

**Advisory Committee Members Present:**

Millie Piazza, Chair  
Stella Chao  
Richard Gelb  
Steven Gilbert  
Linn Gould

Candy Jackson (phone)  
Lauren Jenks  
Alice Park  
James Rasmussen

**Guests:**

Andy Chen

**Staff:**

Christy Hoff

Ned Therien

**Action Items:**

- Christy will send out the environmental justice for states guide to committee members.
- Andy Chen will do additional research on accountability measures in California and add citations to his research summary. Christy will follow up with Andy and send the updates out to committee members.
- Christy and Millie will take the committee's feedback, prepare a second draft of the recommendations and incorporate into a policy paper.
- Christy will follow up with members who have not responded to the doodle poll and send out the date for the last meeting.

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

- Millie welcomed committee members and facilitated introductions.
- Steven said the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) chemical action plan is being developed and equity provisions were not incorporated into the current draft.
- Millie shared information about her update on the committee's work to the Health Disparities Council.

**2. Briefing on State EJ Policies:**

- Andy Chen summarized his review of EJ policies. Most state policies began with adoption of agency policy or Executive Order.
- Committee members discussed a "rights-based approach" to EJ policy (i.e., including language that environmental health is a basic right). Millie referred members to the article, "Environmental justice for states: A guide for developing environmental justice programs for state environmental agencies." Members requested the document be sent out to all committee members.
- Members requested additional information on the process used in California to develop accountability measures. Andy agreed to do more research and to provide an update to the group. Andy also agreed to insert citations into his research summary.

- Members discussed the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative, including processes for accountability, training, and considering equity in budget decisions. The Initiative has not measured the determinants of equity nor is it tracking them to determine whether progress is being made.
- Members discussed the need for Tribes to be included in EJ policy and the need to address intergenerational equity.
- Committee members agreed that any EJ policy should ensure equity in the distribution of beneficial resources (e.g., parks and green space), not just in ensuring that certain communities are not disproportionately exposed to hazards and other burdens.

#### 3/4. Review Draft Recommendations:

- Millie said she prepared draft policy recommendations for the group's review and comments. She hoped the group could decide on the final number of recommendations and the general focus of those recommendations at this meeting.
- Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks to suggesting a memorandum of understanding, executive order, or legislation.
- Committee members discussed the need to focus recommendations on the populations experiencing environmental health disparities. Policies that improve the health of all Washingtonians do not necessarily reduce disparities.
- Members discussed the need for assessment to ensure services are provided based on needs. Agencies need to assess where disparities persist and focus services accordingly.
- Members commented on how recommendations should be budget-neutral, rely on the reprioritization of resources, and be based on best practices.
- Millie asked members to share what they wanted to see in the recommendations:
  - Linn said each recommendation must be very clear it focuses on health disparities and communities with disproportionate impacts. Her preference is to include recommendations under the umbrella of EJ policy but is open to chemical reform being a separate recommendation. Possibly retitle it as "environmental equity initiative."
  - Richard suggested bundling the provisions in the EJ policy into categories: (1) internal policies/practices (e.g., workforce representation, hiring advancement, retention, committee representation, budget development); (2) access to decision making (e.g., community engagement); and (3) delivery of services.
  - Stella stressed the need for assessment (e.g., data collection) so agencies know how to distribute resources in order to redress disparities. Also the need for government to mandate accountability from businesses. All stakeholders have a degree of responsibility in achieving equity.
  - James recommended the following language, "The governor, in lieu of legislative action, should enact state environmental justice policy." He said the provisions are a part of an environmental justice initiative (not initiatives) and that the final recommendation must be strong (e.g., Agencies/State must address...).
  - Candy agreed the recommendations be shortened and combined. She suggested adding language about government-to-government relationships (i.e., tribes, Canada).

- Steven said he wanted to see specific language about equitably distributing both benefits and deficits (amenities/burdens). He also wanted to see language about rights to clean environments and the precautionary principle.
- Lauren suggested the goal is an “environmentally-just government”. She liked the idea of including a provision for a cross-agency workgroup. She suggested combining the healthy communities piece with community capacity. She also suggested renaming the chemical reform piece to something like precautionary approach.
- Alice said we need to be careful not to be too broad as some agencies will need more guidance to implement provisions effectively, and that the action plan should provide specific examples. She said the community engagement and capacity building pieces are important. She stressed the need to be cautious about language – we need to be clear about which populations we’re talking about but don’t want to put people off by not being inclusive.
- Millie said she wants to see state commitment to environmental justice.
- Members discussed how the EJ policy recommendation should be focused on government (i.e., what agencies should do). Members also suggested including the community capacity piece under EJ policy, focusing on what agencies could do to improve capacity but also on how government can facilitate a response from business (i.e., a collaborative, cross-sectorial approach to EJ).
- Other committee suggested recommendations:
  - An EJ ombudsperson should be appointed by the governor or within an agency to act as the point person for the public to contact about EJ concerns.
  - Puget Sound Partnership as a model for addressing EJ concerns comprehensively, and including community, wildlife, and environmental issues.
  - Suggestion that Council would formally send a letter to each state agency detailing the recommendations to achieve environmental equity.
  - The Action Plan must include accountability and attribution of responsibility.
  - The Action Plan must ensure Agencies are required to demonstrate inequities are reducing/minimizing.

#### 5. Meeting Summary and Wrap-Up:

- Christy and Millie will take the committee’s feedback, prepare a second draft of the recommendations and incorporate into a policy paper.
- Christy will follow up with members who have not responded to the doodle poll and send out the date for the last meeting.