



Community Involvement Committee



Community Involvement Committee

November 14, 2023 6:00-8:00 pm

Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Diego Martinez, Richard Barker, Lung Wah Lazum, Kristina Edmunson, Jenny Shadley, Brian Outlaw, Jen Mair, Ta' Neshia Renae, Brian Romer

Excused: Sasha Burchuk, Patrick Nolen, Angel Brophy, Pau Thang, Kimberléa Ruffu,

Absent:

Guests: N/A

Staff: KellyAnn Cameron (she/they), JR Lilly (he/him)

Agenda Item

6:00 - 6:10pm **Introductions & Review Agenda**

KA

- 5 minutes for members to join and settle in
- KA to start recording, share [OCI Public Comment form](#) in the chat
- **KA** to lead introductions
 - Ask everyone to raise their 'hand'
 - Share your name, pronouns and any other information you want to share
 - Ice breaker question: [Pick a Pic](#)
- Quorum 8+ members-
- review and approve [AGENDA](#)
 - Goal for this meeting: Approve items from retreat and elect co-chairs, learn about D1's engagement plans and priorities, and hear from subcommittees.
 - Review [retreat minutes](#) if u haven't already

6:10-6:30 **Approving items from the retreat**

KA introduced: we have to approve the agreements and Hybrid meeting plan decided upon by the CIC at the Retreat, since we didn't have a quorum at the end. Reminder of first to 5: 0-2 is like a 'no' vote and triggers further discussion, 3-5 is a 'yes' vote and a matter can pass without further discussion.

KA shared the [Community Agreements](#) - review and approve from retreat (10min)

- Share, have folks from retreat share back on the process and thoughts
- Any additional edits?
- Fist to 5

[Hybrid CIC Meeting Plan](#) - review and approve from retreat (10min)

- Share, have folks from retreat share back on the process and thoughts
- Any additional edits?
- Fist to 5

6:30-7:00 **Guest: District 1, Commissioner Meieran staff**

KA introduced Cristina Nieves and invited her to share.

Cristina shared she is happy to share about Commissioner Meieran's priorities - they are very eager to support the OCI and community partners in engaging in the budget process and the movement of the COunty in general. We have a lot of models in other jurisdictions and know the CIC has been working on improving accessibility - especially around these important issues of health, youth, housing. Commissioner Meieran is an ER doctor and is focused on sobering centers and education around prevention for youth, as well as investing in affordable housing, accessible housing, working with state partners to see results for homeless communities - especially youth and other vulnerable populations. In terms of the budget process, we just met with JR and discussed mapping out how to support voices that are still not able to be at the table and how we can widen that table so we hear from people with lived experience, reduce barriers.

Kristina: I am sitting on the gun violence subcommittee this year, and I am curious what you think if we were to ask the commissioner in terms of where we should be looking at the county - there's advocates, law enforcement, prevention etc and I am curious your thoughts as we start our process.

- Cristina: I am sure you're already talking to LPSCC, and am sure Abby Stamp - happy to connect you with her. They are connected with a lot of county programs and community partners - so they are a key entry point. It's about the health of our community - folks feeling safe in their communities, which is a priority. Cristina offered to connect offline

KA asked about last year's recommendations and if the Commissioner has thoughts on that. Cristina shared Commissioner Meieran has read the recommendations and is going to write a memo to the CIC about them.

Jenny: What kinds of community involvement is your office involved in right now?

Cristina: the commissioner works with a lot of providers and community partners which provide the county services, that is a form of community involvement. We're also working with government relations on the renaming of Sauvie island bridge - Anna Allen at Govt relations has been working on that! We have been touching base with the Sauvie Island residents about this - you'd think a bridge renaming would be simple but everyone needs to be involved! We're really looking to be more involved, that is why we're working closely with JR now, we want to have a centralized vision for what community involvement looks like for commissioners and departments as well.

Jen: I'm new to this committee and process - so trying to get familiar with the lay of the land. I'm interested in the level of community involvement in the past- has past involvement been successful? Are there past efforts that have left breadcrumbs about what that process could look like? And besides the budget process, are there things like affordable housing that you'd like to engage the community on? Or are there other issues that are pressing and you think more engagement would help inform decision makers?

