

Meeting Minutes

Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group

March 17, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: The Seattle Foundation, 1601 5th Avenue, Suite 1900

Members Present: Michael Brown, Katherine Cortes, Diana Dawson, Ubax Gardheere, Betsy Jones, Paola Maranan, Sili Savusa, Tony To; Scarlett Aldebot-Green (participating by phone)

Staff Present: Andrea Akita, Dan Bernard, Alice Ito, Cheryl Markham, Aaron Robertson, Kirsten Wysen, Veronica Gonzalvo

Welcome – Michael welcomed members to the Seattle Foundation.

Scarlett Aldebot-Green joined the meeting by phone and was acting as official IGG voting member. Scarlett will be stepping in as the County Council representative; Katherine Cortes announced that she accepted a job with the City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs as its Director of Operations and would not be continuing to represent the County Council on the COO Governance/Advisory Board.

The IGG congratulated Katherine and thanked her for her participation on the IGG.

COO Governance Group/Advisory Board – Ubax provided a summary of the application review process for COO Governance Group/Advisory Board members and summarized the process outlined in the memo. A committee of five IGG members met twice to develop criteria it used in reviewing potential candidates and creating a slate of candidates comprised of IGG members and new applicants. The committee reviewed 17 applications and recommended that 10 non-founder positions be filled. The slate was developed with consideration to geographic representation, with a focus on the communities where there are greatest disparities in health and well-being. Ubax described the experience of the people who are being recommended to join the Board.

Scarlett proposed an amendment to add a candidate to the slate from the applicant pool; she held open the possibility of a subsequent amendment to add another applicant.

IGG members raised questions about recommendations for additional members and whether there was a concern from King County Council members that the slate may be missing specific expertise or representation that they felt should be considered.

The IGG members did not feel that they had sufficient information to make decisions about the additional proposed individual and could not effectively consider additions without considering how these changes related to the slate, as a whole. During the discussion, the IGG called into question issues of power in the decision making processes, their intent to do business differently, respect for a committee process, the need for clarity in COO decision making processes. The question of how amendments or comments may be introduced during discussion and decision making was raised. The IGG acknowledged the challenging role that Scarlett and Katherine play by representing 9 council members. It was also noted that each of the IGG members is representing multiple interests in these discussions and decisions.

IGG considered options and decided to not vote on the slate. They requested that the Transition Committee reconvene with a King County Council staff member present. The IGG would review recommendations at the April IGG meeting. Timing is of the essence, as the IGG cannot finalize any funding decisions until the BSK COO Advisory Board is established through approval by the King County Council. Meanwhile, the three place-based sites and their partners are continuing to work on plans and implementation. The longer that decisions are

delayed, the more difficult it becomes for nonprofit and community-based agencies to continue at the pace of their collaborative efforts.

COO Initiative Operations – Andrea gave a brief update on operations for COO:

- Staff Retreat. The staff met at the beginning of the month, over two half-days in a facilitated retreat where they clarified roles and discussed implementation for COO in its new phase of implementation.
- Grantee Meeting. Kirsten described plans for the March 24th meeting with COO grantees. IGG members have been invited to participate as facilitators for the break-out sessions; place based partners will be part of a panel.
- Future Governance Group and Advisory Board meetings. Staff is creating decision making agenda/schedule for future GG meetings. The discussion will include process for decisions, role(s) of staff and of the GG and the BSK COO Advisory Board.

Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development – Dan Bernard gave an update on workforce development and WorkSource system integration activities for COO. He provided background on WorkSource system, which is primarily federally funded and operates locally through 31 sites across King County. His work has focused on local hire and workforce development through community outreach, working closely with the three site-based partners in SeaTac/Tukwila, Rainier Valley and White Center. There have been 15 workforce, employment related events in these three sites, with 100+ employers and over 1,900 attendees. He highlighted community events and job fairs; changes in employer outreach to communities (including translation of materials into different languages) and in-person interviewing that are coupled with hands-on assistance with job applications. Some examples of activities:

- Increasing access to WorkSource services that meet people where they are. A Job Club series is being planned at the SeaTac Angle Lake resource center, beginning in April.
- Building employer relationships through hiring & interviewing events with Safeway (White Center/Burien), Harborview and Starbucks.
- Technology training and coding workshops with potential for scholarships for applicants.
- Assistance for local small businesses and entrepreneurs (White Center’s event with SBA, Craft3, Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship, and others)

Challenges exist for funding for employment and training programs, capturing quantitative data, developing more and deeper relationships with employers.

Tony encouraged us to think of different ways to reach job seekers and small businesses. He noted use of social media for systems like WorkSource and how banks are changing lending and access to capital by using business records/data from credit card transactions, bypassing traditional practices.

IGG members also expressed interest in seeing how WorkSource and other resources can assist youth/young adults and making sure that there is alignment/connections with other County employment initiatives.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2 to 4 p.m. Seattle Foundation