Which recommendations would be supported by the current state budget AND authority?
- Which recommendations would be supported by either the current budget OR current authority, but do not have both?
- Which recommendations have no current budget and no current authority support?

The Subcommittee discussed prioritizing activity categories based on activities that need cross-agency coordination to implement, and also acknowledged that these recommendations will eventually need to be further refined by agencies.

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, transitioned the conversation to discuss recommendations around how to use the Environmental Health Disparities map (EHD map), and what types of agency activities would warrant the use of the EHD map. Sarah Vorpahl, Member, discussed the need for process-oriented recommendations for the EHD map, and that part of this Subcommittee's work would be to have conversations with local government about how this tool might also inform their work. Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, agreed and stated that a lot of agencies do not know how or when to use this tool, and that this Subcommittee needs to provide clear recommendations that remedy these barriers for agencies. Elizabeth Lanzer, Member, highlighted that agency interactions with communities are so different from agency to agency, and advocated for higher level goals and recommendations.

Esmael Lopez, Task Force Community Engagement Coordinator, discussed community access and use of the EHD map. He also discussed the importance of keeping the EHD map up-to-date. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the literature review workgroup is looking into this more, and would love to discuss this further with Mr. Lopez.

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, transitioned the discussion to possible future recommendations for measureable goals. She first noted that the map, in its current form, is not designed to measure progress or change over time. She proposed focusing on recommending measures of success and metrics based on strengthening agency activities and the application of the map and equity tools (e.g. each agency's community engagement process has an equity protocol). Richard Gelb, Member, agreed and added that the Subcommittee's role should include developing standards for what constitutes a beneficial agency action that addresses environmental health disparities. These beneficial actions should be mapped to understand where environmental benefits and burdens are distributed across the state, as well as the reach, intensity, and effect of these burdens and benefits. The Subcommittee should create a set of standards in order to avoid each agency re-creating these standards. These standards would allow agencies to see progress and hold accountability. Mr. Gelb recommended looking at King County's strategic plan where there exists a set of standards for all agencies in the county. He stated that the desired outcome would be to shift the focus to where the needs are the greatest, and that we would be able to visualize this shift in the map (e.g. in the form of the proportionality of service delivery).

Task Force staff shared that the Office of Equity Task Force is creating a shared vision for coordinated efforts and coordinated accountability in state government.

The Subcommittee discussed the agency activity matrix (on file), and Sarah Vorpahl, Member, shared how this document should be interpreted. She stated that the left column should capture all of the cross cutting agency categories, the next column should be cleaned up for readability purposes, and the example/program use column is where agencies should do their own work, the potential indicators listing in the grid is just to give others a place to start. There was also a discussion about including SMART metrics/goals into the Subcommittee recommendations for measureable goals. Ms. Vorpahl said she would be willing to help with this, and also mentioned that the Poverty Reduction Workgroup has frameworks and strategies for how to approach this work.

3. MAPPING OBJECTIVES
The Subcommittee discussed the potential strengths and limitations of the EHD map:

Limitations of the EHD Map:
- Geographic scale is at the census tract level, and data are often skewed by neighboring towns or communities
- Keeping the map up to date – <u>Esther Min, Subcommittee Member</u>, stated that she is working on a manuscript that will discuss this
- Relative scale versus absolute numbers
- Environmental justice and environmental health are narrowly defined and captured in this map.
- The EHD map focuses on disparities, but is blind to community or statewide assets that are addressing environmental health disparities. Amenities are not captured in the map, due to limitations (or lack of data) on jobs, healthy food, etc.

There was also a discussion of a sensitivity analysis of how the data are related to each other in the EHD tool, as well as how other tools have been assessed and validated. <u>Elizabeth Lanzer, Member,</u> stated that she would send information about requests to access underlying resources and data sources for agency-specific service areas.

4. MODEL POLICIES OBJECTIVES
Ms. Rasmussen updated the Subcommittee on the literature review workgroup and the University of Washington's graduate student capstone work on model policies.

5. PLANNING FOR APRIL TASK FORCE MEETING
The Subcommittee discussed work that needed to be completed by April's task Force meeting.

6. NEXT STEPS
The Subcommittee discussed doing more work on the agency activity matrix, and providing guidance and recommendations pertaining to how to use the EHD map.

7. ADJOURNMENT

<u>Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair</u>, adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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First Name Last Name, Chair   First Name Last Name, Chair