



Community Involvement Committee



# Community Involvement Committee

January 19, 2021 6:00-8:00 pm

Google Meet

## MEETING MINUTES

**In Attendance:** Richard Barker, Angel Brophy, Claire Carder, Desiree' Duboise, Malcolm Hoover, Rhiannon Martin, Ilima Nitta, Marvin Peña, Sachini Weerawardena, Emily Purry, Mike Savara, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie, Sahar Yarjani Muranovic

**Staff:** Dani Bernstein, Olivia Kilgore

**Guests:** Marc Jolin *Joint Office of Homeless Services*, Lisa Freeman

**Excused:** Michelle Kosta

Agenda Item	Action Item
<p><b>Relationship Building &amp; Review Agenda</b>  Marvin opened the meeting, and asked members and staff to introduce themselves, share pronouns, and what they learned from 2020. Marvin reviewed the agenda.</p> <p>Claire shared that she had a conversation with Olivia earlier, and wanted to know if the committee would be interested at the end of the meeting in talking about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and making sure information is available to the most vulnerable communities.</p>	
<p><b>Learning Topic: Multnomah County's Response to Houselessness during the COVID19 Pandemic</b>  Marc is the director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services for Multnomah County and the City of Portland.</p> <p>Marc shared it's been an extremely challenging year for people outside, as so many public health directives are about staying home and isolated, and many people experiencing homelessness don't have that option. They are either sleeping outside and don't have sanitation protections or protections from the elements, and there are a lot of people living in shelter settings, often congregate settings where people are living in close proximity. And we have lots of people doubled up.</p> <p>All of that is overlapping with the reality that we have generally an older population, and people with disproportionate number of underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for serious complications from COVID-19.</p>	

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Recognizing all of those risk factors, the County responded with a range of strategies. From the beginning, the County recognized the importance of getting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to people as quickly as possible, including those who are unsheltered. That included getting people information about COVID-19 and how they could mitigate risks, and helping people with symptoms get care. So the first strategy was that coordinated outreach with contracted service providers and with new groups that have emerged, like faith groups and volunteer neighborhood groups.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, JOHS has been hosting regular calls with contractors and other service providers. JOHS set up a supply center, stockpiling PPE, as well as other supplies like blankets, hand sanitizer, lunches, gallons of water, etc. Thousands of items are being handed out every month.

In addition to getting supplies out, the outreach teams are checking on people, helping them get new supplies, and referring people who are symptomatic into voluntary isolation motels.

The motels were the second prong of the strategy. Whether people were in encampments or congregate shelter settings, people needed to be supported to exit and go somewhere to isolate - this was also before access to testing. The County is leasing several motels for this purpose. Those motels were run by the County, though historically the County has not run homeless shelters. The non-profit partners that typically run shelters were stretched. The motel shelters were run by new and reassigned County employees.

The third strategy was recognizing that congregate shelters posed challenges in separating and isolating people. Family shelters offer private rooms to families. Same with domestic violence shelters - though there are sometimes shared restrooms, and public health was consulted on practices. If the County didn't want to lose half its shelter capacity for adults, the County had to create new spaces. The County created four new congregate shelters - using community centers and the Convention Center. That allowed the County to spread out the beds so there was the necessary physical distancing.

Even though there weren't any outbreaks in congregate shelters, the data became clear that for some sub populations, for people 65 and older and with underlying health conditions, there were predictors of serious adverse health effects with COVID-19, and often impacting BIPOC communities.

As the County moved out of community centers, the County opened six new motel shelters and assessed based on being 65 over, underlying health conditions, and being in communities of color. People with highest risk were placed in those rooms. Motels all have exterior facing rooms, no hallways. All have outdoor spaces that are

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covered. Everybody is getting three meals a day, getting laundry done, cleaning rooms. No one is forced to be there, but given the risk to people going into the community, the County wanted to make sure they were getting as many services as possible to avoid the need to leave frequently. There haven't been outbreaks in those motels.

