



Community Involvement Committee

March 16, 2021 6:00-8:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Richard Barker, Angel Brophy, Desiree’ Duboise, Malcolm Hoover, Michelle Kosta, Rhiannon Martin, Marvin Peña, Sachini Weerawardena, Emily Purry, Mike Savara, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie

Excused: Sahar Yarjani Muranovic

Absent: Ilima Nitta

Staff: Dani Bernstein, Olivia Kilgore

Guests: Chair Deborah Kafoury, Nicole Buchanan, Anna Marie Allen

Agenda Item	Action Item
<p>Introductions, Group Agreements, Approve Minutes & Review Agenda Marvin opened the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves with their names, pronouns, and a response to the icebreaker: what will you do when the pandemic is under control that you haven’t done?</p> <p>Members approved the minutes from the January meeting by consensus.</p> <p>Marvin reviewed the group agreements. Desiree’ reviewed the meeting agenda.</p>	
<p>Learning Topic: Vaccinations in Multnomah County Chair Kafoury joined the meeting to provide the committee with an update on the County’s vaccination efforts. She remarked on how tremendously difficult the last year has been, and thanked the CIC members for their dedication to the committee.</p> <p>The County is still working to meet emerging needs and is learning every day. The focus is now on vaccinations. The rollout has been multilayered, complex and sometimes confusing.</p> <p>The State of Oregon receives its vaccines from the federal government and the Oregon Health Authority allocates those vaccines throughout the state. Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah are in a partnership as the tri-county area. Most vaccines are sent to hospitals and health systems. Multnomah County gets a small portion of those doses. The state decides vaccine eligibility and order.</p>	

Counties are the local public health authorities. 5% of total doses given to the region come to the Health Department. Those limited doses are being used to reach the hardest to reach or those who are at highest risk of illness and death - people who would slip through cracks of the big systems.

The County also plays an assurance role - verifying that the way vaccines are being rolled out follows state guidance. The County also plays an advocacy role, advocating to increase access to those most at risk of disease and death. The county also provides funding, wraparound services for families and healthcare for those under and uninsured.

The County is being intentional in reaching out to community members likely to be missed by large vaccine sites and health providers, including older adults, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, homebound seniors, undocumented folks, BIPOC and communities who don't speak English as a first language.

The county is taking a variety of approaches to reach these groups. Clinics focus on providing healthcare to clinic clients. 67% of individuals who have received vaccines through Multnomah County clinics are BIPOC, 51% non English speakers.

The Public Health Division has coordinated with the Aging & Disability Services Division to stand up mobile vaccine efforts to vaccinate homebound seniors and people with disabilities.

The County is partnering with culturally specific organizations to host small, invitation only vaccine sites. They held listening sessions to hear how communities want to be informed about vaccination information and opportunities. They've heard that communities want trusted members of their community to be the ones telling them where to go, how to get vaccinated, and why it's important. The County also has paperwork in people's native languages, and people who can answer questions in a patients' native language.

We know small clinics won't reach the number of people needed, so the County is hoping to stand up four larger clinics that will focus on BIPOC. The big sites, like the Convention Center, can be confusing and hard to access if people don't live close or have transportation.

This week, the County is hosting six vaccination clinics that will serve BIPOC communities, LGBTQ and elder communities.

It's been hard for people to find answers about the vaccine and get assistance, especially for communities who have been hit hardest and have higher barriers to engagement.

Chair Kafoury's office started meeting with community partners right away to create

strategies. The County has been flexible in contracting to get funds to community based organizations. We recognize that the work is not over and lines of communication need to be wide open.

We have seen some upticks in positive case numbers recently. We are still very much in this pandemic, and COVID variants are out there as well. However there are lots of reasons to feel optimistic and hopeful.

Chair Kafoury asked for any questions or comments from committee members.

Marvin said he was happy to hear about efforts with most affected communities. He asked about the main challenges to reach people who have less access to information. Is it resources, people? What's the need?

