



Summary of Focus Group Findings & Recommendations

As directed by the Board of County Commissions in Resolution 2018-074, the Office of Community Involvement (OCI) implemented a community input process to gather feedback on the County's community involvement process and the role and scope of work of the Community Involvement Committee. As part of this process, OCI conducted five focus groups with 84 community members in attendance. Two consultants from EqualityWorks NW assisted in question development, facilitated the focus groups, analyzed the findings, and developed recommendations for Multnomah County.

Major themes that emerged across multiple focus groups included:

- Lack of access to meetings due to distance required to travel to meeting locations
- Difficulty attending meetings if no childcare is provided
- Need for more outreach and increased visibility by Multnomah County
- Lack of inclusion from diverse populations, issue of tokenization, and a process that is just one of rubberstamping
- Need for better representation of historically underrepresented communities
- Need for better follow through with recommendations made by communities
- Recommended feedback loop to improve communication between the County and the community
- Lack of trust between communities and the government

The consultants made the following recommendations:

1. When organizing this committee, there be a full commitment to having diverse representation from communities from all over the county, and specifically include voices from targeted communities.
2. Host meetings at different venues so that travel and time are not significant barriers; evaluate different ways for people to participate in meetings.
3. Create a Feedback Loop where commissioners periodically ask for feedback and do a check in with the committee and community members.
4. Track what happens to the recommendations made by the committee; this does not mean that all recommendations have to be acted upon, but are they being heard?
5. Is it possible for a representative from the commissioner's office to periodically attend a meeting?