For a long time, there were very low positive case rates among people experiencing homelessness. As the numbers have increased in general in the last few months, they are starting to increase among the homeless community and the staff supporting the programs. That's always been a concern, a shelter would need to close due to staff cases. That happened to a privately run winter shelter.

Public health staff have helped design and redesign the shelter system, and help with plans when there are positive cases. There is now immediate testing on site at the motels.

The County has added another 300 beds of congregate shelter at the Greyhound Station. The City also has three outdoor villages. Sleeping pods with heat and electricity have been installed. They recently did blanket testing and didn't find any positive cases.

It's been really challenging for providers and County staff. Shelter workers were vaccinated this week. The next priority is vaccinating people living outside and in shelters.

Sahar asked the reasoning behind the Hazelnut Grove closing. Marc said it was never a sanctioned program - it was quasi allowed by Mayor Hales. The City made a commitment to the Overlook Neighborhood Association to work to move that community, and the current mayoral administration extended that commitment. A staff person at a service provider has worked with the people there to relocate them. The closure is not related to COVID.

Claire asked about the numbers of people that remain on the streets, unsheltered.

Marc said we never have exact numbers, but it's safe to assume we have more than 2,000 people who are still unsheltered. There is a lot of speculation about whether that number has grown. Marc doesn't think it has grown, but that it is a lot more visible. There was guidance from the CDC to not close encampments, so people have been gathering in more highly visible places. Outreach workers have also seen migration - when a lot of smaller services shut down, people moved to where they understood services were still available, like Old Town and Central Eastside. People are also migrating together for mutual aid. The County has handed out thousands of tents.

Claire asked if there has been discussion of an increase in homelessness due to

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loss of jobs and potential loss of housing. Marc said absolutely, and that should be an enormous concern for everyone. So many people were already living on the edge. The moratorium on evictions has helped, but there is a huge amount of accumulated rent debt - far in excess of what the County can provide in rent assistance. People will double up, and then likely move to vehicles. We have to get in front of that, with more rent assistance from the federal government and states. There is a lot of work happening in negotiating with landlords. People are attending to the risk, but it feels daunting.

Claire said she's concerned about getting the word out about immunization, and asked how JOHS can help get the word out and how the CIC can help. Marc said they're having a lot of those conversations right now internally and with public health. They're creating flyers for outreach teams, and talking with culturally specific providers about concerns in their communities about accessing the vaccine. There's so much distrust in government, so they're trying to work through community based organizations that have those relationships and that trust to help bridge the gap, especially with how devastating COVID has been in communities of color. So the County has recognized there need to be target strategies for equitable distribution for the vaccine. So the CIC can help the County have that sense of urgency in getting the vaccine out to historically marginalized communities and ensuring it is equitably distributed. JOHS is looking at what resources their outreach teams need. They're hearing loud and clear that it will be important to bring the vaccine to spaces people already are, rather than asking them to go somewhere. The vaccine supply is so limited that everything is still in the planning stage.

Desiree' asked, pertaining to the current motel rooms, if there's a hope and a plan to continue that over this year and maybe after that keeping the model intact going forward. Marc said they have identified enough budget to keep the motels going through this fiscal year, and probably the calendar year. The County purchased one motel, and is the process of buying another in partnership with Metro. The County does see the motel shelter as part of the strategy. The use may be converted once we're out of COVID. It is much more expensive to run a motel than a congregate shelter, so if we're going to continue to run motel shelters, we'll need to understand who is the priority population for spending that additional money. Money spent on shelters is then not spent on housing. We want to move people from shelters to permanent housing. With families, it made sense to establish motel shelters, as long stays in congregate shelters were traumatic for children.

Fortunately, we do have the Metro measure to support housing services. We're looking at up to \$100 million a year over the next 10 years that we can put towards these needs. JOHS budget is currently \$70 million a year. There's also substantial funds for Washington and Clackamas County, which haven't had financial resources around housing stabilization and homelessness. So it transforms the region. There is also conversation about converting the motels to studio housing to be more permanent.

