



Community Involvement Committee



Community Involvement Committee

January 18 2022 6:00-8:00 pm

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

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

Staff: Dani Bernstein

Guests: Robyn Johnson (DCHS), Kim Melton & Nicole Buchanan (Chair's Office)

Excused: Ilima Nitta

Agenda Item	Action Item
<p>Introductions, Group Agreements, Approving Minutes & Review Agenda Dani provided a brief orientation to Google Meet.</p> <p>Amanda opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement, then asked three members to share a group agreement that resonates with them today.</p> <p>Amanda asked members and staff to introduce themselves with their name, pronouns, and one thing that made them happy or proud today.</p> <p>Amanda reviewed the fist to five model and asked members to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously by consensus.</p> <p>Amanda reviewed the agenda for the remainder of the meeting.</p>	
<p>Learning Topic: Food Access & Equity <i>Robyn Johnson, Department of County Human Services (DCHS)</i> Robyn introduced herself - they are a planner in Aging, Disability and Veterans Services (ADVSD). Their first position at the County was dedicated to coordinating food efforts across the County, though the position was eventually eliminated.</p> <p>The County now operates without a food policy coordinator. There isn't a central place where food work is done at the County - it's done in each department. Every department has a line of business that intersects with food work. In the Department</p>	

of County Human Services, they do a broad variety of food access work. Her division has its unique way of doing food equity work. The County doesn't have a unified policy around the way we implement the equity lens in regard to food access.

Robyn said food access and equity is a big topic. She would boil down food access to an income issue, and there are other factors as well. She asked the committee if there were specific questions so she can be sure to include relevant information.

Malcolm was interested in interactions with farmers and food producers.

Robyn said the County interacts with farmers and food producers through a couple avenues. The County does own farmland in East County, and leases it to BIPOC farmers for a nominal fee to make that land available to new farming enterprises.

The County also supports farm systems, doing financial support for community supported agriculture boxes, particularly led by the Health Department. Through COVID recovery funds and the REACH grant, the department is supporting the purchase of CSA boxes and providing those to community members through community partners and the health clinics. There's another gardening program, the Hands of Wonder Garden, at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Kien mentioned a survey of community colleges where 1 in 2 students reported food insecurity. He was wondering if there were any partnerships between the County and community colleges to address that.

Robyn said the conversation is happening at the state level, between the state and colleges and universities. There is a report that identifies hunger among college students as a predominant struggle. There was a bill passed in the last legislative session to provide funds for specific college campus based outreach for the SNAP program. So there will be benefit navigators available regionally. Another recent policy change is to make college students eligible for SNAP - there were previously some narrow rules about who could qualify. A lot of campuses are now doing SNAP outreach, as well as hosting food pantries.

Jenny asked how the County is identifying the need, and how we're reaching people who are undocumented when a lot of food programs are federal, or people who are homeless and more off the grid. How is the County reaching those people?

Robyn said the County does have SNAP outreach in the Department of County Human Services. There are two full time outreach workers who do outreach and application assistance for the SNAP program. In ADVSD, there are also outreach programs at senior meal sites and outreach for older adults and people with disabilities.

For people who are undocumented, school meals are available because schools don't have to collect citizenship information for school lunch program. So students who are undocumented or who have parents who are undocumented can access school meals. SNAP is done by a network of community organizations and those organizations have SNAP outreach workers on their staff. Portland has one of the best models for the unhoused population. Transition Projects was one of the first organizations to have a dedicated SNAP worker in their organization. Most of the organizations the County contracts with do SNAP outreach.

A year ago, the Biden administration provided additional guidance around using SNAP and the arcane policies with regards to immigration. SNAP is no longer considered as a public charge issue in immigration cases. It's also difficult to turn around a racist policy on a dime, so it will take a while to build community trust and for people to use that program.

Thang asked about the success and challenges of the way the County approaches food equity.

Robyn said that food security is not among the central charges of the County. As local government, we do a lot of work in the food sphere. Our charges around food security are related to older adults and administering the WIC program, which is a supplemental program. So it's really only for older adults where the County holds the central charge of food security. The County is also the provider of last resort in a lot of cases when it comes to basic needs. During COVID, so much of our resources and efforts shifted to doing food work because that's what people needed. The County provided a million dollars in direct cash assistance to households and is doing work through culturally specific providers.

