



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP WORKGROUP SESSION

March 12, 2021 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom: [Click here](#) or Meeting ID: 912 4395 0284;
passcode 173193

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
2:00	Welcome	<i>Michael Brown</i>
2:05 – 2:15	March Work Group Sessions <i>Objectives: Recap: Summer 2020 Discussions/Direction; and review Implementation Plan Topics/Timeline</i>	<i>Andrea Akita</i>
2:15 – 3:00	Principles for COO 2.0 <i>Objectives: Discuss and direct set of principles that will guide investment strategies.</i>	<i>Andrea, All</i>
3:05 – 3:55	COO Strategies & Funding <i>Objectives: Review investment strategy areas and identify questions from Governance Group in preparation for March 19th discussion.</i>	<i>Andrea, All</i>
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

Governance Group Meeting

February 19, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees: Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Deanna Dawson, Paola Maranan, Marguerite Ro, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Sili Savusa, Yordanos Teferi, Tony To

Staff: Andrea Akita, Ninona Boujrada, Roxana Chen, Valerie Garza, Cristina González, Blishda Lacet, José Camacho Martinez, Marcy Miller, Aaron Robertson **Guests:** Ellen Kissman, Spencer Lau

Facilitator: Alessandra Zielinski

Consent Agenda: Governance Group (GG) approved the consent agenda with the meeting minutes from the January 15, 2021 meeting and the February 19, 2021 agenda. Motion was made by Tony To and Jenn Ramirez Robson seconded to approve. The motion was approved unanimously.

Grounding & Equity Moment: Members alternated reading the COO Guiding Principles. Alessandra acknowledged February 15 as a Day of Remembrance for the Japanese American community – the 79th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt issuing Executive Order 9066 which set in motion the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. She opened the floor to any sharing and reflections related to equity.

- Shout out to Sili Savusa who sits on Seattle Foundation’s advisory group for Covid funds. BIPOC lead, the other advisory group members working with smaller community-lead organizations on a new application process. One of the communities we didn’t have was the Pacific Islander community. Sili worked with Aaron Robertson to broker connections and relationships and use them as anchor organizations in their community to help support smaller organizations that didn’t initially make the selection process. Valuing her guidance and relationships with community folks.
- The [sixth Covid-19 supplemental budget](#) to King County Council included a \$5 million revolving fund to provide up-front investments to community-based organizations in advance of federal or other reimbursements.
- Equity moment to acknowledge what is going on in the state of Texas and how recent events affected communities differently.

Best Starts for Kids – Proposal for Levy Renewal: Marcy Miller

The King County Executive transmitted his proposal to the County Council to renew and expand Best Starts for Kids. The [Blueprint Report](#) accompanying the transmittal explained the proposed ballot measure ordinance and outlines how a renewed levy will make it possible to maintain current work in support of Happy, Health, Safe and Thriving children, youth, families and communities. The Executive is proposing a \$0.19 rate for the renewal the levy rate (per \$1,000 of assessed property value). This would generate \$235M over six years, with potential for grow annually, if county-wide assessed value continues to increase. (Marcy’s presentation [slides are here.](#))

The proposal was informed by community engagement survey and a series of virtual meetings, hosted in partnership with community organizations across the county. Between July and November, BSK reached 600 constituents via these regional-based, stakeholder meetings. In addition to expressing overall support for existing BSK strategies, feedback to BSK highlighted childcare was a priority for future levy funding. Several reports (Equitable and Accessible Childcare in KC, The Mounting Costs of Childcare, and Supporting KC Women, Families & Employers underscored the importance of childcare in child development as well as the need for affordable care. BSK is proposing a childcare subsidy program that

would assist 3,000 low-income families. The expanded levy would also establish a Workforce Demonstration Project to bolster the ability of childcare workers to earn a livable wage in King County.

