



Community Involvement Committee



# Community Involvement Committee

October 19, 2021 6:00-9:00 pm

Google Meet

## MEETING MINUTES

**In Attendance:** Richard Barker, Angel Brophy, Sasha Burchuk, Desiree' Duboise, Kristina Edmunson, Malcolm Hoover, Michelle Kosta, Patrick Nolen, Kimberléa Ruffu, Jenny Shadley, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie, Kien Truong

**Excused:** Pau Thang & Ilima Nitta

**Staff:** Dani Bernstein, Olivia Kilgore

**Guests:** Kim Melton (Chair's Office)

Agenda Item	Action Item
<p><b>Welcome, Review Agenda &amp; Introductions</b>            Olivia welcomed members and provided a brief tutorial on using google meet. Olivia, Dani and Desiree' introduced themselves and their role with the CIC.</p> <p>Olivia asked members to introduce themselves with their pronouns, access needs, and their involvement in the community other than serving on the CIC.</p> <p>Olivia reviewed the agenda and the goals for the retreat session.</p>	
<p><b>Group Agreements</b>            Olivia reviewed a few reasons to have team agreements and the CIC's team agreements from last year.</p> <p>Members split into small groups to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What feels important to ensuring a respectful and collaborative committee environment?</li> <li>• What agreements would make the CIC work well for you?</li> </ul> <p>Members captured their ideas in a jamboard: <a href="#">CIC Virtual Retreat Day 1 Jamboard</a></p> <p>Olivia read out the group agreements that members generated in their small groups and asked for clarification on a few agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity - Malcolm said he meant thinking about what you want to say before you say it.</li> </ul>	

- Able to admit self-shortcomings - Patrick said he was trying to say that we should recognize that we all make mistakes and should be accountable.
- Dani asked about calling in - Jenny said it refers to calling in instead of calling out.

Olivia asked about other team agreements that would be helpful. Michelle said her group talked about accountability because it can be challenging as volunteers to avoid having things get in the way of their commitment, so they discussed how committee members can help each other stay accountable to their time commitments on the committee.

Olivia will compile the agreements and share them at tomorrow’s retreat session for approval.

Olivia asked for any additional thoughts on team agreements.

Jenny feels it’s important to normalize self-care, like breaks and turning off camera, and recognizing that everyone wants to be here.

Desiree’ added that impact over intent shouldn't get overlooked - recognizing privilege and thinking about what you’re saying before you are saying it.

**Issues and Priorities at Multnomah County**

Olivia introduced Kimberly Melton, Chief of Staff for Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, to provide an update on the Board of Commissioners’ priorities this year and other significant issues for the County.

Kim shared a few areas of focus:

- In the last 6-9 months, there has been a focused effort around community violence and gun violence, working across departments to invest new general fund dollars and federal stimulus dollars towards the effort. We’re looking at the County’s role in these issues.
- Another big issue is the County’s work around ending homelessness and addressing housing instability. We have \$50 million to invest from the housing bond measure this year, with more dollars in the future towards supportive housing. The pandemic has also exacerbated poverty and there is a need to expand the on-the-street response.
- Another piece that integrates into gun violence and homelessness is behavioral health. The state has invested additional dollars in behavioral health, but that money has not emerged locally yet. The County is putting more money towards services and peer support, and lobbying the state to move faster.
- The County is also implementing the library bond and the Preschool for All Measure. Those are two other big efforts the County is moving forward on.
- In 2019, the County adopted its first Workforce Equity Strategic Plan, about

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how the County advances equity internally in hiring, contracting, retention, etc. The original plan set goals for 2019-2022, so new goals need to be set for the future.

- The County continues to respond to the pandemic as the local public health authority. Right now, the public health team is thinking about what it looks like to continue to respond and meet community needs. We have more federal dollars to spend in the upcoming budget cycle.

Malcolm asked about how dollars are going out for peer services, and the County's key equity goals that were set and the concrete progress that's been made.

Kim said the peer model is being used for behavioral health. Peers have been utilized to go into community and address issues of violence - that's happening through nonprofits, and through the County's Office of Consumer Engagement with staff who have lived experience. Around homelessness, peers work with outreach teams or go into shelters to help connect people to services. Those peers are invested in through nonprofit providers.

Kim said there has been one annual report since the Workforce Equity plan was passed, and a few presentations have been given to the Board, so those can be provided to the committee.

Kim shared that in work that has been done so far, the County created an independent unit for employees to make complaints related to protected status, outside of HR. That unit has been taking cases for a little over a year, and is developing recommendations based on their investigations. The County has also changed some HR policies.

Kim also shared that the County has also created a clearer equity expectation in the budget process. We are in year two of that work.

Michelle asked Kim if she had thoughts on what kind of input would be most helpful from the CIC on those major initiatives.