- Cristina: We've been working a lot with micro-village folks, around shelter and housing - we've found that as the community tries to engage with the county the process needs to be improved - there are many barriers, who to call, how to get things done like get a site assessed. We're working on connecting micro villages with the right people. For bread crumbs we're zoning in on housing and sobering centers - if we could implement a sobering center (or drop off center) we need people with lived experience and community voices at the table. We've been researching locations etc but we need to work more with community partners and voices.

Ta' Neshia: When you talk about affordable housing, is that rental or owned? And which community partners?

- Cristina: Both- but we're talking about renters since we're focused on folks with behavioral health and substance use issues. SO by affordable I mean affordable stabilized housing. We work with a lot of partners - we have a steering committee, which I'm spacing on the name, but our intern has been working with them - I can get you all the information.

Jen: It sounds like you have a process or something that is working for D1 with community partners, is it more around incorporating voices with lived experience that is a missing link that maybe the CIC can help with?

- Cristina: yea exactly - and by lived experience I mean also receiving services as well as direct service/frontline workers, since we are struggling with worker retention as well.

Jen: And where are you in the process with stabilized housing? It sounds like you're in the site assessment stage.

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- Cristina: Yeah, we are in the idea stage. We have some locations in mind- crown plaza was brought up last budget season, but there are other sites we're looking at. We're in the early stages of looking at sites.

Brian R. : you mentioned barriers to participation and communication - is your office responsible for helping address overcoming those barriers? Or what role does your office have in addressing those barriers?

- Cristina: The role our office can play is alerting it to other offices and the chair's office- of the need to support staff and volunteers who are participating, across the other volunteer boards and opportunities to engage.
- Brian: So is there a decision making body that could implement changes and ways to reduce barriers?
- Cristina: I believe the Board could make some statements, JR any ideas?
- JR: It depends on what committee and what degree we're talking about. Under the umbrella of advisory bodies - there's over 50 in the County and each is managed by the department that oversees them. The health department oversees the advisory body, they make the determination on things like stipends, childcare, translation, and other accommodations as well as staff capacity. If someone is hosting a focus group or doing a survey, or wants to convene a group, it depends on who is the person who is convening the group. There's not a county wide policy on setting a bar just yet- that is something that the CIC could recommend to the Board - We need to make sure that, at minimum, any time you're engaging the community, these are minimum things you should offer to reduce barriers. It can also come through leadership- such as asking Commissioner Meieran to develop a policy in consultation with the CIC. It could also be a recommendation from OCI - so it could come from many places but for now there isn't a set policy.
- Brian: So would we need Commissioner Meieran's (or another elected) approval or sponsorship to move forward?
- JR: to cement the policy countywide it would take a vote of county commissioners. But we could also, if we notice a dept isn't providing enough accommodation, we can talk directly to the dept director about it.

Jen: I'm assuming that the sobering center and stabilizing housing are priorities for D1, are there others that make it to that level?

- Cristina: Any way we can support working with our City partners, finding the best way to co-convene partners to make sure everyone is at the table because at the end of the day community members need services regardless of who provides it. Participating in the ecosystem any way we can around.

Jen: Do you think this is common around districts, one with community partners and the other with people impacted by the decisions. Is there a regular pace to that, or just as

needed or as it can be managed?

- Cristina: For our office, it's a little bit about Commissioner Meieran only having 1 more year in her term, so we're reflecting on how we have done community engagement in the past and how we have space to improve, and what tools we can leave for future offices. In terms of how we engage those on the frontlines and those receiving services, I think there's a huge opportunity with JR taking on a new role at OCI as far as centralizing the system to align across districts and departments. We're excited to engage in those conversations.

Jen: My other question you already answered, which was what your impression is that other districts are struggling with, and you answered that.

Cristina: I have a special place in my heart for engagement, I sit on the small donor commission at the City, I've been on some boards, I am always amazed by the commitment of volunteers to show up to meetings and learn the system, and share from their vantage points as well as go back to their communities. It's a huge asset, and everyone in public service should invest in these more. There are amazing people in the community who are willing to take time to make their community a better place.