Sasha asked about the means test and low barrier food access, and about the nutritional content of food that reaches people.

Robyn said the CSA does include fruits and vegetables. As part of our COVID response, we are buying groceries and approaching that in a person directed way and trust that people know what they need. Most of the free food markets supported by the County are shopping style, so people can choose the foods. The foods aren't always consistent with immigrant and refugee communities, which ties back to the County's way of applying an equity lens.

Regarding means testing, there has been long-standing advocacy in Oregon. There was a recent change in SNAP eligibility to expand it. Robyn finished with a slide demonstrating the complex factors that impact food access.

**Community Input Opportunities Around American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
COVID-19 Recovery Funds**

Kimberly Melton & Nicole Buchanan, Multnomah County Chair's Office

Kien introduced Kim Melton, Chief of Staff for Chair Kafoury. Kim was also joined by Nicole Buchanan in the Chair's Office.

Kim said the County hasn't made final decisions about whether to host community forums or conduct surveys about ARPA priorities. The severe weather and omicron has delayed our ability to finalize those decisions. Kim did appreciate the feedback from the CIC last time about how we lift up transformational change and recovery for immigrant and refugee communities. The other additional piece Kim has heard from the County Commissioners was around economic recovery, doing more partnership with small and BIPOC business, culturally specific chambers of commerce. So more room not just for individual supports, but also providing an economic boost. Typically we stay away from that because the City of Portland has Prosper Portland, but we also acknowledge the role we can play, especially in East Multnomah County. That's the only significant addition to the priorities shared last time.

Kim said we may go forward with virtual forums in February and an online opportunity to give input, but the Board hasn't finalized those decisions. There's also a fear that people are exhausted with attending forums, and that maybe we should move on the information we've gathered from the community already.

As the County prepares recommendations for ARPA spending, we also need to prepare our larger budget. The Chair likes to hear input about how different programs are working and community needs, and the Chair's Office also has an engagement strategy around that.

Nicole shared the Chair's plans for community engagement around the budget. There are currently nine planned sessions. The focus this year is on hearing from people that utilize the County's services, as well as providers for those services that we contract with. We often hear in real time from our providers, and given the intensity of the pandemic, we also want to hear directly from the people receiving our services. So the Chair's Office developed a list of listening session: Behavioral Health - People with Lived Experience, Students & Youth - Social & Emotional Support, Houseless Community Members, Immigrant & Refugee Community Members, DSVCO (Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordinator Office) Survivors Session, Criminal Legal System including GV (Gun Violence) involved, Superintendents Meeting - Public Health, Coalition for Communities of Color.

Kien asked for clarity about the forums Kim talked about and these listening sessions. Kim clarified that the Board typically doesn't do community engagement as a Board this early in the budget process. Usually there are just public budget hearings in May after the Chair has released her executive budget. Because of the

ARPA dollars, there was a conversation about whether we gather input earlier than we usually do. The sessions Nicole covered are smaller groups, maybe 10 people, where community members can share their stories with the Chair's Office - those sessions usually happen each year.

Patrick asked if someone doesn't identify in any of the communities Nicole listed - like someone he knows who moves in and out of housing but doesn't identify as houseless or as someone with a behavioral health issue - how would they be heard in this process? Kim said the listening sessions are tied closely to what we're seeing in community right now. The Chair's Office can always take feedback, and staff are available to engage. We have broader community input a little further out in the public hearing process.

Thang asked how people or agencies are selected to represent the group they are hoping to get input from.

Kim said we often start with organizations contracting with Multnomah County who serve a particular population. So that's one pathway, to partner with an organization providing those services. And not all communities are engaged in services provision, so there's also advocacy or other types of representation. For example, there are organizations that do advocacy with and on behalf of community members that we would partner with. Before the pandemic, we would partner with smaller organizations to do a homestyle dinner. And when we have community leaders who have engaged with the County, those leaders have made connections as well.

Malcolm asked about how the County does community education, for example on what ARPA is and its impacts. Is it department by department? Is it the website? What's the best way we get information out?

Kim said we've learned a lot during the pandemic about what's needed when we really need to push information out to people. Nicole said that one important model during COVID was a community health worker model - having people out in community who already have connections with that community, and empowering them to build their existing networks in their day job. That was helpful for getting basic information out in multiple languages and that was accessible. And getting information out through trusted networks and leaders, understanding that the government isn't always seen as a trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines. We need to co-create information with communities so they will trust who they are receiving it from. Kim added that we learned a lot in real time.