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Marvin said he was glad someone asked about how the County is working with community based organizations.

**Group Agreements, Retreat Reflections & Approve Minutes**

Marvin reviewed the group agreements updated at the retreat, and members discussed the meanings and definitions of the agreements.

- Use both/and thinking
- Recognize the limits (and gifts) of our lived experience: my lens is but one way of seeing and being in the world, that does not make it right, and it makes it critical to our collective knowing
- Take healthy risks: Move up, Be wrong, Practice vulnerability
- Practice reciprocity: Moving from “me” to “we” and prioritizing “us” over “I”
- Be accountable: For your actions, For your unearned privilege, for repair of harm you have caused
- Honor confidentiality - what is said here stays, what is learned leaves

Olivia thanked everyone for participating in the retreat, given it was different in happening over three months in separate meetings.

Olivia sent out three sets of minutes for approval using the fist to five model, and provided a refresher on using fist to five.

Claire said the minutes hardly have any content, and the notes have a lot more content. The minutes don't reflect what happened in the meeting. Olivia said that the first meeting was largely team building, so a lot was intentionally not captured.

Claire would like to have more discussion about the sessions, and felt the notes should be attached to the minutes.

Emily liked the idea of notes being available to committee members, but not necessarily up on the website.

Olivia clarified that the minutes being approved are for the website - it does not mean discarding the notes. They offered that edits can be sent to them and minutes could be approved at the next meeting.

The subcommittee approved September's meeting minutes by consensus.

Desiree' said they typed up notes for Daesha and wondered if those notes were captured somewhere. Olivia can resend what Daesha had shared previously.

Claire had the same concern about the October minutes. If the notes can be placed somewhere accessible to the committee, that would be great. Olivia will resend everything.

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The subcommittee approved October's meeting minutes by consensus.

The subcommittee approved November's meeting minutes by consensus.

Olivia asked members for their thoughts on how the retreat was scheduled. Emily said she would have liked to explore doing two half day sessions on weekends, or three shorter sessions closer together. But she liked it as much as you can like a Zoom retreat. Shorter periods in between would have been helpful. Ilima agreed.

Rhiannon agreed with Emily on shorter periods in between, but liked the virtual sessions.

Olivia asked - for people participating in subcommittees- how they felt the retreat set up their work for the year?

Emily missed a session, but she felt like the shift from exploring topics to picking them was abrupt. She felt the topic areas were things we were passionate about, it just felt like it went from brainstorming to results quickly between sessions.

Desiree' agreed with Emily - she felt like it jumped, but it was because of the virtual space, and we came out with great topics. She felt the group could have used more homework, getting to come up with topics on their own and bringing them to the meeting instead of trying to cram it into the time the group was together. They also thought we could have used more team building in the beginning with the new people. Overall they were happy with it.

Malcolm said he was happy with the team building and feels they have the rest of the term to meld as a group. More background on what prior iterations of the committee have worked on would have been helpful.

Olivia asked what elements of meeting virtually would people like to see preserved when we're safely able to conduct meetings in person?

Sahar said school boards have been discussing always having a virtual option - it's a lot more accessible now. Having that option is important for folks - not having the need or expectation that people show up in person.

Emily said it would be helpful to do more small breakout rooms while we're meeting virtually, so everyone can deepen connections with each other.

Claire loves having an option to participate virtually. She also likes that she can write things in the chat and it can be part of the record. It provides an additional record that has valuable points that can be referred to in the minutes. In past minutes, we've had those chat comments included and she'd love to see that continue.

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Amanda said another board she serves on - now that they're not meeting in person and having food together - provides gift cards to every member so it doesn't feel like people are just fending for themselves in virtual spaces.

**Approve Resolution on Community Engagement**

Olivia reviewed the work of last year's Community Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee. The subcommittee looked at a Resolution on Community Engagement that was signed in 1995. They identified a need for an updated document that includes equity driven language and highlights the current values of the County. Last year was spent crafting and developing a Resolution on community engagement.