JR: Let me mention, on one level as a body as a CIC group we'll be working together this year to make recommendations for the board, and looking at engaging on those recommendations further on how to implement them. And remind folks that people can reach out to Commissioner Meieran as a community member even if you're not in her district, to share ideas, comments and concerns. Just a reminder you can engage outside the body of the CIC!

7:00-7:15 **Discussion, Optional 5-10 minute break**

KA asked if people had reflections, things they want shared with other guests, or things they particularly want to focus on.

Jen: I just heard for the first time that OCI is wanting to put together recommendations for more centralized community engagement efforts.

- JR: the short version - when I joined in January I asked what the guidelines say and policies say - we have the County Code but not a lot of policies or information to guide departments that have committees or are doing community engagement. One thing is adding more clarity to the policy around advisory committees, but also best practices which Cathy who has joined us here will focus on will be working on. Especially best practices of how to incorporate community feedback in programs, and how do we all speak the same language and educate staff and community. This group will probably hear a lot of that as it is developed, as we start drafting things we'll bring stuff to the general meeting to solicit your thoughts - so stay tuned throughout the year!
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Cathy: I know a few of you already but I'd like to add to what JR said - if you find articles, or information, or have participated in a great process, or anything you want to add to the brainstorm I am wide open to that and would love to hear from you! Cathy put an email in the chat and KA will send it out to the group.

Jenny: One thing I appreciated was looking towards frontline staff as sources of feedback, as they have the opportunity to meet 400 community members utilizing a service, and that kind of knowledge is important. I appreciate that personally, sometimes we hear the report of the thing from someone who isn't actually sitting in the room with the people they are helping, and staff can be the way into that. Not sure how community involvement works into that - but they can be canaries in the coal mines about that.

- KA yeah that makes me think about the youth subcommittee - I think we discussed how folks who work directly with youth could provide more feedback and impact decisions around their programs.

Jen: I wonder if in this centralization people can share resources, partner lists, etc. so there are more resources available to everyone rather than reinventing the wheel.

- Jenny: in our recommendations from 2 years ago, that was a huge part of it, and in a lot of our recommendations we reiterate that over and over again. Often two groups will work with the same population, or multiple partners doing the same work over and over. I think that has been whittled into almost every recommendation since I've been here.
 - Brian R. I'd chime in - I don't know the departments, but I know an interfaith group was gathered to address issues and certain faiths weren't included, and that was shocking to those who weren't included, and it was surprising people didn't know who was on the commission and what faiths were represented. So that has occurred recently.
 - JR: keep echoing this, in this year's recommendations and everything, and Christina is here to hear it as well and bring that back to the Commissioner. It is the dream to have more centrally located information- even a communications list of partners we work with. We'd love to do that as the county. We're really looking into what that would look like - KA and I were trying to see how we can share a list of meeting venues, caterers, and facilitators- getting other departments to opt into it. We're looking into how to make it feasible. Challenges include that the Sheriff's office doesn't use the google suite, and has a separate wifi system then the rest of the County even though they're in the same building as us. So doing something like a shared google form is complicated.
 - Jenny in chat: Richard has great ideas around this...when we meet next he might have some thoughts
 - Brian R. You can always walk up the stairs and hand it to someone.
 - KA; yeah and people updating their info!
 - Jen: That is an issue of protocols - not sure if that is for here, but maybe a set of recs
-

around protocols - every time we have to work out a different share file site and we make it happen - there are easy tech fixes and some recommended protocols would be helpful to people.

- Cathy: Our hope is it will be so smooth and helpful that people will love to use the system!
- Brian R. But don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good!

7:15- 7:35 (5min each)

KA invited someone from each subcommittee to speak to what they have done:

County 101: Budget

Brian R. It's hard to summarize what we will be doing - Jen, any ideas?

Jen: Is part of our purview what we

KA: so you're learning more about bud

Diego: I just looked over my notes from the meeting we had- it was us going over our scope or strategy, and seeing if it's possible to extend the timeline so we can better engage with the community around the budget. The budget is convoluted and more time to focus on it would help.

