



Community Involvement Committee



Community Involvement Committee

January 28, 2024 6:00-8:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Zoom

Contact community.involvement@multco.us for links

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

Attendance:

Present: Brian Outlaw (Co-Chair), Renai Bell (Co-Chair), Jen Mair, Jenny Shadley, Lung Wah Lazum, Nina Gallo, Ann Singer, KellyAnn Cameron (Staff-OCI), Amara Perez (Staff- OCI),

Excused: Brian R, Pau Thang, Diego Martinez,

Absent: Angel Brophy, Quay'Roenel Matthews

Minutes:

(6:00-6:10) Introductions

Brian O. welcomed everyone and started the meeting. We noted there is 6 members available so less than a quorum, but hopefully more will join and we do not have to vote today!

Renai welcomed everyone and the group reviewed the agenda.

(6:10-6:30) Guest Speakers: OCI and Membership Amara Pérez

Amara invited everyone to participate in a "my people" exercise - share "my people are....." and then everyone unmutes and says WELCOME!

Dinamica

Themes: names hard to pronounce, lesbians, love camping in tents and taking road trips, are step-parents, BIPOC, keep journals and diaries, 2nd generation college educated, love containers/bags/order, stinky cheese!, plant people, books, cheesy TV, early childhood education, play, diversity from around the world, more plants, tending land, nurture others, outdoors, sleeping outside, going on adventures, educators, make world better, be silly, play, SE Asians, community health workers, musicians, immigrants, new to Portland, beautiful smile, Being curious, rants, reading, multi-generation US citizens, solidarity, making do and adapting, people who like to sleep, college students, prison abolitionists, queer, BIPOC in all shades of brown, all different languages, diverse backgrounds, care about the environment, more productive in the AM, outdoorsy, like beer, inquisitive, love plants, curious, appreciate action and inaction/rest, enjoy poetry and art/theater, gardening, food, sharing food, curious, readers.

Reflections: folks felt validated, having fun, learned new things, not sure if whether to describe just me or communities I am part of, calling in others in our community and circles

Personality and background - this exercise really invites it. What we're like, what we enjoy, etc.

Social identity and lived experience:

- Nina: It's parts of our experience and labels that define us and shape our experience, we have many different identities too so there's intersections of that - like being a woman and Mexican is one intersection that is different from an identity other than woman and/or other than Mexican.
- Jenny: it shows there's many points in identity where we can intersect with other people, it creates more community than individuality.
- Renai: everyone is so different and unique, but identities and experiences can find commonalities.
- Amara: When I think of some of my favorite things I bring up with my people and how they're different from identities - identities are often constructs or something we're born into. Unlike being a journaler, these identities have power dynamics at play. When we're thinking about the CIC it's important to think about how our multiple identities are a part of the space in addition to personalities and passions.

Positionality and perspective: image of fish eating smaller fish in a row - any interpretations?

- Jen: I refer to this as standpoint theory - where you're standing shapes how you see the world.
- Amara: totally, where we are standing and our multiple identities impact how we see the world. So as we're recruiting for the CIC it's important to think about these perspectives. In addition to seeking people with passion, interest in volunteering, etc we're also thinking about what identities and experiences we want to bring into this space. This is one activity we can do when we start making outreach plans to get inclusive outreach. What are some dimensions for diversity where we can set and evaluate goals. We want representation from all districts, we want to include underrepresented and most impacted, multi-racial and intergenerational. We're hoping to develop some processes for building this.

Diversity Matrix: guide to early and equitable engagement

- This is part of OCI wanting to help everyone across the County in recruitment, and hope to consult with you all with what you think about these core diversity matrix:
 - Cross section of districts
 - Inclusive of historically excluded and underrepresented
 - Most impacted by county services
 - Multiracial (BIPOC)
 - Intergenerational (youth and seniors)
- Any to add?
 - Jen: speakers of other languages besides English and English language learners
 - Amara: those were in the resolution under the "historically excluded and underrepresented"
 - Jenny: justice involved - though they're also most impacted by County services, alongside folks experiencing addiction etc.
 - Amara: a recruitment matrix would also be adaptable to various programs - it's about what the county at large is committed to, but departments would also have their specific communities they're reaching out to.

Question (Jenny): how to make sure 'representation' isn't tokenizing?

- - Jenny: sometimes case managers or people who support those folks
- - Amara; building relationships is a big part of it!

Is there a way to measure this?