Chair Kafoury said all of the above. People who are hardest to reach aren't as connected, potentially they might not have strong ties to any immediate community. We are getting new funding from the federal government and talking about using those dollars to go broader and deeper. Many have received a little bit of financial support from the stimulus funds, but they're not stable. We're talking about using those dollars to expand how the County can connect with people who are hard to reach, such as bringing vaccines directly to people's homes and apartment complexes.

Sachi asked if the County has felt a difference with the federal government leadership change? She said it felt like the County was already doing work to reach hard to reach communities, even before the change in the federal government administration.

Chair Kafoury said definitely. It's a big difference to have a president who is saying everyone needs to be vaccinated, and understands there are barriers for communities. The new administration is open to working with communities to help inform people about why it's important to get vaccinated. In the last round of CARES funding, Multnomah County got a small slice of funding while the City of Portland received more money, even though the County is the public health authority. The national organization for counties lobbied for more funding for counties, because they lead the public health work. Now the County has received more funds.

Amanda wanted to know where people could find the most up to date information about vaccination opportunities, such as the smaller community focused vaccine events the Chair mentioned. She knows a lot of people who aren't as connected with the County and don't know where to look for vaccination information or opportunities.

Chair Kafoury said that the smaller clinics are invitation-only because they are focused on specific communities and priority populations like seniors and people

with underlying health conditions. When the County opens up the new vaccine clinics, there will be much broader access and they'll spread the word around. If people don't have health insurance, people can also get vaccinated through the County health clinics. Soon County clinics will be able to vaccinate everyone who is a member of the clinic, regardless of current eligibility.

Emily said she's been hearing questions recently about how long vaccines are good for. She asked where the County is getting information and what the reliable sources are.

Chair Kafoury said no one knows 100% because the vaccine is still so new. However long it lasts, it's important to still do it. We will know more as things progress. People can look at Multnomah County's website or look at the Oregon Health Authority's information. There's also a phone number for Multnomah County to reach staff that can answer COVID-19 questions and direct people to resources.

Mike asked about the eviction moratorium and rental assistance.

Chair Kafoury said that Multnomah County moved quickly and was the first jurisdiction to institute an eviction moratorium. Still, people are accruing large sums of back rent. With CARES funding last year, the County pushed out \$24 million in rent assistance. About 70% went to BIPOC. There will be a lot of rent assistance coming our way - from the federal and state government. It's also not going to be enough. Chair Kafoury has been working with Senator Kayse Jama on legislation that would put in a grace period after the moratorium ends on June 30th to ensure people have a longer time to pay it back. That buys more time to find more avenues to fund rent assistance for people.

Nicole added that County clinics are currently able to be flexible with who they are vaccinating. They will continue prioritizing outreach to highest risk groups - elderly, people with underlying conditions, people with disabilities and BIPOC. And then they will broaden their outreach.

Chair Kafoury added that Multnomah County made early decisions to follow the state and also push where they thought the state could be more progressive - one of those areas was around prioritizing the vaccination of adults in custody. We talk about community groups not trusting the government, and that extended to adults in custody. They did a lot of outreach in jails and it's worked out - people were initially hesitant, but utilizing the peer system has been helpful.

Amanda asked if there will be more vaccination opportunities for incarcerated people going forward.

Chair Kafoury said yes, because the population changes over time. They're also in conversation about how the two shot system will work for people who leave the system and are hard to reach. Health experts said having one shot was a lot better