Public Safety

Jenny: We just met yesterday so it's fresh. We had Carl and Karl who both work at the Dept of Community Justice, one with adults and one with youth, who work on gang and gun violence and prevention for over 25 years. They had a lot of insight on that. Some takeaways for me personally - if folks are not justice involved, how are we supporting folks? They're doing wraparound services, and a new HEAT (men) and HER (women) curriculum that they're really excited about, it's a culturally competent intervention for youth and adults. Kristina: I don't have anything to add - I thought they were fun to talk with and enjoyed their longevity with the County.

Jenny: they shared about a weekly meeting on gun violence occurrences and how to respond every week.

Bylaws

Jen: it's the nuts and bolts of the bylaws for this committee- in reading through it we noticed there are areas that could be more explicit, cross referencing policies also. We made some suggestions and at the next meeting we will look at some draft language.

Cathy: Yes, I've started working on a template that you all focused on in your meeting (as well as a few others) to make a standard set so people know what they need in their bylaws. Every group needs to storm, norm, and form around the bylaws a little bit, so some parts will be filled in the blank and others will be more of a discussion. The conversation the other

night was enlightening and helped me understand how people understand bylaws vs policies vs procedures, and what needs to go where. It was a great discussion.

- Invite group to review the suggested additional topics
- Staff will draft language, next meeting tentatively Tuesday, January 9, 3:30-5pm

Membership (staff)

- Patrick and Richard are the only ones who have shared interest in Phases 0-1 (reviewing process, materials, and outreach) - please let KA know before noon tomorrow if you'd like to be included in the scheduling poll for the first meeting to discuss phases 0-1!

KA to send out links to the subcommittee folder in the follow up email, as well as info on the first membership meeting.

7:35-7:40 **Public Comment**

No public comment

7:40-7:50 **Co-Chair Conversation**

- Review of Co-Chair Roles (position description)
- Review of Attendance: If a member incurs two consecutive unexcused absences or three consecutive excused absences, OCI staff will contact the member to discuss their CIC membership. If the member wishes to continue serving on the CIC, further absences may warrant removal.
 - Remind folks it's really important for co-chairs to prioritize CIC meetings as they facilitate them!
- Invite past co-chairs to share about their experiences

Jenny nominated herself.

KA mentioned that we usually have co-chairs, and they work together to share the administrative

Everyone voted for Jenny over chat and/or text:

Yes: 8 in zoom, 1 over text

KA to send email in the chat - to ask for a 2nd co-chair and solicit nominations - we will follow up with people to see if they're interested or not.

JR; in the insurance that someone expresses interest,

Brian O said he is interested and will reach out.

7:50-8:00 Next steps:

- Subcommittees continue to meet
- KA to send out feedback form about the retreat!
- JR thanked Patrick for coming to the NAYA gala with the OCI - it is always good to

bring folks to events and gatherings.

- KA asked for thoughts, appreciations
 - Jen shared appreciation for hearing from D1 on their work, how they do engagement now and what would be helpful going forward. That knowledge about each district is helpful.
- JR: Thursday at 9:30 we will be swearing in Jesse Beeson for D2! They will be in that seat for a few months and then there will be a special election in May for that. SO if you're keeping count, all four seats will be on the ballot next year at some point. There will be lots of engagement opportunities!

Agreements Final Draft:

Community Agreements FY24

- Acknowledge intent, address impact
- Listen to understand; pause; think intentionally about what you want to say before sharing
- What is said here stays, what is learned here leaves
- 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
- Accept and make space for different participation levels and styles
- Take breaks and prioritize what you need to be fully present
- Celebrate accomplishments
- Conversation, not debate
- Call each other in- use oops/ouch if helpful

Meeting Expectations

- Come to meetings prepared to participate
 - Please let the Committee know if you will not be able to attend CIC meetings (it is assumed that Committee members will attend meetings unless they say otherwise).
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Zoom Transcript:

18:13:32 From Community Involvement :
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Oypoe1UIFIOY5kWz9RQNzfgSTbnFRcIXzQzOMoNAuTg/edit>

18:15:37 From Community Involvement :
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B5ILL9RXMA90erYB4M0OIov7mNfj_90E-qASDnDZsNU/edit

18:15:52 From Jen Mair (she/her) : I like them

18:15:59 From Cristina Nieves, Commissioner Meieran's Office : Having difficulty with headphones. The picture of everyone at the table. I'm going to call back in. Apologies!