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- Amara: in a dream world we have a graphic or 'wheel' to visually share it. Our hope is we can work out some of these questions together. I've seen an identity wheel that could also be an outreach wheel, I use excel spreadsheets. A big question is HOW DO WE RECRUIT, how do we make a plan, how do we set goals and measure them. There's a lot of discomfort with setting goals and naming them - both how do we make sure they're not tokenistic but reflective of diverse leadership in a committee. We could test out this with the CIC, with committees, and share in the County as a whole.

More reflections:

- Nina: Something that comes up for me in this discussion is changing the ways involvement can look - for example someone experiencing homelessness may not be able to access every committee meeting etc. Or if I have ADHD and I was telling a coworker how I feel like my wheels are spinning, and reminding myself it's not a problem with me it's a problem with the system. Maybe involvement can be less rigid.
- Jen: there's something about being recruited by people with whom you share that social identity with that leads to more successful outcomes - I don't know how you implement that into a strategy with the county but when we do outreach we employ students and pay them as interns to go out and speak to people in their native languages, to people their age, people in their areas because they have a different level of access.
- Brian O. - I love this discussion and feel like we can visualize it. Time check for final thoughts on this one in the next few minutes!

Amara; this is some brainstorming as well as an opportunity to do an inventory of the CIC and where the CIC would like recruitment. The next step is to develop a process to understand where the CIC is now, and use the CIC as a sample.

- Jen: It would be great if Richard or others who left the CIC and have experiences getting references from them of people they think would be a good fit!

(6:30-6:55) Subcommittee Updates

Brian introduced the two subcommittees:

Infrastructure Subcommittee: Jen and Thang

Jen: Thang is unable to be here today but I can get started. We've had a great few meetings, and it's been great to have Amara onboarding now - that has really taken away some of our confusion and lack of direction that sometimes happens. We're really focused on how we can support OCI in doing what Nina you mentioned, how do we support advisory bodies to do recruitment, education, and everything they do; but how does OCI support the County in involving the community in ways that don't involve sitting in multiple meetings a month, even though that can be a great way to learn about the County it's not equitable or inclusive! That's what we're focusing on broadly as infrastructure.

In order to build the recommendations in order to support the goals. Staffing is a huge issue. Another issue is clarity on role. The things we've done so far is look at a few resolutions and documents about the OCI- the OCI part of charter and code, as well as the [resolution on community engagement](#). Dani came to us with their experience as the director from 2018ish - 2022, in this resolution they talked about the early, broad, and diverse engagement. They also called out department plans for engagement - that is a big lift for OCI to provide that level of support and also support all these advisory bodies. We're also leaning on past CIC recommendations, since the CIC has historically recommended things like feedback loops, adequate staff, education and training materials for both community and staff. We also met with exiting commissioner Stegmann who shared her

candid thoughts on them not knowing what we do, what we offer, and don't really trust the county advisory body structure to be productive or meaningful.

Renai: both Jen and I are also on a CBAC and will get more insight from those experiences.

- Amara: Renai is also on the central CBAC which is working on an improvement memo
- Nina: is on the recovery subcommittee and I second that! I mentioned to KA and my subcommittee that I went to an open house for the office of sustainability and talked to Monique about imagining what it looks like and how other people can get involved.
- Jen: yes there is a lot of good outreach happening, but there is no supportive hub for resources and support for those who need it, and a place to share wisdom and experience for those who are doing great. None of that is really happening right now.

Addiction & Recovery Subcommittee: Quay'Roemel and co.

Nina: compared to the other subcommittee we're still trying to figure out what we want our focus to be - or that is how I'm feeling. (Ann agrees). I think there's something there around identifying shared practices - we met with someone from JOHS and it sounded like they had a plan for several months to put in shelter to get input from everyone in the area who would be impacted. But it doesn't seem like there's a centralized handbook in the county for people to refer to with best practices or anything - if the departments talk to each other or are separated.

Jenny: part of the issue is also that JOHS has a lot more resources because of the time we're in. Part of the issue we're seeing is how do we have equitable outreach even when it's not a hot button issue.

Ann: it may only be relevant to the subcommittee meeting - I've been asking around at the detention center and also Transition Projects.

- KA; also reaching out to communications and the DA

Jenny: Also we met with folks in the Behavioral Health Consumer Engagement office about how they engage people experiencing addiction, and how it is hard work and very important. Having someone from that group come and talk about things. They are able to get live feedback on their services from folks who utilize their services.

Jen: Anything the CIC can do to support?

