



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP
February 19, 2021 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Zoom: [Click HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 947 9694 0295 - passcode 422287

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Agenda Item</u> | <u>Facilitator</u> |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 2:00 | Welcome | Andrea Akita |
| 2:03 | Consent Agenda <i>Objectives: Review and approve the February 19, 2021 agenda and notes from January 15, 2021 meeting.</i> | Michael Brown |
| 2:03 – 2:20 | Grounding & Equity Moment <i>Objectives: Create connections, reflect on events that demonstrate successes and challenges in achieving equity.</i> | All |
| 2:20 – 2:50 | Best Starts for Kids – Proposal for Levy 2.0 <i>Objectives: Increase understanding of the Executive’s proposal for BSK renewal.</i> | Sheila Capestany |
| 2:50 – 3:05 | BSK Implementation Plan: Discussion/Decision Timeline <i>Objectives: understanding of timeline, products, and GG member roles in developing implementation plan.</i> | Andrea |
| 3:05 – 3:50 | Aligning Implementation Elements COO & BSK: Workgroup Discussion <i>Objectives: active discussion, sharing of ideas and options, critical feedback on a theoretical framework for COO</i> | All |
| 3:50 | Updates <i>Objective: share pertinent information across the group</i> | All |
| 4:00 | Adjourn | |

Governance Group Members

Lydia Assefa-Dawson
 Michael Brown
 Vazaskia Crockrell
 Deanna Dawson

Ubox Gardheere
 Matelita Jackson
 Paola Maranan
 Jenn Ramirez Robson
 Yordanos Teferi

Marguerite Ro
 Sili Savusa
 Tony To
 AJ McClure



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE GROUNDING

RESULTS STATEMENT

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County.*

VALUES

We commit to guide Communities of Opportunity using these values:

Equity: work intentionally to eliminate racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities in health and well-being

Process Equity: an inclusive, fair and open process

Community Engagement: authentic community engagement that involves listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities

Driven by quantitative and qualitative data: Data will track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices

Innovation: Recognize that change involves risk and value an adaptive approach that views failure as an important part of the learning process

2- February 2021 Staff Report

Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal: Blueprint Report

This month, the King County Executive transmitted to the County Council his proposal to renew and expand Best Starts for Kids! The Best Starts for Kids Blueprint Report accompanying the transmittal explained the proposed ballot measure ordinance.

Sheila Capestany will join us on Friday to provide an overview of the proposed ballot measure.

You can take a look at the [Blueprint Report](#) to learn more about what we envision.

You'll recall our current levy had a first-year levy rate of \$0.14. The Executive is proposing a \$0.19 rate for this renewal. In addition to making it possible to maintain our current work to support all children, youth, families and communities in being healthy, happy, safe and thriving, the proposal will expand the levy and allow the County to take a leadership role in making child care more affordable for families and more sustainable as a career. We'll also expand out-of-school time services for school-aged kids, deepen our investments in youth transitions to adulthood and create up to 4 new school-based health centers.

Implementation Plan for Best Starts 2.0

The COO Governance Group, in its role as the COO Best Starts for Kids Advisory Board will continue to provide guidance on key issues that will shape the Implementation Plan for the proposed Best Starts renewal.

Over the next three months, you will be asked to guide COO on:

- Determining principles for (re)investment in place/cultural communities, systems & policy change, and learning community.
- Establishing percentages/level of funding for each of the three COO strategy areas.

We will build on the discussion and direction the staff received last summer, when the Governance Group discussed a set of [general policy questions for COO 2.0](#):

- Opportunities for changes to policy & systems strategy
- Adjustments to COO's theory of change
- Adjustments to the four result areas
- Biggest learning? Important factors to future success?

[In the summary of the major points](#) from these discussions, the GG reaffirmed the strategy and result areas that COO is pursuing. There was a desire to "Be Bold" and to fine tune/focus on specific areas within the existing strategies.

GOVERNANCE GROUP WINTER/SPRING

Implementation Plan Work Sessions

- Feb 19th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Mar 19th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- March: TBD
- April 16th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Draft Plan Review
May 21st, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Governance Group Retreat

- May: TBD 4 hours
COO Narrative

3 – Communities of Opportunity – Governance Group Meeting Notes

Friday, January 15, 2020

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Zoom Call

Members Present: Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Michael Brown, Ubax Gardheere, Paola Maranan, Sili Savusa, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Marguerite Ro, Tony To

Facilitator: Alessandra Zielinski **Staff:** Andrea Akita, Roxana Chen, Kalayaan (Kai) Domingo, Cristina Gonzalez, Whitney Johnson, Blishda Lacet, Jose Camacho Martinez, Valerie Garza

Guests: Sheila Capestany (BSK), Marcy Miller (BSK), Jessica Werner (CYAB), Hikma Sherka (CYAB), Delores Baccus (REACH), Jan Capps (REACH), Joyce McCraney (REACH), Haregu Kidane (RV Partnership), Kris Hermanns (Seattle Foundation)

Consent Agenda: Governance Group (GG) approved the consent agenda with the meeting minutes from the December 18, 2020 meeting and the January 15, 2021 agenda. Motion was made by Jenn Ramirez Robson and seconded to approve by Lydia Assefa-Dawson with one abstention Paola Maranan.

Grounding and Equity Moment: Members alternated reading the COO Guiding Principles. Alessandra then engaged the Governance Group members in a reflection exercise in honor of the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday asking the Governance Group to think about how his legacy has inspired and informed our work.

Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB): Jessica Werner and Hikma Sherka

We welcomed CYAB Co-Chairs, Hikma Sherka and Jessica Werner. Last fall, members of the COO Governance Group were invited to meet the CYAB and this month, we've invited CYAB leaders to introduce themselves and their work, an opportunity to increase collaboration, leverage and align resources.

