

CIC Orientation 2025

Tuesday, 7/22, 6-7:30pm, Midland Library room 1F

Attendance:

CIC new members: Frank S., MacKenzie J., David H., Anand J., Chase L.

CIC returning members: P. Thang, Lung Wah L., Brian R., Quay'Roene M.

OCI staff: KellyAnn (KA) C., Amara P., Gabriela T.

Materials:

[Agenda](#)

[Slideshow](#)

Notes:

Introductions

KA welcomed everyone, pointed out housekeeping items including bathrooms and snacks, and invited the group to go around and share: name, pronouns, any information about you that you want to group to know about. Everyone was also asked to bring or share about an object that represents them, their background, their passions/values, or what brought them to the CIC. (see attendance)

Agenda

The group reviewed the agenda and agreed to it- no changes.

Cic Ecosystem Activity

Amara introduced the activity: OCI has been talking about ecosystems as a framework for understanding our roles - the ecosystem of agencies that the county works in, and also the engagement ecosystem at Multnomah County.

Government Agencies: whose street is it?

Amara shared slides of the County, with cities within it - we also have the Port of Portland, Metro, other counties in the state of Oregon and neighbors in Washington, native nations are another part of the ecosystem, and finally other states and federal agencies that we interact with as part of Multnomah county. We're thinking of what the differences are, who is in charge of what. Amara assigned everyone to a role: City (MacKenzie and Frank), County State (Chase & David), Federal (Quay and Anand), Metro (Brian R, Thang, and Lung), County (KA & Gabriela)

- Parks: county, city (Parks bureau), metro (Blue lake), Federal (eagle creek)
- Road maintenance: city, county, state
- Recycling: metro
- Taxes: all
- Water & sewer: city!
- Managing elections: county
- Immigration: federal
- Bridges: depends on the bridge

- Marriage Certificates: county!
- Health Clinics: county
- OHP: state & federal
- Affordable housing: all
- Police: cities, state
- Sheriff: county
- Emergency services: all
- Community engagement: everyone!

Not captured: discussions of various people's understandings and knowledge of different government bodies and how they interact with different functions and projects.

Whose lane? Roles in Multnomah County

There are 60 advisory committees in Multnomah County! There may be more unknown - we're trying to figure out a lot of them. Folks discussed how some committees are long term and others exist for a brief time.

- Shared about the County org chart and all the engagement angles

Roles

- County Auditor (David & Chase): this is an elected job who holds the county accountable, they're independent from the Board
- Board of County Commissioners (Frank & McKenzie) - Julia Brim Edwards, Chair Vega Pederson, Vince Jones Dixon, Meghan Moyer
- Office of Community Involvement (Frank & McKenzie)
- Engagement staff (Quay & Anand)
- CIC (Thang, Brian, Lung Wah)
- Voters (Thang, Brian, Lung Wah)

Questions

- Legal compliance? - Auditor!
- Advices on community engagement best practices - CIC & OCI
- Directs county staff - BOCC
- Does the engagement work - engagement staff
- Who can fire the OCI director - BOCC, was the CIC because the CIC was formed before the OCI
- Who can fire the CIC staff - CIC, OCI, BOCC
- Sets county wide policy - BOCC
- Provides technical support to advisory boards - OCI
- Advises OCI and the board on improvements to OCI/engagement - CIC!

Reflections on the Ecosystem activities

- Quay: I knew a lot more than I thought I did - I've been reviewing the Binder for the CIC, because I want to have accurate information since misinformation can cause chaos.
- Anand: it's pretty complex, maybe too complex
- Chase; communication needs must be high to keep that up
- Thang: what is the relationship between engagement staff and OCI - do you work closely together?