Membership update: KA ([SLIDES](#))

Action item: share [FLIER!](#)

(6:55-7:00)BREAK

(7:00-7:15) Report-Backs from December extra activities

Nina:

Nina attended the sustainability event in December - the event was at Holgate library, near where I live. They had a bunch of poster boards with sustainability goals and initiatives and stickers on the table to place by what was most important to you. They also had sticky notes available so people could share their own input. Nina shared a photo on her phone of the boards with the stickers on it. It was a very low stakes and chill way to get your opinion shared without having to identify who you are or having to speak in front of people. It was my first time at this kind of event. Monique gave me her contact info and we checked in this month - I learned they had about 50 people show up, she thought they'd get more in the summer since it was cold and dark. I asked how

the info was used and she mentioned a plan for March for public comment about their climate justice plan. She said they got the idea from the city of Seattle and their climate justice work. I asked what challenges there were for the County doing this work - limited resources were big, as well as keeping momentum around it. She also asked me if the CIC could help think about what public comment could look like and be made more accessible. We've talked about how it can look really formal and not be totally accessible. I've given testimony before in support of a bill in the House - I felt so lost and it was kinda scary! Maybe if there was a guide for people to see what the spaces are like, have a mock person in front of the board showing what the process looks like. I said I'd bring it to the CIC so we can brainstorm.

- Jen: We've talked about a resource for people to make a formal public comment - many folks come in and want to share something but aren't speaking to something specific, and there's not much to do with them so they just get dismissed. I think a short and sweet resource would be super helpful. There's also so many platforms and ways to get input - I don't know if we want to use too much time right now to brainstorm that but at some point it will be helpful for OCI to have these kinds of resources to share. There's also the Institute for Local Government in California and they create so many great resources folks in the County could use!
- Jenny: I would also say there's one thing to say about getting surveys and feedback, but the feedback doesn't matter if you don't have a strategy for what to do with the information. You have to take in the info in an analytical way in order to get a whole picture.
- Renai: I think this is helpful and there is overlap with the infrastructure subcommittee - there are so many ways to involve people and it sounds like you had a good experience
- KA: I have a scheme to someday have an intern who likes to make videos and get CIC members to star in some how-do videos for testimony and things. (folks nominate Lung Wah to be the star, since he's already famous)
- Jenny: if we had a community kit we could also include a neighbor to neighbor conversation starters and other micro-level community involvement. What does it look like for me to interact with neighbors and advocate in my community?
- Jen: I love that. Giving people action oriented steps to take

KA: [Public meeting law updates](#)

(7:15-7:35) CIC Mission Brainstorm

Renai shared that as a newer CIC member she's been hearing that nobody knows what we do and we need to be better at articulating it - we need an elevator pitch or something to help us explain what we do. Whether that's talking to a neighbor, a commissioner, or recruiting. In one or two sentences, how do we explain who we are in a way that is accessible to the community and county electeds/staff.

Goal: draft 1-2 sentences that are easy to remember and everyone can say (for future meming, potentially, but also to intro us to new commissioners and possible future guests, county employees and the public etc)

1. **We sent out some homework in advance to send in words. [Wordcloud Brainstorm report back](#)** - thank you everyone who completed the survey to do the word cloud! These are the results.
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Renai: it's interesting to see the words together and think about positive and negative, frustrations. Does anyone have thoughts or reflections on the word cloud?

Brian: when we come back together we'll try to take these topics and create a thought about how we can use this to explain who we are to the CIC.

- Renai: it feels like a full circle to the "my people are convo"

FOR NEXT TIME:

2. **2min to intro**: One-Minute or One-Sentence Pitch - using the words in the cloud: ask each member to come up with one sentence that describes our work, and consolidate for common themes, etc. Could limit to a single sentence, or even a specific word count.
 - a. Breakout activity: **8min** together for 3 groups (3-4 people) - have a couple minutes to come up with a sentence. Share together & report back to group
3. **5min**: Recap together/share back - have some draft language!
 - a. Next Brian and Renai will combine these into some ideas, and maybe put them in meme-format!

(7:35-7:50) Public Comment & reflections

Brian noted that there is no public here for comment. Does anyone have reflections?

Jenny: I want to appreciate Amara because I haven't worked with you yet and that activity was a great way to get to know you and what you're bringing to the CIC. It's great to have you as part of this community.