Jessica shared the CYAB perspectives, subcommittees, and the work they are engaging in this year. One of the things that continues to evolve for CYAB is determining their role to be most effective, especially with expanded responsibilities for new funding streams. The CYAB is asking how they operate effectively across different systems and support a whole ecosystem.

Hikma shared information on the [CYAB structure](#) and their Statement on Equity:

- Equity is an ardent journey toward well-being as defined by the affected
- Equity demands sacrifice and redistribution of power and resources in order to break systems of oppression, heal continuing wounds, and realize justice
- To achieve equity and social justice, we must first root out deeply entrenched systems of racism
- Equity proactively builds strong foundations of agency, is vigilant for unintended consequences, and boldly aspires to be restorative
- Equity is a disruptive and uncomfortable and not voluntary
- Equity is fundamental to the community we want to build

The CYAB serves as the oversight and advisory body and carries dual responsibilities that are tied to Best Starts for Kids (BSK) and the Youth Action Plan (YAP). The YAP's focus did not include younger kids. Executive Constantine's efforts expanded the focus and resources to include little kids into a more comprehensive levy with investments in the pre-natal to -24 age group. The CYAB used YAP as a foundational policy.

There are up to 40 board members that serve on rotating 3-year terms with maximum of two term appointments. Shaping the work is challenging and subcommittees help to focus that work. There are three positions dedicated to young people; CYAB hopes that the number of youth members will continue to grow. One of the challenges they face is how to champion the work of the County while also being thought partners who critique policy approaches.

The CYAB plays both an advisory role and ensures accountability. The subcommittee structure is based on age groups. A young leader's committee was created for members and provides a space for these leaders to learn and ask questions; prepare for meetings and understanding context settings. It became a space for increasing the voice and vision of what young people want for this County. Some of the projects they are working on include engagement on creating of a Youth Health Board, development of a Youth Bill of Rights. The CYAB has been very careful and intentional in what youth membership means, centering youth/young adults in the work that they are doing. They have had to ensure there's support for these members, and that they are not just having representation, but that their voices are meaningful.

The Young Leader's Subcommittee started two years ago and was a result of CYAB's commitment to the YAP. Two issues that Young Leader's Subcommittee is focused on are youth justice and serving as the advisory group for Puget Sound taxpayer Accountability Account ([PSTAA](#)). PSTAA was part of the state legislation ([RCW 43.79.520](#)) to embed an education tax into Sound Transit. KC [Motion 15429](#) was passed by full Council last August and included an allocation structure for these funds. Funding will go towards early learning facilities and programs, K-12, post-secondary education. The CYAB work - those funding streams and strategies are very complimentary to PSTAA. In a few weeks' recruitment will begin for PSTAA and recruitment will prioritize representation from foster care, homelessness and LGBTQ lived experience.

Group Discussion:

- Is there a leadership development program for the Youth Development Executives of King County? They are focused on supporting advocacy and leadership development of youth development organizational leaders. YDEKC does not provide direct service or leadership programs for young people themselves.
- Creating more connection with young leaders as part of the governance group was an idea expressed. What would that look like to make that intentional intention to have youth voices represented? Hikma extended an invitation to the GG to attend the Young leader's subcommittee to see the work that they are doing.

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Health (REACH)'s Community Action Plan

With COO's recent funding awards to systems and policy change grants to seven partnerships led by Black community, COO invited colleagues from the REACH program who are creating community action plans with the Black and African communities for greater health equity. We welcomed Delores Baccus and Joyce McCraney who are engaging multigenerational members of the African American community to increase health equity. Public Health Seattle & King County, recipient of a Center for Disease Control and Prevention's [REACH](#) (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) grant in King County. The five-year grant includes a program that is providing outreach focused on maternal and child health in the African American community. REACH team has hosted seminars on racial equity, priority and plans in the community, including food insecurity, maternal health and health care system were offered. The seminars are community led and facilitated by REACH staff.

Joyce and Delores are facilitating discussions with African American community in King and Pierce County to create a Community Action Plan (CAP). The CAP was initially intended to identify needs and has grown to include commitments to create change at the individual level and in policy and systems. A women's group with 25 participants began identifying what they wanted lifted up in their community. The success of the women's group led to the creation of a meeting for African American men. Racism, historical trauma, and what's happening today were identified as challenges to their community's health. Their vision is to engage youth for reforms within the jail/justice system.

The sessions have become a way to build relationships and address trauma. Meetings are held twice a month and participants receive stipends/payments for participation. The last hour is a safe space dedicated to sharing the experiences of being African American. The group has really become a small family who have built a community within a community. They've appreciated the trust and connections being built and how their cultural community is supported and centered. It's been a powerful experience and there's excitement to see how that work is affecting the community.

Updates and Announcements

- Andrea reviewed the proposed timeline for Best Starts for Kids levy renewal legislation. The Executive's proposal for the renewal ballot measure has been transmitted to Council. The measure is expected to go on the ballot in August. Now till early summer – Best Starts will be organizing and preparing for a BSK 2.0 implementation plan. GG will act as advisors in drafting changes to the draft Plan related to COO's theory of change and investments for the three COO strategy areas.

We will also provide information for an Update Report from the CYAB that will be submitted to Council for a renewed levy. The report is an opportunity to modify governance structure and the potential to bring more youth on board the CYAB. This is also an opportunity to think about the make-up of the COO advisory board/governance group. We will explore ways for increase collaboration and alignment between the CYAB and COO (for example, could CYAB members be represented on GG and vice versa; could COO create youth leadership positions).

- Andrea is meeting individually with the Governance Group member to see how we are doing and what the focus should be. She shared that she has heard some thoughtful and important insights and offered thanks to those members who've met with her.