The subcommittee reviewed documents from other jurisdictions. The CIC provided input during their January 2020 meeting, and the subcommittee reviewed the CIC input and worked closely with staff to craft a resolution draft. The preliminary draft was approved by the subcommittee at their June 2020 meeting, and by the full CIC at the July 2020 meeting. OCI staff met with the Board of County Commissioners between July and September 2020 to get further input on the draft resolution. The resolution was very well received and the Board really appreciated the time and attention the committee has given to this document.

The main point of feedback from the Board was to get more specific with the resolves section and to move a couple points up to the finds section of the document, as they represented important values to spotlight rather than items that are specifying action.

For this year's subcommittee, the first couple meetings were spent finalizing language in the resolution, based on initial feedback from the Board. Anna Allen in the Chair's Office attended the first two subcommittee meetings to talk more about a couple of recommended changes and provide more information about resolutions as a policy tool.

The changes made to the resolution from the preliminary draft included minor changes in the finds section, moving some content from the resolves section to the finds section, and naming the Office of Community Involvement and the Community Involvement Committee in the first resolves point.

After the CIC approves the resolution, the draft to various County offices and departments and feedback, especially those that might be impacted. The Board may request a briefing on the resolution from OCI staff, and once final input is gathered, staff will get on the Board's agenda for adoption of the resolution. After the Board adopts the resolution, OCI staff will continue to work with the Chair's Office on implementation.



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<p>Olivia asked if any subcommittee members from last year or this year had anything to add.</p> <p>Claire said it would be great to hear from last year’s subcommittee members who haven’t continued on the subcommittee this year.</p> <p>Marvin said he was concerned about anything that changed the spirit of the document, but in talking with Olivia it sounds like the changes are more for clarification. Olivia shared that nothing was deleted from the document - some things were moved around or clarified.</p> <p>Sachi said she liked the draft and thanked everyone who worked on the document.</p> <p>Olivia said after the CIC approves the draft, OCI will continue to get feedback from impacted County departments and offices, and the outreach and engagement subcommittee will be transitioning their work to developing standards and best practices in community engagement.</p> <p>Dani said that while there is a lot of process involved in adopting a resolution, they wanted to emphasize that the resolution will create new work for the County and position the office to do new work around evaluating the County’s community engagement - so they are really grateful for the committee’s work on this.</p> <p>The subcommittee approved the resolution draft by consensus.</p>	
<p><b>Update on Charter Review Committee</b></p> <p>Dani shared that the county is currently accepting applications for the Charter Review Committee. Every six years, a committee meets to study the County Charter and if needed, recommend changes for voters to approve at the primary or general election.</p> <p>The Charter is like our local constitution, and covers key structural topics for the County like boundaries of county districts, terms, salaries and responsibilities of elected officials, handling vacancies on the Board, and establishing the library district.</p> <p>The Office of Community Involvement is currently accepting applications, which are due March 1st. Applications are sent to state legislators, who select the members of the committee.</p> <p>The office is conducting outreach through community partners, email and social media communications, and presentations to community groups. Dani asked that CIC members share this opportunity through their networks, and also let Dani know if they can recommend any community contacts for outreach, or virtual community</p>	