Kim said that the first thing that comes to mind is around what COVID-19 recovery looks like for the community. The federal government has said they are going to invest dollars in local jurisdictions, which can be used to address the impacts of COVID-19. The County has received \$80 million, and will receive another \$80 million this spring. It would be helpful to lift up issues that may be overlooked in how the community is weathering, and not, the pandemic. That input will be helpful particularly in the next few months.

### **Team Building Activity**

Olivia shared that one of their goals as staff is to support the committee in grounding their work in the lived and learned experiences that members bring to the

table. Olivia split members into pairs to discuss:

- What communities do you work with or are you a part of, and why is a sense of community important to you?
- How have you been in community with others over the last two years?
- What is one priority that could come out of this retreat that you'd jump at the opportunity to sit on a subcommittee for?

Olivia asked members to share how centering their experiences in community can influence their work on the CIC.

Jenny said it helps with seeing the subtle nuances. In centering your own experience, you can get to the heart of the matter a little faster. Sasha said the feedback loop - being able to talk to people in the community and discuss issues on the table.

Olivia also asked members to share a priority area that they are excited about.

Richard said how the County is addressing in bullying and intimidating of non-cisgender people, especially youth. Jenny is interested in how we support victims of non-violent crime. Sasha added looking at work around alternatives to police as first responders. Patrick is interested in anything having to do with houselessness, policing and mental health. Kien is interested in looking at disparities in the County, especially how East County can be overlooked and how resources are distributed.

Michelle said that she's very excited about Preschool for All and wants to learn more. And youth and families are very isolated due to the pandemic. She also appreciated what Kim said about COVID relief and how to address what the community needs quickest.

### **CIC Priority Setting & Learning Opportunities**

Olivia reviewed the duties of the CIC as outlined in Multnomah County Code.

Olivia reviewed the committee's strategy screen, a tool to help assess a potential priority area and how it fits within the CIC's scope of work. The committee will use the tool tomorrow in assessing potential topics.

Olivia explained that the CIC's priority areas are the basis of subcommittee work. Based on the last couple of years, it seems like two subcommittees works the best for member and staff capacity. Each subcommittee should also have at least four members - we have found in the past that it is challenging with fewer members.

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Olivia also reminded members that everyone should serve on a subcommittee once during their three year term, but doesn't need to serve on a subcommittee every year depending on their capacity. Subcommittees meet monthly and are a great opportunity to dive deeper into the work.

Olivia shared that they and Dani discussed some potential areas of focus for the committee to consider and add to. Staff wanted to give committee members something to respond to, and wanted to suggest topics that center the lived and learned experience of the group and that sit firmly in the group's scope of work. The topics are also ones that fit well within the Office's scope of work and resources.

Olivia reiterated that a priority area would be an area of focus for a subcommittee, and the CIC would develop recommendations around. A learning opportunity might not fit within the CIC's area of influence, but could be in an area of concern where the committee wants to meet with staff, learn more and provide input during a committee meeting.

Olivia reviewed the list of potential priority areas and learning opportunities that staff generated.

Jenny asked about measuring community engagement. Olivia explained that it's about how the County can evaluate the effectiveness of its community engagement strategies and develop metrics to track efforts and for budgetary purposes.

Olivia asked if there were any topics from the pair share discussions that members would want to add to the list.

Richard asked if the bylaws subcommittee has to meet this year. Olivia shared that there have been some issues with the bylaws raised recently, and Olivia thinks we could do some of the bylaws work in the main committee meetings rather than dedicating a subcommittee to that work. Members liked that idea.

Kien is really curious about how the County is going to engage the community in adding those federal dollars.

Desiree' is interested in the topic of extreme weather response, especially given the intersections with climate and homelessness, and how the community is and will be engaged given the likelihood it will be an ongoing issue. Sasha was also curious to know about the neighborhoods that are disproportionately affected and how resources are channeled.

Patrick is interested in access to food and addressing food deserts.

Olivia asked members to mark next to their top two potential priority areas and top

two learning opportunities in the Jamboard.	
<p><b>Reflections &amp; Closing</b></p> <p>Olivia will compile the list of group agreements to review, make adjustments to approve by consensus, and reorganize the list of potential priority areas and learning topics.</p> <p>Olivia reminded members about editing their bios and sending in photos.</p> <p>Olivia asked members to share one thing they are excited about in the CIC work.</p> <p>Olivia also asked members to share anything that worked well or could be better for tomorrow's meeting.</p>	

### Google Chat Record:

Olivia Kilgore6:14 PM

Name, pronouns, access needs, what's your involvement in the community other than serving on the CIC?

You6:14 PM

Keep those hands up! You'll take them down once you've introduced yourself

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie6:18 PM

#Fangirl!

Kimberlea Ruffu6:27 PM

Yes, go Kien! Congratulations!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie6:27 PM

AWWW Congratulations, Kien!

Kien Truong6:28 PM

Thank you ❤️. And my access needs are being met as well.

