



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

Subcommittee members present

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair
David Mendoza
Esther Min
Lauren Freeland
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. DEBRIEFING THE APRIL 2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE MEETING

Elise Rasmussen, staff debriefed the April 2 Task Force meeting and Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, shared that there was a nice symmetry between the Mapping and Community Engagement Subcommittees' presentations and Task Force members have yet to state any concerns.

2. MAPPING RECOMMENDATIONS

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, reviewed the agency activities as a first step that an agency would select for an equity analysis. She reviewed the four existing preliminary mapping recommendations for how State agencies should use the Environmental Health Disparities map (EHD map):

- *Area assessments*: to learn about populations and communities using the map
- *Equity Impact Analysis*: to learn about how a project may impact surrounding communities
- *Project Prioritization*: To direct activities and investments toward the most burdened communities
- *Service Equity Evaluation*: To evaluate the distribution of agency activities across the state or service areas; and to identify potential gaps or disparities in service

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, asked for feedback on these recommendations and shared that there is ongoing research to identify best practices for how to use a cumulative impacts map. She also shared the recently published article by Charles Lee from the Environmental Protection Agency and Front & Centered's original report on the promising applications of the map.

The Subcommittee then discussed how best to package these recommendations in a way that leads to agency transparency, implementation of these recommendations, and accountability to environmental justice. Members discussed how to integrate these elements into the measureable goals objectives to show that agencies are making progress on pro-equity work and will continue to collaborate with the Community Engagement Subcommittee.

Sarah Vorpahl, Member, discussed how internal agency data could be geotagged either by agency type or intervention type to see where agency investments are landing across the state. For example, each agency could download EHD map data and pair that data with specific programmatic data by agency or program, rather than creating a new mapping tool. The EHD map would still be public facing, but this alternative approach could be for internal agency use. The Subcommittee also discussed how race is currently displayed on the map, and may continue to have conversations about how to interpret race data in future meetings.

3. MEASUREABLE GOALS RECOMMENDATIONS

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, discussed the potential for using internal agency data with the EHD map data for an agency's environmental health-related measureable goals, transparency, and accountability.

Sarah Vorpahl, Member, shared the work she did distilling the City University of New York equity indicators reports on measuring equity across five cities in the United States (on file). She shared that this is a quantitative approach to measuring how various agencies and programs could potentially create an equity score for their work, and that his quantitative approach would have to be paired with extensive community engagement. Creating equity indicators would allow agencies and programs to evaluate if their work has become more or less equitable over time. This approach could be used for both agency accountability and internal use for agencies. Ms. Vorpahl also shared that these indicators do not need to come from the EHD Map or the Washington Tracking Network map (WTN map), but that there should be common measures across agencies, and that agencies can use the data they already have, for example agencies could identify the top two highest impact programs and use that as a starting place for this work.

Richard Gelb, Member, shared the need to also understand at the current distribution of benefits and burdens across the state. He stated that we need to define how to measure performance and the actions we are taking. "Indicators" are usually about conditions (e.g. economic, health outcomes, environmental, etc.); whereas, performance measures are the level that characterize agency activities. This is the gap that agencies need to address in order to impel and guide pro-equity strategic and tactical improvements. Mr. Gelb clarified that the effect of an action is not an indicator. We want to look at the effect of an action, (e.g. policy action, programmatic reach, intensity or duration of a program, etc.) as those are things that have an effect on the backdrop that are measured with indicators. Sarah

Vorpahl, Member, added that there would have to be some measurement that would be tracking where these benefits and burdens are landing across the state.

4. MODEL POLICIES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Co-Chairs discussed current status of the model policies recommendations, and is continuing to research model policies across the country that direct the use of cumulative impacts maps.

5. NEXT STEPS

Elise Rasmussen, staff, shared the literature review workgroup progress. Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, shared that the University of Washington graduate students are interested in presenting their work at the next Task Force meeting in May, and that Charles Lee (EPA) is available to present his findings on cumulative impact mapping work happening across the country.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Millie Piazza, Subcommittee Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:43 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