



Community Involvement Committee



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TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and Board of County Commissioners 5 pages

FROM: Community Involvement Committee

DATE: July 21st 2020

SUBJECT: Outreach Subcommittee Work

BACKGROUND & PROCESS

The Community Involvement Committee (CIC) Community Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee began meeting in September 2019. The group met 7 times and decided to focus their efforts on reviewing and updating a Resolution on citizen involvement that was adopted by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners in 1995. The Subcommittee noted the benefits of updating this language, adding in a commitment to equity and highlighting the critical role of community engagement in achieving more equitable outcomes throughout the County. The Community Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee chose to draft a resolution for commissioners to consider, with the goal of working with the Board on adopting a final document that states the County's commitment to equitable and active community engagement.

The group was able to review a handful of documents from other jurisdictions that centered on values of community engagement and equity. These documents included:

- The City of Seattle's Executive Order 2016-06 establishing public engagement and outreach principles
- The City of Portland's Public Involvement Principles, adopted in August 2010
- The City of Portland's Office of Civic Life draft code change

During the CIC's January meeting, the committee aligned on values they would like to see incorporated into the new document. All agreed that equity and inclusion must remain at the forefront of a document detailing the County's commitment to community outreach and engagement. This includes addressing the history of systemic oppression, especially in Oregon,

Community Involvement Committee

and negative impacts and outcomes for underrepresented communities in Multnomah County, especially in communities of color. The committee feels this focus is crucial for building relationships and creating trust with historically underrepresented communities to ultimately improve outcomes. The CIC would like to see the Board adopt values that are reflective of proactive, active and consistent community engagement among all departments of Multnomah County.

The Subcommittee views this draft as having the potential to be a foundational document that highlights the County's values and approach to community engagement. Members look forward to collaborating with the Board to receive input on the draft and eventually arrive at a final document the CIC will recommend to the Board for adoption. Goals, metrics and measurable outcomes are important for creating accountability and evaluating community engagement. For the next phases of their work, the Subcommittee would like to look at how County departments measure success in community engagement.

A NOTE ON THE BACKGROUND AND LIFE EXPERIENCES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie (she/her) is Campaign Manager for Oregon State Representative Candidate Serin Bussell and is a coach at Clear Creek SUN Community School. She completed the Oregon Bus Project's PolitiCorps fellowship in 2018 and recently joined the Bus Project's Board of Directors.

Claire Carder (she/her) retired in 2017 as an Environmental Project Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Transportation. She's been involved with the Maplewood Neighborhood Association, where she served as Land Use Chair for five years, and has served on numerous advisory committees with the City of Portland.

Juanita Santana (she/her) is retired, most recently serving as Executive Director for a Head Start program. She began her career as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, has served on the Oregon Saves Board and is a current member of AARP's State Diversity Advisory Committee.

Michelle Kosta (she/her) is the Executive Director of Family of Friends Mentoring. She has served on the board of Adelante Mujeres and was a founding member of the Equity and Inclusion Committee at Trillium Family Services.

Members: Richard Barker, Claire Carder, Desiree' DuBoise, Michelle Kosta, Rhiannon Martin, Sahar Yarjani Muranovic, Marvin Peña, Emily Purry, Juanita Santana, Mike Savara, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie & Sachini Weerawardena

Staff: Olivia Kilgore & Dani Bernstein

Community Involvement Committee

Marvin Peña (he/him) is the Grassroots Engagement Coordinator at Voz Workers' Rights Education Project and previously worked as a journalist in Venezuela. While attending Clark College, he volunteered for a year as Editor in Chief of Mundo Clark, a Spanish language publication.

Sachini Weerawardena (she/her) is a Human Services Case Manager/Family Coach at the Department of Human Services and has previously worked in refugee resettlement and migration policy. In Arizona, she served as Co-Chair of the Arizona State Strategic Planning Committee for Employment and was part of the Citizen's Police Academy.

This cover letter and final draft Resolution from the Community Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee has been approved by the Community Involvement Committee on July 21, 2020.

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