Patrick Nolen6:30 PM

Olivia Kilgore6:14 PM

Name, pronouns, access needs, what's your involvement in the community other than serving on the CIC?

Olivia Kilgore6:36 PM

I shared a Jam file with the meeting:

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pyE5CE46k5zmHHMPc5kLi0m00FythFnDZopBPZOp0ec/edit?usp=meet\\_whiteboard](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pyE5CE46k5zmHHMPc5kLi0m00FythFnDZopBPZOp0ec/edit?usp=meet_whiteboard)

Michelle Kosta6:42 PM

Why was 6 afraid of 7?

Anyone/

Angel Brophy6:43 PM

hahah ^^

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie6:43 PM

^^ lol

malcolm hoover6:43 PM

Coz 7!8 9

You6:43 PM

Such a good one, Michelle. I also like - what did the 0 say to the 8?

Michelle Kosta6:43 PM

exactly!!!

Sasha Burchuk6:43 PM

OMG

Olivia Kilgore6:44 PM

What feels important to ensuring a respectful and collaborative committee environment?

What agreements would make the CIC work well for you?

Olivia Kilgore6:45 PM

Hi Richard, did you receive an invite to join a room?

Richard Barker6:52 PM

I lost my speakers I will leave the call and rejoin to see if that resets it

Kimberlea Ruffu6:52 PM

Richard we're taking a break until 6:57 fyi :)

Olivia Kilgore6:53 PM

Stretch break until 6:57!

Richard Barker6:58 PM

I think i got the speakers working.

Michelle Kosta7:07 PM

THUMBS UP!

Malcolm Hoover7:34 PM

good question!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:38 PM

Thank you!

Olivia Kilgore7:41 PM

What communities do you work with or are you a part of, and why is a sense of community important to you?

How have you been in community with others over the last two years?

What is one priority that could come out of this retreat that you'd jump at the opportunity to sit on a subcommittee for?

Kimberlea Ruffu7:53 PM

@Angel, bummed we didn't get thru all of our questions, but thank you for sharing! :)

Patrick Nolen7:54 PM

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What communities do you work with or are you a part of, and why is a sense of community important to you?

How have you been in community with others over the last two years?

What is one priority that could come out of this retreat that you'd jump at the opportunity to sit on a subcommittee for?

Desiree' Jane7:58 PM

Houslessness, COVID-19 relief/response, Mental health, equity-centered

Desiree' Jane8:00 PM

Also Climate, and policing

Desiree' Jane8:01 PM

I second East County focus!!

Sasha Burchuk8:01 PM

Second that Desiree' - I'd also love to work on expanding the aid and response during extreme weather, and in areas that experience urban heat island effects.

Kimberlea Ruffu8:01 PM

^ Clean air/climate change/intersections of public health, racism and classism, houselessness, Indigenous sovereignty

Olivia Kilgore8:06 PM

We'll start back up at 8:12!

Patrick Nolen8:11 PM

Back

Olivia Kilgore8:24 PM

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pyE5CE46k5zmHHMPc5kLi0mQQFythFnDZopBPZO0p0ec/edit?usp=meet\\_whiteboard](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pyE5CE46k5zmHHMPc5kLi0mQQFythFnDZopBPZO0p0ec/edit?usp=meet_whiteboard)

Desiree' Jane8:30 PM

Random learning topic I'd be interested in: Juvenile Detention

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie8:33 PM

Love the idea!

Richard Barker8:33 PM

good idea

Malcolm Hoover8:33 PM

great idea

Jenny Shadley8:34 PM

I am curious where COVID budget comes in, maybe a learning opportunity

Malcolm Hoover8:34 PM

I'd like to see what the County is doing around gang intervention specifically

Patrick Nolen8:34 PM

yes

Kimberlea Ruffu8:35 PM

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@Desiree' you might already be familiar with this program but Hands of Wonder ( a part of the dept. of community justice Olivia mentioned) works to foster a more restorative justice based approach with young people who have interacted with the juvenile criminal legal system out at the Donald E. Long detention center. I think they'll be doing that program next year spring thru fall?

Sasha Burchuk8:38 PM

I would LOVE that as a learning topic

Jenny Shadley8:39 PM

Learning topic on how the county is addressing climate change too with weather events

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie8:49 PM

+1 to Kristina and Malcolm's points.

Sasha Burchuk8:49 PM

It's always an honor to work alongside other people who are advocating for justice and equality and I'm so happy to be here with you all

Kimberlea Ruffu8:50 PM

Looking forward to building community with y'all and generally learning more about how Multnomah County works and serves our communities

Jenny Shadley8:51 PM

Excited to do the work!! Looking forward to getting to know you all!

Kien Truong8:51 PM

I'm also very excited to get to know everyone and work with everyone.

Angel Brophy8:51 PM

Super excited for everything!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie8:51 PM

Thank you all!

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