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<p>spaces where the offices could deliver a presentation. Dani will email the CIC with more information.</p> <p>Rhiannon asked what the office is looking for in applicants. Dani said the county is hoping to elevate applications of people with lived experience with communities most impacted by county services, and typically underrepresented and excluded in local government decision-making.</p> <p>Sahar asked if this was the same committee that a few community members she knows are serving on. Dani said that's the City of Portland's commission, which is also currently in its charter review process. Its commission is a little bit ahead in its work - they've already selected their members and their first meeting is this month.</p> <p>Marvin asked if the application is available in other languages? Dani said the application and information is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese.</p>	
<p><b>CIC Co-Chair Elections</b>  Olivia asked Marvin and Emily to share their reflections on serving as co-chairs.</p> <p>Marvin liked the opportunity to be in a position that allowed him to interact with the Chair and other elected officials. He wants to raise his voice for people who don't have that chance. That was a rewarding part of it, to have that chance not many people have.</p> <p>Emily appreciated the opportunity to serve as co-chair and wished it was in person for longer. It was impactful to get the opportunity to sit down with the Chair and Commissioners and hear that they respected the committee's work.</p> <p>Olivia shared that Rhianon nominated Emily and Marvin to serve as co-chairs again, and Emily nominated Desiree'.</p> <p>Olivia asked each nominee to share why they are interested in the role.</p> <p>Members voted for Desiree' and Marvin to serve as co-chairs for the next year.</p>	
<p><b>Closing</b>  Olivia said at the next meeting in March, subcommittee's will have an opportunity to present draft recommendations. The outreach and engagement subcommittee needs one more member.</p> <p>Claire said there has been disparate information on immunization. Her understanding is that Multnomah County Health is going to be responsible for immunization roll out for some of our most vulnerable communities, such as BIPOC, older populations and people who are low-income. She asked if the rollout and</p>	

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dissemination of information should be on the CIC's agenda - she feels it's the most important issue right now.

Olivia said that as staff continue to see information rolled out - we haven't seen a lot so far - they can get that information to the CIC if members are interested. The board is also receiving regular briefings that can be shared. Members expressed interest in receiving that information.

Olivia said staff can identify someone in the Health Department who could come to March's meeting and update the committee on vaccination rollout plans. Members expressed interest in that topic for March.

Emily said the vaccine rollout is going to be very sporadic and random, so getting too involved isn't going to be effective, but getting as much information as possible and getting that information out to communities is helpful.

Claire agreed with Emily's point, and said she just wants to help however she can.

Marvin wants to know the plan to address the most vulnerable communities. Not just the rollout, but also distribution and how communities are being served.

## Google Chat Record:

Mike Savara6:38 PM

<https://www.palletshelter.com/portland> more on those pallet shelters!

Sahar Muranovic6:38 PM

What is the reasoning behind Hazelnut Grove closing

Sahar Muranovic6:43 PM

Loads of evictions coming up

Mike Savara6:53 PM

Thank you!

Such Wee6:55 PM

Read through is fine?

Olivia Kilgore6:56 PM

Agreements are on the 2nd page of the agenda

Rhiannon Martin6:57 PM

thanks Olivia, I didn't scroll down far enough

Mike Savara6:58 PM

Thank you for explaining that one!

Sahar Muranovic6:58 PM

Recognize the limits (and gifts) of our lived experience: my lens is but one way of seeing and being in the world, that does not

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make it right, and it makes it critical to our collective knowing

Malcolm Hoover6:59 PM

brb

Sahar Muranovic7:00 PM

Take healthy risks: Move up, Be wrong, Practice vulnerability

I'm writing them out as I am a very visual person!

Olivia Kilgore7:00 PM

Thank you Sahar!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:01 PM

Also Thank you Sahar, I am a visual person as well.

Sahar Muranovic7:02 PM

Practice reciprocity: Moving from "me" to "we" and prioritizing "us" over "I"

Mike Savara7:02 PM

There is no I in TEAM! :)

claire carder7:02 PM

Team has no I

Desiree' Jane7:03 PM

Yes thank you Sahar, super helpful!

Sahar Muranovic7:03 PM

Be accountable: For your actions, For your unearned privilege, for repair of harm you have caused

claire carder7:05 PM

Yep - I'm an old lady - my unearned privledge is that I think I can just speak up.

Sahar Muranovic7:05 PM

Honor confidentiality - what is said here stays, what is learned leaves

Such Wee7:07 PM

need to step away for a moment -- i have no objections.