Responding to questions in the chat, Kim said we do offer translation for the focus groups. And we haven't done stipends in the past, but it's important and something we're talking about.

Kien also added he saw a few focus groups missing from the list - LGBTQ, people

<p>with disabilities, and indigenous and pacific islander communities.</p> <p>Kim said we started with a long list and we needed to focus it, so that's why those community populations aren't on the list. We have had some outreach from LGBTQ organization partners and the Chair will be meeting with some of them one on one. We will figure out how we can expand and don't lose voices in our process, even as we deal with capacity and efficiency.</p> <p>Kim said that if there are virtual forums, they would happen by early March.</p>	
<p>Updates to CIC Bylaws & Membership Subcommittee</p> <p>Dani reviewed the staff's proposed changes to the CIC bylaws, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More flexibility for co-chair facilitation ● Change quorum requirement to majority + 1 and no less than 5 members ● Update language around remote participation to reflect virtual meetings ● Clarify requirements for reviewing bylaws every two years & forming ad-hoc subcommittee <p>Committee members agreed to have staff work on draft amendments for the CIC's consideration and approval at the March meeting.</p> <p>Dani said there will be at least two vacancies on the CIC soon, and Olivia will be following up with other current members whose first terms are expiring to gauge their interest in continuing to serve. Dani reviewed the timeline for new member recruitment so new members can be appointed by a July retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End of January: Post application ● End of February: Application deadline ● March: Subcommittee scores applications & meets to select interviewees ● April: Conduct interviews & subcommittee meets to select recommended applicants ● May: CIC approves new members to recommend for appointment <p>Angel, Richard, Malcolm, Patrick, Thang, Kristina and Kimberléa expressed interest in the membership subcommittee.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <p>Sasha shared updates from the Extreme Weather Subcommittee. The Extreme Weather Subcommittee defined areas of interest and how they would approach the work. Last meeting, they had a presentation from Alice and Dave in Emergency Management. They gave an overview of the Emergency Operations Center and how Emergency Management has changed during COVID.</p> <p>Richard shared that the Immigrant & Refugee Subcommittee met and discussed areas to focus on and groups in the County to talk with. The group missed their December meeting, but will have more of an update after next week's meeting.</p>	

<p>Dani shared the dates for the next meetings: January 26th from 12-1:30pm for the Immigrant & Refugee Engagement Subcommittee and February 3rd from 6-7:30pm for the Extreme Weather Subcommittee.</p>	
<p>Closing Kien asked for any feedback on the meeting and CIC accomplishments.</p> <p>Thang said we might need more time for presenters. It seems like presenters are prepared to present more, but half an hour isn't enough time. We could learn more fully and participate more. He also thought the meeting went great and loved the questions.</p> <p>Kimberléa wanted to share information about a project she worked on at PSU. She was a research assistant for a project that documented 10 stories of PSU students and their experiences with housing instability. The stories were translated into short graphic novels, and they have been compiled and will be available through Street Roots. There will also be an exhibition style event with large scale versions available: https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/StudentStories</p> <p>Kristina asked if Kien was appointed to a board or commission. Kien was nominated to serve on the Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs. Members offered their congrats!</p> <p>Dani wanted to recognize how the committee's input during their conversation with Kim last meeting has impacted the new ARPA funding priorities around transformative change and recovery for immigrant & refugee communities.</p> <p>Kien appreciated Amanda for starting a tradition of doing a land acknowledgement.</p> <p>The next CIC meeting is Tuesday, March 15th. Kien adjourned the meeting.</p>	

Google Chat Record:

You 6:06 PM

Group agreements: Acknowledge intent, address impact

Listen to understand

What is said here stays, what is learned here leaves

Think intentionally about what you want to say before sharing

Speak from your own experience and prioritize using "I" statements

Consider earned/unearned privileges that inform lived experiences

Be willing to make mistakes and be accountable for missteps

Move up, move back - elevate your participation, elevate your reflection

Take breaks and prioritize what you need to f

Oops, last two got cut off: Take breaks and prioritize what you need to fully participate during meetings

Celebrate accomplishments

Pau Thang6:07 PM

For me, I think listen to understand will be my focus today. Wants to learn a lot more for sure

Jenny Shadley6:08 PM

move up move back will be my focus!