<p>than having no shots. The County is also looking at vaccinating people on the streets. At the beginning, they moved early to disperse people living in congregate settings in shelters, and put people in motels - especially those who were most vulnerable. We haven't had a big outbreak among people living in shelters or people living in the streets - that hasn't been the case in other cities.</p> <p>Desiree' asked about the plan for vaccinating houseless folks.</p> <p>Chair Kafoury said the County is still working on that plan. Shelter employees have been vaccinated. Multnomah County will be getting a lot more vaccines soon. With the small percentage received at first, the County prioritized vaccinating healthcare workers and adults in care homes. The County will get more vaccines near the end of the month, beginning of the next, and then will be vaccinating a broader population, including those sleeping outside.</p> <p>Chair Kafoury reiterated that she's so thankful that people are spending their time on the committee and making Multnomah County a better place.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <p>Olivia said the committee started the year with two subcommittees - the Outreach & Engagement subcommittee and the BIPOC engagement subcommittee. After Claire and Juanita resigned, the former subcommittee was left with just two people, so Angel decided to join the BIPOC subcommittee and Rhiannon stepped away from subcommittee work. The work on the resolution is continuing and OCI staff will continue to provide updates.</p> <p>Angel gave an update on the BIPOC engagement subcommittee. The current members are Desiree', Amanda, Richard, Sachi and herself. The subcommittee decided to focus on how BIPOC community members are engaged on County advisory groups through outreach, onboarding, application process, meeting practices, etc. The subcommittee has met with staff from the Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council and Future Generations Collaborative.</p> <p>The subcommittee developed a list of questions for staff who support advisory groups, and those questions were sent to staff in a survey. The subcommittee started to review the survey responses last meeting, and will work on finalizing recommendations.</p> <p>Desiree' asked how many responses came back from staff. Olivia said it was a good number ~17. Olivia said the subcommittee will aim to have more formalized recommendations for the CIC at the May meeting.</p>	
<p>Small Group Activity: Inclusion in Community Spaces</p> <p>Olivia has heard from members that they'd like to have more of an opportunity to get to know each other and spend time in small groups. Olivia split members into breakout groups to discuss questions about inclusive spaces. The goal of the</p>	

activity is to provide the BIPOC engagement subcommittee with feedback and input they can weave into their recommendations.

Members were split into three breakout groups to discuss the three prompts: 1) Describe a time you felt truly welcomed into a community space. What about it felt welcoming and inclusive? 2) Describe a time you experienced or observed a community space not feeling as inclusive or welcoming as you hoped. What about it did not feel as welcoming or inclusive to you or others? 3) Imagine you are applying to a new committee of your dreams. For your dream committee, what does the application and onboarding process look and feel like? What do meetings look and feel like?

Back in the large group, Olivia asked members to share their thoughts from the first question.

Marvin feels welcome where he currently works because the shared language and culture makes him feel like he belongs. It's similar to when he went salsa dancing before COVID- the music, people and environment made it feel familiar.

Desiree' shared that someone greeting and welcoming you to the space, makes a big difference, even in a virtual space.

Olivia asked members to share thoughts on the second question.

Emily shared an example of a diversity conference where ASL interpreters were only scheduled for certain portions of the day. Interpreters weren't present at the introduction or breakfast or during certain sessions.

Amanda said going into meetings that are deeply rooted in white supremacy. Examples of this have looked like- being the only person of color in the room, no time for introductions or anything outside of the agenda, strong sense of urgency and no flexibility around time. Sachi said that was one of the main things her group talked about as well.

Olivia asked for thoughts on the final question.

Michelle said her group first talked about onboarding processes. They would love to see a flexible onboarding process that sees members as people and gets to the core of who someone is and celebrates cultural bearings, rather than onboarding done in an inflexible and formal format.

Emily said not having such American norms of interaction such as how to dress, speak or act- which doesn't allow for much flexibility.

Sachi said the first thing she picked up on when she came to the US was that when people asked how are you, people weren't really asking.

<p>Olivia thanked the members for participating in the small group activity. The jamboard is saved and will be shared out afterwards. The subcommittee will use the information provided in developing their recommendations. Members expressed interest in doing more small group work in the future.</p>	
<p>Closing Olivia shared an update on the community involvement resolution. In April, Olivia will be presenting the resolution to departmental leadership, and will then follow up with departments individually if they have any questions or concerns. The plan is for the Board to adopt the resolution on May 20th or 27th. Olivia will send out the information once the date is finalized.</p> <p>Olivia also said a few members have asked when there will be a membership subcommittee to recruit new members for the current vacancies. They said that we'll wait until the end of the year and recruit new members on our typical timeline. The application is typically posted in January.</p> <p>Dani provided an update on stipends, following up after the topic was raised at the last CIC meeting. In OCI's proposed budget for next year, staff included funds to provide members a \$30 stipend per meeting and subcommittee meeting to help offset the costs of participation like childcare, transportation and technology. If the Board approves the budget, stipends will be available for CIC members starting in July.</p> <p>Michelle asked how staff decided on \$30 per meeting. Dani said that staff checked with other advisory groups that already offer stipends, and the amount is consistent with stipends offered to committee members in other departments.</p> <p>Rhiannon asked, if the weather is nice, can we hold May's meeting outside and in person? Olivia said it's likely May's meeting will be virtual but will explore more around in person options.</p> <p>Desiree' closed the meeting. The next CIC meeting is Tuesday, May 18th 6-8pm.</p>	

Google Chat Record:

Olivia Kilgore 5:59 PM

be right back!