(7:50-8:00) Closing

- Logistics: next meeting March 18th, 6-8
 - Remote or Hybrid: maybe hybrid?
 - Jen: in our subcommittee planning meeting Thang came up with an idea to invite the Chair to hear from her about her vision and hopes for OCI and CIC. Stephan on her staff has been very candid and helpful in speaking to the CBACs and the Chair's priorities. We also learned that OCI reports directly to the Chair - so maybe she has ideas about how to position the OCI to support the Broad and Diverse engagement, and how to position the OCI in the code so it's not so victim to the whims of the current Chair, in case there's a future Chair who doesn't prioritize engagement. Jen will also not be in town for the March meeting.
 - Alternate-month CIC Activities (OCI visioning, guest speakers for optional meetings, in-person activities, etc)
 - This month (February):
 - Recruit for CIC! Target D1 & D4
 - Future: maybe testing out some trainings, meeting with JR to learn about tribal engagement etc.
 - Announcements:
 - Brian O. shared an ACLU immigrant rights and general rights info, just for everyone's information, plus a translated version.
<https://www.aclu-or.org/en/know-your-rights-immigrants-rights>
 - https://www-aclu--or-org.translate.google/en/know-your-rights-immigrants-rights?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=wapp
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Zoom transcript:

Jen Mair 6:02 PM

Can you pop the link to the agenda in chat? I couldn't grab it from the invite 😊

You to Everyone 6:02 PM

Agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bayOrOE7z8v0-2Hi0gRSMBulO2DxrDopFUSqY-dE1p0/edit?tab=t.0>

in case anyone missed it: Agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bayOrOE7z8v0-2Hi0gRSMBulO2DxrDopFUSqY-dE1p0/edit?tab=t.0>

Jen Mair to Everyone 6:34 PM

Welcome Ann!

You to Everyone 6:35 PM

Hey Ann! We're discussing outreach plans!

Jen Mair to Everyone 6:35 PM

Agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bayOrOE7z8v0-2Hi0gRSMBulO2DxrDopFUSqY-dE1p0/edit?tab=t.0>

You to Jen Mair (direct message) 6:39 PM

Thang let me know he can't come today, FYI, feel free to tap the subcommittee memebrrs too!

You to Everyone 6:44 PM

Great to have representation from the baby community here! <3 <3 <3

You to Jen Mair (direct message) 6:47 PM

Dani = they/them!

You to Everyone 6:49 PM

Resolution: <https://multco.us/board-documents/125626>

Amara Pérez to Everyone 6:50 PM

Fabulous Recap!!!

Jenny Shadley to Everyone 6:54 PM

Thanks Jen that is great to hear

Ann Singer to Everyone 6:54 PM

sorry, MY CAMERA ISN'T WORKING

Jenny Shadley to Everyone 7:05 PM

Can they live or work in an area or just live?

Ann Singer to Everyone 7:10 PM

I met someone who'd be interested in being on CIC here in Sellwood. She's helping to discuss outreach to Transition Projects homeless shelter

Jen Mair to Everyone 7:10 PM

Gyms, cafes

Renai Bell to Everyone 7:11 PM

Portland Literacy Council?

Jen Mair to Everyone 7:12 PM

Maybe post to next-door? I don't love that platform but maybe some are on it?

Jenny Shadley to Everyone 7:13 PM

PSU is a great idea, and we don't meet in the summer.

Jen Mair to Everyone 7:14 PM

Maybe we need someone to travel to D4 to post flyers around?

Ann Singer to Everyone 7:14 PM

Excellent idea! I'm happy to post in 1 and 4 hoods

Jen Mair to Everyone 7:17 PM

Community colleges are great places w/diversity of age, etc

You to Everyone 7:19 PM

we all have a lot to say!

You to Everyone 7:42 PM

please, surveil me 😊

You to Everyone 7:48 PM

sorry forgot I was still sharing the screen

Jenny Shadley to Everyone 7:19 PM

This might have been this <https://rockwoodcdc.org/>

Lung Wah 7:43 PM (Edited)

Do you need anything from RCDC?

Jenny Shadley 7:48 PM

I thought it would be a good place to put a flyer or do outreach for members

Lung Wah 7:49 PM (Edited)

I am currently working at RCDC.

Brian O. He/Him to You (direct message) 7:51 PM

Can I share an ACLU link about immigrant rights?

You to Brian O. He/Him (direct message) 7:52 PM

for sure

Brian O. He/Him to Everyone 7:52 PM

<https://www.aclu-or.org/en/know-your-rights-immigrants-rights>

https://www-aclu--or-org.translate.goog/en/know-your-rights-immigrants-rights?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=wapp