Desiree' Jane7:07 PM

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Malcolm Hoover7:07 PM

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Mike Savara7:07 PM

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:07 PM

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Ilima Nitta7:08 PM

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Angel Brophy7:09 PM

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Malcolm Hoover7:10 PM

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I'd love expanded minutes

Or extra notes from the breakouts

Ilima Nitta7:11 PM

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:11 PM

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Angel Brophy7:12 PM

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Ilima Nitta7:12 PM

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Desiree' Jane7:12 PM

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Mike Savara7:13 PM

Hey all- I am so sorry but I need to take off early - I had oral surgery on Friday and I'm realizing that I am not firing on all cylinders yet - sorry to miss the rest of the meeting!

claire carder7:13 PM

Same issue for me

Mike Savara7:13 PM

I'm a 5 for the rest of the minutes!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:13 PM

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Ilima Nitta7:14 PM

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:14 PM

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Angel Brophy7:15 PM

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Ilima Nitta7:15 PM

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:15 PM

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Desiree' Jane7:15 PM

5 november

Ilima Nitta7:16 PM

agree

Rhiannon Martin7:22 PM

Having the option

Such Wee7:23 PM

To be fair, I was able to join virtually before covid as well?

Rhiannon Martin7:23 PM

And still see everyone, not just on the phone calling in

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Such Wee7:24 PM

That' s a good idea

Sahar Muranovic7:25 PM

For sure, Sachi (did I spell that right or is it 2 cs)? I mean mainly that virtual is not seen as a last option and there's expectation or certain ideas regarding being physically present

Such Wee7:26 PM

Agreed :)

Sachi is perfect

Sahar Muranovic7:26 PM

:)

Such Wee7:26 PM

I do miss the food so much

Sahar Muranovic7:27 PM

Oh my gosh, y'all remember Olivia's amazing snacks??

Rhiannon Martin7:27 PM

We are doing that for our board as well :)

Such Wee7:27 PM

Yes!!

Such Wee7:37 PM

There was a tiny typo :)

nvm ignore that

Such Wee7:38 PM

I like the draft :)

My compliments to everyone who has worked on this so far -- can't wait to see the final version!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:41 PM

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Ilima Nitta7:42 PM

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Sahar Muranovic7:42 PM

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Angel Brophy7:42 PM

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Such Wee7:43 PM

I did share with a bunch of folks interested in working on county boards, so if anyone says my name, they got the link from me! :D :D :D

Ilima Nitta7:44 PM

can you send us more info?

Sahar Muranovic7:46 PM

Is this the Committee that Candace Avalos and Salomé Chimuku are a part of?

Ohhh gotcha gotcha

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Thank you!

Such Wee7:47 PM

Thank you to our current co-chairs!

Desiree' Jane7:47 PM

Yes thank you!

Sahar Muranovic7:50 PM

Woooooo

Angel Brophy7:55 PM

Having difficulty finding the poll

Olivia Kilgore7:56 PM

(971) 346-0959

Angel Brophy7:56 PM

Thank you!

Desiree' Jane7:57 PM

Texted. Thank you for that option!

Sahar Muranovic7:59 PM

Wooooooo congrats!!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:59 PM

Congratulations!!! :)


Angel Brophy7:59 PM

Yay!

Such Wee7:59 PM

Thanks, EMILY!! Nicely done and thanks for all your continued hard work for equity spaces!

Desiree' Jane8:00 PM

Thank you all. 

Such Wee8:00 PM

Congrats Desiree' and Marvin!

Marvin Peña8:00 PM

Thank you all for the trust. I really appreciate you.

Ilima Nitta8:02 PM

211info just opened a vaccine line for this info

Malcolm Hoover8:03 PM

Claire, I agree that this is CRITICAL!!

Sahar Muranovic8:04 PM

Yes

Such Wee8:04 PM

Olivia, the person I connected you with last week is involved in covid outreach to the BIPOC community :)

Ilima Nitta8:05 PM

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yes

Such Wee8:05 PM

Just keeping in mind not everyone wants to get the vaccination either..

I appreciate the CIC being informed of any opportunities we can support the efforts

claire carder8:07 PM

That is true Such Wee - but we need to get the info out regardless.

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