Olivia Kilgore 6:06 PM

check-in: name, pronouns, one thing you'll do once the pandemic is under control

Desiree' Jane 6:07 PM

She/They pronouns for me :)

Rhiannon Martin 6:09 PM

Forgot, she/her/hers pronouns

Malcolm Hoover6:12 PM

I also forgot he/him/his pronouns

Rhiannon Martin6:15 PM

Oaks Park is having a drive in concert series, not quite the same but we are checking it out on Friday night!

Mike Savara6:17 PM

5!

Mike Savara6:39 PM

<https://apnews.com/article/portland-coronavirus-pandemic-oregon-5ed46270d0da623dd453189d1bc48e2e>

More info on that here! FQHC's across Oregon are able to provide that flexibility to their members

Such Wee6:40 PM

OHA site has a chat bot that walks you through the eligibility and a place to register for vaccine updates in Oregon.

Mike Savara6:41 PM

<https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>

Nicole Buchanan6:41 PM

Here is the County's website with information on how to determine if you are eligible for a vaccine and resources to schedule an appointment: <https://multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/how-do-i-make-appointment-covid-19-vaccine>

Anna Marie Allen6:43 PM

To sign up to be a member of a County clinic, please tell folks to call to enroll as a new patient - 503.988.5558

Anna Marie Allen6:45 PM

Call 2-1-1 for questions about COVID, including testing, health care, food, rent and utilities assistance, childcare, connecting with community-based organizations, etc.. Interpreters are available. You can also email help@211info.org(link sends e-mail) or text your zip code to 898211 (TXT211).

Anna Marie Allen6:52 PM

My email: anna.marie.allen@multco.us

Desiree' Jane6:53 PM

Olivia or Dani can we get all this info from the chat sent to us as well?

You6:53 PM

Yes, I'll include it in the minutes - at the end

Desiree' Jane6:54 PM

Thank you!

Angel Brophy6:59 PM

Hi All, I have to jump off now due to personal commitments. Thank you and nice to see everyone!

Olivia Kilgore6:59 PM

I shared a Jam file with the meeting:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ccdZIsO2KolhkgMGU8qkyymBlm5JJf7rOAadazh8arU/edit?usp=meet_whiteboard

Olivia Kilgore7:01 PM

Describe a time you felt truly welcomed into a community space. What about it felt welcoming and inclusive?

Olivia Kilgore 7:13 PM

2 minute warning!

1 minute

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie 7:17 PM

I love the cool tricks you learned, Olivia.

Malcolm Hoover 7:17 PM

To correct myself "you people" instead of "you guys" my bad.

Olivia Kilgore 7:18 PM

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ccdZIsO2KolhkgMGU8qkyymBlm5JJf7rOAadazh8arU/viewer?f=0>

Rhiannon Martin 7:18 PM

So fancy!

Mike Savara 7:18 PM

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ccdZIsO2KolhkgMGU8qkyymBlm5JJf7rOAadazh8arU/viewer?f=1> this link should take you to the second page!

Olivia Kilgore 7:19 PM

Describe a time you experienced or observed a community space not feeling as inclusive or welcoming as you hoped. What about it did not feel welcoming or inclusive to you or others?

Rhiannon Martin 7:30 PM

@Amanda, I realized you probably can't edit my note, let me know if I should change something

Olivia Kilgore 7:31 PM

Imagine you are applying to a new committee of your dreams. For your dream committee, what does the application and onboarding process look and feel like? What do meetings look and feel like?

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie 7:31 PM

It edited on my end, " Meetings that rooted deeply in white supremacy culture"

Such Wee 7:45 PM

wow