18:16:18 From Ta' Neshia Renae` : 5

18:16:22 From Brian : 5

18:16:25 From Jenny Shadley : 5

18:16:28 From Diego (he/him/his) : 5

18:16:38 From Lung Wah Lazum : 5

18:17:53 From Jenny Shadley : January 16th is a holiday, if that factors into this

18:18:23 From Jen Mair (she/her) : I think the 15th is a holiday

18:19:01 From Kristina Edmunson : I have no concerns

18:19:15 From Brian : 3

18:19:16 From Jenny Shadley : 5

18:24:29 From Community Involvement : I've messaged her and she is down to come visit!

18:24:36 From Community Involvement : /present

18:38:42 From Patrick to Community Involvement(Direct Message) : sorry I Was so late. What is the name of this group?

18:42:37 From Patrick : ok, the full committee

18:42:58 From Community Involvement to Patrick(Direct Message) : This is Commissioner Meieran's Chief of Staff- distrct 1

18:43:35 From Ta' Neshia Renae` : I am going to have to join from my car, I need to get my son from basketball practice.

18:43:43 From Community Involvement : Reacted to "I am going to have t..." with 👍

18:43:52 From Patrick : Reacted to "I am going to have t..." with 👍

18:48:06 From Jen Mair (she/her) : I so agree!

18:50:00 From Jen Mair (she/her) : Thank you Cristina!

18:50:14 From Diego (he/him/his) : Thank you!

18:51:36 From Patrick : I think I am fine :-)

18:57:52 From Richard Barker - he/him/his : My apologies to everyone. I need to sign off at 7PM I look forward to hearing what you all cover next.

18:58:02 From Cathy Sherick : Cathy.Sherick@multco.us

19:02:00 From Jenny Shadley : Richard has great ideas around this...when we meet next he might have some thoughts

19:06:35 From Brian : I'm good to continue

19:06:52 From Jenny Shadley : Im good to move on
19:07:00 From Lung Wah Lazum : forward
19:07:01 From Patrick : I am fine
19:13:17 From JR Lilly : H.E.A.T.(link is external) or Habilitation, Empowerment, Accountability, Therapy.
19:15:04 From Jenny Shadley :
<https://www.prainc.com/heat-afrocentric-holistic-recovery/>
19:17:14 From Patrick : oiu are
19:17:24 From Patrick : you are even!
19:18:51 From Community Involvement to Patrick(Direct Message) :
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10766WlaWjSMJEgIEYRDxTOdckxR8ol7UstEptT80bKI/edit>
19:22:26 From Patrick : nope
19:23:24 From Patrick : we should probably allow people to say theyw ant to do it in private and vote over email
19:24:26 From Patrick : sounds good
19:25:53 From Patrick : I vote yes
19:25:58 From Lung Wah Lazum : 5
19:26:01 From Diego (he/him/his) : I vote yes
19:26:03 From Jen Mair (she/her) : Yes to Jenny (thank you Jenny!)
19:26:14 From Kristina Edmunson : Yes
19:26:17 From Brian Romer : I vote yes to jenny
19:26:22 From Jenny Shadley : Yes to me!
19:26:42 From Brian : Yes
19:27:01 From Brian : Yay! ty Jenny!
19:27:17 From Diego (he/him/his) : Yayyy congrats Jenny thank you!!
19:28:08 From Community Involvement : don't tell them that! haha
19:28:52 From Brian : I'm interested in co-chairing so I'll be in touch
19:29:36 From Jenny Shadley : Retreat feedback: The food was amazing
19:29:51 From Brian : Seconded
19:31:13 From Jenny Shadley : Thank you Patrick
19:31:20 From Patrick : thank you, it was a blast
19:32:15 From Patrick : Go Team!
19:33:11 From Cristina Nieves, Commissioner Meieran's Office : Thank you all so much. Such a pleasure to be here this evening.
19:34:54 From Brian : GN all!
19:34:56 From Brian : ty!