Kien Truong6:10 PM

What was the poem about?

Kimberlea Ruffu6:13 PM

Yes go breaks and board games!! :)

You6:15 PM

Hi Robyn, we're just wrapping up intros, minutes and such!

Robyn Johnson6:16 PM

No sweat!

Michelle Kosta6:17 PM

Great prompt!

Pau Thang6:17 PM

@Kien the poem was about how evil the world is but ends in a hopeful note (:D)

Desiree' Jane6:18 PM

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Kien Truong6:18 PM

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Sasha Burchuk6:18 PM

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Jenny Shadley6:18 PM

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Patrick Nolen6:18 PM

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie6:18 PM

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Pau Thang6:18 PM

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Michelle Kosta6:18 PM

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Angel Brophy6:18 PM

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Kimberlea Ruffu6:18 PM

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Richard Barker6:18 PM

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Malcolm Hoover6:18 PM

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Malcolm Hoover6:26 PM

where is this farm? Headwaters?

Kimberlea Ruffu6:29 PM

Portland State reported similar findings of hunger and food insecurity amongst students

Kimberlea Ruffu6:31 PM

The bill referenced is HB 2835 :)

You6:45 PM

Quick time check - 5 minutes!

Robyn Johnson6:46 PM

Thanks, Dani!

Malcolm Hoover6:47 PM

A bunch of farmers in our network sold their produce to REACH

all of them follow organic farming principles, so the produce was very high quality

Pau Thang6:54 PM

can we have the power point? You spark my interest!

Kimberlea Ruffu6:54 PM

Thank you!

Jenny Shadley6:54 PM

Thank you

Sasha Burchuk6:54 PM

Thank you!

Michelle Kosta6:55 PM



Malcolm Hoover7:02 PM

@Thang I also want to know more about your poem

You7:03 PM

Welcome back, everyone! We're just waiting for Kim to hop on

Malcolm Hoover7:04 PM

poetry is powerful

Kien Truong7:19 PM

Does the county provide stipends for participants?

Kien Truong7:20 PM

for these focus group

Kien Truong7:26 PM

For immigrants and refugees focus group, I hope that you will consider providing translation, and reach out to different identity-based non-profit as well, in addition to resettlement agencies

You7:30 PM

Time check - about five more minutes on this agenda item

Kien Truong7:35 PM

Would love to learn more about how CIC can help

Kimberlea Ruffu7:36 PM

Thank you Kimberly and Nicole!

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie7:36 PM

Thank you!

Sasha Burchuk7:36 PM

Thank you!

Patrick Nolen7:41 PM

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Desiree' Jane7:41 PM



Richard Barker7:44 PM

count me in

Malcolm Hoover7:44 PM

me too

Kristina Edmunson7:45 PM

I would love to join!

Kimberlea Ruffu7:45 PM

I may have time too

Desiree' Jane7:47 PM

Dave lentzer

You7:47 PM

Thanks, Desiree'!

Sasha Burchuk7:48 PM

Thanks Desiree!

Kien Truong7:50 PM

What went well at this meeting?

What could be improved for future meetings?

Any CIC appreciations or accomplishments?

Michelle Kosta 7:51 PM

Appreciate the speakers - helped me understand the current situation and challenges around food justice etc.

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie 7:54 PM

sooo rad!!! Thank you Kimberlea!

Kimberlea Ruffu 7:54 PM

<https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/StudentStories>

Patrick Nolen 7:54 PM

thank you

Sasha Burchuk 7:54 PM

Thank you!

Pau Thang 7:55 PM

this is very cool!!!

Patrick Nolen 7:55 PM

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Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie 7:55 PM

ahh! congratulations, Kien!

Kimberlea Ruffu 7:55 PM

Kien always crushing it!

Michelle Kosta 7:55 PM

Yay!!!!

Sasha Burchuk 7:55 PM

Congrats Kien!

Pau Thang 7:55 PM

congrats

Michelle Kosta 7:57 PM

Awesome. Glad to hear it. Go team.

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie 7:57 PM

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Kimberlea Ruffu 7:57 PM

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Sasha Burchuk 7:57 PM

Thank you Amanda! And Kien.

Kimberlea Ruffu 7:57 PM

Take care everyone!

Michelle Kosta 7:57 PM

See you all later. bhaoooy spring!