Comments and discussion:

- Many of the elected representatives indicated support for the renewal of the BSK levy. One concern that has been raised is the about the proposed increase, given that people are struggling. The Executive's proposal is aimed at long-term outcomes, supported by strong data. BSK is aware of these concerns and the Executive's Office has received similar comments.
- Suggestion to showing how funds are distributed by communities, rather than by council districts.

BSK Implementation Plan: Discussion/Decision Timeline

Andrea reviewed the timeline for BSK renewal process. [Slides are found here.](#)

An August ballot date has been proposed. With the transmittal of the proposed legislation, staff preparation for a 2.0 Implementation Plan is underway. The timeline leaves little time between now and the end of April for drafting before the plan goes through levels of Department and Executive review to be transmitted to County Council by the end of July.

After the Implementation Plan is submitted, staff will begin drafting an update report for the Children Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) structure and governance. This report will also provide an opportunity for reporting on the Governance Group and any proposed changes to its membership/structure.

COO will be moving pretty quickly through the timeline to get through tasks and obtain as much feedback from stakeholders as possible. The timeline identifies opportunities for engagement with Seattle Foundation, CYAB and GG. Other stakeholders will be engaged along the way.

We will provide a schedule with meeting topics. Please be aware if you have a conflict with an upcoming topic to recuse yourself. We anticipate three topics to review for modifications and changes to program approaches: (1) Aligning Elements within the Implementation Plan; (2) Translating a theoretical framework to funding strategies and programs; and (3) Core principles for program funding.

Aligning Implementation Elements COO & BSK

Drafting a new BSK Implementation Plan provides COO with opportunities to create stronger narrative connections between these initiatives. Andrea highlighted three areas in the Implementation Plan where changes will better align initiatives: theoretical frameworks for strategy areas; evaluation approaches; and program descriptions.

Theoretical Framework - Recommendation by staff: COO should create a framework that mirrors ones created for other BSK strategy areas: Invest Early (p to 5) and Sustain the Gain (5-24). BSK strategy frameworks highlight the importance of decreasing risk factors, while promoting protective factors.

Andrea proposed a theoretical framework for COO that would help communicate the outcomes for healthy and thriving communities, which could complement the Theory of Change, as a visual tool. Translating a service-based framework to COO's systems change approach required a different approach (shown in figure on next page).

Draft for Discussion
Communities of Opportunity

Increase promotive factors for equitable communities

1. Belonging and social cohesion
2. Community-based assets and power
3. Strong network of community-based organizations with capacity and capabilities to promote systems and policy change
4. Access to resources and decision-making



Reduce and eliminate barriers

- A. Racism and discrimination
- B. Unsafe, unhealthy, inequitable environments
- C. Policies, procedures, and practices that perpetuate or create harm in communities
- D. Social/Sector Silos

The Group discussed changes and additions to the draft framework:

- How can processes and power fit into a framework geared towards services and outcomes? How can this capture the power, community building and power shifting aspects of our work?
- No. 3 echoes No. 2 and is more explicit about equitable systems and policies. There's a need to highlight systems, policies, procedures, and practices, not just building capacity within community, but change how systems operate.
- No. 3 could be community led systems and policy change. No. 4: equitable investment or reparative investments or equitable long-term investments in under-resourced communities.
- Add value by creating parallel descriptions. How can we detail and call out freedom of racism and white supremacy in the language? Can this be in belonging and social cohesion?
- There are issues with how specific items are worded. Can there be stronger language to effectuate or achieve the systems and policy changes?
- In the middle/circle, include: anti-racist systems and policies and community-led solutions and community decision-making as what is required for healthy, thriving communities.
- Equitable investments keep the message positive; under-resource should be replaced with adequate access to resources for COO to send the message that the community has power it just needs support to get it done.
- There's some question about what social cohesion can mean. Clarification is needed.
- COO is about community ownership and affirming BIPOC communities, can that be incorporated within the framework?
- What do we mean by social sector silos? What does social isolation mean and how does that translate for communities? Cutting across the silos is part of what COO is trying to do. Silos calls out barriers in systems.
- The group supported the inclusion of antiracism systems within the framework.