- Amara: we are a primary support for the Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) program, in that regard they have to turn to us for guidance, which is in every department. They are the only ones who have to come to us. Other engagement staff can choose to come to us, don't know about us, or get enough support from their own departments.
- Anand: what does an "advisory role" mean as far as the commitment or obligation to follow our advice?
 - Amara: most advisory committees the recommendations are provided then can be accepted, rejected, or adapted. We've been trying to formalize some feedback loops so there is at least feedback on what happened with the recommendations. Even if the answer is 'we're not doing anything' it's important for the community to know. One of the roles of the CIC is to keep pushing for feedback from the OCI, the Board, other county agencies about why they do or do not take on advisory roles. The CIC is out number 1 advisory committee - it is your job to help us do our job better, and it's our role to help the county do engagement jobs better - so the CIC is very important to us.
- Frank: I've been on technical advisory committees which sometimes seem to be taken more seriously.
- Frank: do you feel like the county ecosystem is wholistic or silod?
 - Amara: silo'd - we just worked with the health dept collaborate with us to have a new community of practice with engagement staff. Many of the 45 people who came didn't know each other - there are 6,000 staff, hundreds of buildings and 10 departments.
 - Anand: do you think this is a relic of the olden days with smaller populations?
 - Amara: it's government, by design or not it's how it works - the siloing is part of inequities etc.
 - Anand: is the trend to break down silos or build them up?
 - Amara: I think it depends on the chair - our current chair seems very excited about the communities of practice and de-siloing the communities of practice.
 - KA: another silo thing that will become clear for the CIC - the transition to Better Impact for volunteer management came from a desire to connect volunteers and volunteer programs across the County.
- Anand: for Amara and Gabriela, how are you seeing all this as you come into a new thing
 - Gabriela: i think there is a push for more standardization and connection - as well as using an engagement community of practice to understand what people want and what is most effective for staff.
 - KA: to add- there is a tension between autonomy and
 - Amara: we talk about what needs ot be standardized, synchronized, simplified etc - where can this happen and where can we have a lot of choice for various staff and volunteers to find what fits best for them.

Amara: we just want to acknowledge we are one part among moving parts!

CIC code section

KA shared a slide with the section of Multnomah County Code that outlines the duties of the CIC, connecting it to the discussion of the CIC's role in the ecosystem. The code is pretty vague, so the CIC and OCI also have the ability to do some interpretation and prioritization. One metaphor that has been helpful in distinguishing the CIC from many other advisory roles is that of engagement as doors to the county. Most advisory groups are their own doors- providing engagement on a topic, program, or department. The CIC has the role of investigating, planning, and dreaming up more doors to engagement for the whole county, in addition to being an engagement door for the OCI.

5 minute Break!

Panel of current CIC members

Gabriela: we have 3 members to share a story from their time on the CIC

- Brian: one thing that has stuck out to me the most was last year we created a subcommittee based on looking at the engagement process for the Budget. We had a small subcommittee come up with ideas based on interviewing different people at the county, created a list of recommendations based on the interviews, and presented to the commissioners who reacted very positively and supportively. The chair wrote us a letter with her feedback on the recommendations, and it told me that she heard them though they were moving forward with some of them. There were legitimate reasons behind some of why, which made me feel like we saw a program, identified it, came up with recommendations, and the county responded. I couldn't have asked for more concrete, positive process. I felt positively about it now and like to talk about it now - it wasn't easy and there were many obstacles. Some people gave us grief, and there was some craziness, but that is the process.
- Quay'Roene: I'm passionate about recovery and informing those who aren't informed about how the drug addiction world goes. For me to be able to share my perspective and have people understand in this place is very serious to me, because the struggle is absolutely real. Drug addiction and mental health is a dual diagnosis, the drugs can easily make mental health go to an extreme - I was on drugs for 30 years of my life, and the love and care I received in treatment is what saved me. It is important to give folks who are living on the street support, and it's important to explain the situation and experience to people who do not deal with it every day. I'm in it to inform and get real help to people out there - I like to be on this board so my voice can explain what is happening outside. I get very passionate when I hear how people talk about people outside, I don't want people to feel sorry I want people to understand the situation. Even in the building I live in now there are drug dealers on every floor, with recovery I can be a peer mentor, a caregiver, and I love being on this board to be active in the community following the footsteps of my mother who did this kind of work. It's a blessing to be able to share with someone about the trauma and abuse that brings people into these situations. My experience is that if I can make it 30 years, I'm 58, and I have the power and confidence to keep going. It's a long road - we need Multnomah County to hear the people who need it, keep programs going, and find the right programs that actually serve

people in times we need to make hard decisions. It's also very important to know what you don't know, to see help. I love the CIC, this position has helped me in my recovery as well, as I am giving back.

- Gabriela: it's so great that you are using your lived experience to inform the recommendations
- Thang: The reason I joined the CIC was because I came from Myanmar in 2009 and have lived here since then, and I am passionate about immigrants and refugees being included in community engagement. I know there are better ways the county can engage immigrants and refugees. It's a great group of people of many different backgrounds, people have a lot of different passions but we all agree in strong engagement. If you're passionate about engagement you will enjoy it a lot. I have served as subcommittee chairs, and I also did part of a full committee co-chair though I had to step back due to being busy with school. I love our group and we have so much to talk about we're always almost running out of time! Like Brian said, we have guest speakers, so many questions, and the time can be limited to get everything we want to say! The composition of the group for the past 5 years has been a lot of fun. I've learned a lot about how the county works, and learned from others on the committee about engagement.

Questions:

- Chase: what have been some of the most eye-opening or enlightening presentations you've heard from?
 - Quay: we talked to the sheriff's office, and they told us about how they go around in the community and ask if people are ready for treatment and build some trust in the community, which was impactful for me because I know what it feels like to be afraid of the police. So building that relationship is so important, and I was so glad to hear they are working on that outreach and building relationships with people. Those relationships are what can bring people into recovery.
 - Brian: Two times stand out for me- one is when we met with people about participatory budgeting, where people can participate in deciding how money is spent. We invited an outside organization called Participatory Budgeting Oregon, I met with him at first, and then brought him to the County and got absolutely nowhere. Folks were like we don't have resources, we're not going to do it. The interaction was no-negotiation, and a couple of us who were in the meeting came out of it like, well that was interesting... do we pursue a plan or just bag it for now and move forward with other recommendations. We decided to hone in on what we thought would be more successful, it was interesting politics. The other one was when someone was very transparent, told us the pros and cons of their department, where they thought they could improve or were having obstacles, which was very interesting and helpful - it showed diverse opinions on how to work on budgets in the county. I wasn't that excited about budgeting at first but I'm glad I did it because I learned a lot, and learned about the importance of budgeting.
 - Thang: I like to talk to the direct staff over board members - the Board makes it look rosy but the convos with the staff are often more direct and beneficial. Convos with OCI this year were really interesting and collaborative - talking to

staff to actually do the work is most educational and shows how the county needs to improve. I am grateful for the commissioners to come share with us but it's less direct.

- MacKenzie: I'm curious how difficult it was to get on a subcommittee or project that you are passionate about - I have 4 things I am most passionate about, and am happy to work on other things, but am curious about the process.
 - Quay: I jumped in, I am a recovery addict so anything with drugs or alcohol I'm there. When I first came I was blowing KA's phone up, being like KellyAnn help me- this is way too much information. She makes me feel so comfortable where I am at and with not knowing anything. She is the best you got this chick in the world, and it built my confidence and I am a soldier for this committee. It was overwhelming and scary as hell. I still call KA all the time, but I also do research and refer to my book. I now get to share it
 - Brian: in the fall we will get together and talk about engagement issues we are most passionate about, and after that we vote on topics that we are most interested in, so it is good to bring things to the Retreat.
 - Thang: yeah we talk about issues in the retreat and find topics to discuss, if you're passionate about engagement you'll find something of interest for you there! There are usually 2 subcommittees, all of my 5 years we have done that. It's up to the group.

Next steps

- **CIC Appointments:** Thursday, August 21st, 9:30am
 - You will be appointed in a consent agenda (no discussion)
- **Multnomah County 101:** September 18th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm: virtual
 - All about Multnomah County & being a Public Official
- **CIC Briefing to Board:** September 30, 9:30am
 - New members appointed by Board
 - Presentation on 2024-25 recommendations and work
- **CIC Working Retreat:** September (likely)
 - Teambuilding, Presentation on emergent issues and priorities, Subcommittee decisions and sign-ups
- **Optional: CIC Policy review session**
 - online or 1:1 with KA - any time

Review of grievance process:

KA shared how folks can raise issues within the CIC, in OCI, within the County and to the good governance hotline or ethics commission.

Homework!

Keep an eye on your emails for the intake and stipend forms!

Send in a short bio ([template](#), [website](#))

Contact KA for a 1:1 or any questions!