Comments

- It has been a struggle to describe COO in a BSK context. This framework pulls back from societal indicators and shows it is more analogous yet anchored in the equity and systemic changes that COO is trying to bring about. This whole communication process simplified and easier to understand and make the connection between COO and BSK.

- Discussion led to documenting, learning from, and creating a consistent approach. There've been modifications to funding process: how and why where those changes made to be antiracist and more equitable? What are the core principles for the program funding? The actual process for funding decisions? We know that the process works, how do we create community accountability? How do we push this influence of BSK more broadly?

The anti-racism analysis was informed by community as well as by Individuals knowledgeable, skilled, and bringing their own experiences to point to changes, including staff. From staff to staff, there are different strengths brought to processes. The challenge will be how are creating consistency in applying that anti-racist lens?

- Discussion highlighted opportunities and needs for a drill down on what "the COO way" is and telling the story of how work has been moving/shifting. Lift up the grantees stories as being representative of values and of the community in the driver's seat. Show how that change is happening at a systems level.

Updates:

- Acknowledgment Public Health staff who have are working through challenges to get vaccines to residents. Marguerite announced there are efforts by PHSKC to organize community vaccine events, provided funds are available. Staff are working with community networks to identify and host events and noted difficulties in reaching elders.

Theoretical Framework (draft v2 – March 12, 2021)

Communities of Opportunity

Promote equitable communities

- Belonging. being heard and acknowledged
- Community power, community-based assets and decision-making
- Community-led solutions for policy and systems change
- Anti-racist institutions, policies, procedures, and practices.
- Reparative, long-term investment in under-funded communities: Black, Indigenous, and communities of color.



Eliminate systemic barriers

- Racism and discrimination
- Unsafe, unhealthy, inequitable environments
- Policies, procedures, and practices that marginalize and oppress people and communities
- Operating in social silos and sector silos

First Discussion Draft v1 -2/19/21
Communities of Opportunity

Increase promotive factors for equitable communities

1. Belonging and social cohesion
2. Community-based assets and power
3. Strong network of community-based organizations with capacity and capabilities to promote systems and policy change
4. Access to resources and decision-making



Reduce and eliminate barriers

- A. Racism and discrimination
- B. Unsafe, unhealthy, inequitable environments
- C. Policies, procedures, and practices that perpetuate or create harm in communities
- D. Social/Sector Silos

This PRINCIPLES IN ACTION table will be used for our workgroup discussion on Friday, March 12th.

Please consider these questions: Does this capture our principles and values for investment strategies? How do these principles translate into how we direct resources?

<i>Principles guiding investment strategies</i>	<i>What this looks like in practice</i>
Focus on root causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Centering racial equity and justice ■ Addressing racism as a public health crisis
Focus on institution, systems, and policy change to address root causes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transforming institutions, systems, policies ■ Aligning funding, resources ■ Not funding direct services
Focus on community power to effectuate equitable systems & policy change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions. ■ Asset and strength-based approaches ■ Community building, capacity building
Focus on building relationships in support of community building, power building, community-led decision-making, and solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Working in partnership ■ Authentic community engagement: listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities
Focus on continuous learning & adapting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Innovation, Risk Taking/ Boldness ■ Accountability, transparency, communicating, sharing work publicly
Focus on results and long-term outcomes: people have safe & affordable housing, are healthy people, are economically resilient, and have strong community connections/participate in community and civic life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Long-term, Multi-year commitments ■ Tangible outcomes
We rely on qualitative and quantitative data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inform funding, resource investments ■ Determine how resources are made available using health and well-being composite index: prioritizing communities with health/well-being in the lowest 20th percentile; and the lowest 40th percentile for communities in King County ■ Equitable funding approach ■ Track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices