



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP

January 15, 2021 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Zoom: [Meeting 972 5834 3626 - passcode 799542](#)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
2:00	Welcome	Andrea Akita
2:03	Consent Agenda <i>Review and approve the January 15th agenda and notes from December 18, 2020 Meeting</i>	Michael Brown
2:05 – 2:20	Grounding & Equity Moment <i>Objectives: Make connections with one another and to COO through reflection and sharing of experiences.</i>	All
2:20 – 2:55	Children & Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) <i>Objectives: Introduction to CYAB Co-Chairs and discussion on opportunities for collaboration.</i>	Hikma Sherka Jessica Warner
2:55 – 3:35	Learning from Peer Initiatives: Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Community Action Plan <i>Objectives: Provide a spotlight on and learn about REACH's Community Action Plan for African American Maternal & Infant Health. Discuss implications for COO's work.</i>	Joyce McCraney Delores Baccus
3:35 – 3:55	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
Kacey Guin

Ubax Gardheere
Matelita Jackson
Paola Maranan
Jenn Ramirez Robson
Yordanos Teferi

Marguerite Ro
Sili Savusa
Tony To
AJ McClure

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE FOUNDING

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 – Communities of Opportunity – Governance Group Meeting Notes

Friday, December 18, 2020

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Zoom Call

Members Present: Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Michael Brown, Vazaskia Crockrell, Kacy Guin, Paola Maranan, Marguerite Ro, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Sili Savusa, Yordanos Teferi, Tony To

Facilitator: Alessandra Zielinski **Staff:** Andréa Akita, Dionne Foster, Cristina Gonzalez, Whitney Johnson, Blishda Lacet, José Camacho Martinez, Aaron Robertson, Kris Hermanns

Guests: Sheila Capestany (BSK), Marcy Miller (BSK), Haregu Kidane (RV Partnership)

Consent Agenda: Governance Group (GG) approved the consent agenda with the meeting minutes from the November 20, 2020 meeting and the December 18, 2020 agenda.

Grounding and Equity Moment: Alessandra asked everyone to reflect on the guiding principles, how each of us is living those principles and as 2020 comes to an end, what are we celebrating. Various members took turns each reading a grounding principle and sharing reflections. There were acknowledgements of gratitude for individuals trying to change the system from the inside, celebrating public servants, BIPOC community members who are committed to social justice and changing practices and their impact on decision makers; leadership that owns systemic racism and are making space and time for changes; work towards institutionalizing equity, in the moment reflections.

Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal: Briefing & Discussion. Sheila Capestany, Strategic Advisor for Best Starts and the new King County Department of Community & Human Services' Youth and Family Division Director and Marcy Miller, Public Health Department Policy Manager and Best Starts co-lead were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Sheila provided [county overview of plans for the Levy Renewal](#). The summer/fall and received feedback. Last week, the Council approved the Best Starts Assessment Report and the Best Starts team is preparing submittal of the Blueprint Plan and Ordinance for a renewal process.

The policy recommendation is to keep BSK frame intact. A lot of research went into the framework and the long-term vision of Happy, Healthy, Safe and Thriving. Based on community conversations and outreach with 700+ participants and a survey that was conducted along with 50 interviews with BSK project managers.

The BSK Team is still working with the Executive on finalizing the levy. It is scheduled to be transmitted at the end of January 2021 and in review by the Council for 2-4 months. The Council of the Whole will vote in May and if approved it will be on the ballot in August.

BSK has several strategies and investment areas: Investing Early (P-5), Sustaining the Gain (5-24), Communities Matter, Homelessness Prevention, Data and Evaluation. 10% of the levy funding is assigned to COO. Data and evaluation accounts for 5% of the levy and work has been done on how data is collected, changing notions of who owns data and asking community on what that means. There was a lot of research and community input that went into the recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. Keep leading with equity and deepen the work that we do by deeply embedding and leading from this place.

2. We want to keep doing all of those strategies to see the outcomes and impacts.
3. Strengthen care for children and youth by increasing the levy by 5-cents to a total of 19 cents. In this scenario the additional dollars would be allocated to helping access childcare. Providing for subsidies and co-pays as well as a wage supplement for childcare workers. Recognizing that childcare workers are underpaid and are performing vital work.

1-cent increase of funding would be allocated for afterschool activities for 5-12-year-old age group. The levy would also provide investment in health-based centers in schools outside of the urban areas. Continue to build and do system work while increasing the role of young people. The Children and Youth Advisory Board has an agenda and policy frame and includes youth board members. Helping lead us where we should be going.

Discussion, Q&A:

- What are the ages of the youth participants on the committee? Answer: It's under 24. We recently lost our youngest member to a car accident; she was just 20 and had been on the board since 16. We are open to talking to young people about joining the board. Her father has said, he wants to talk about her with a smile and so we will bring love her for Sophie.
- What are the impacts of providing universal childcare? Answer: We've been looking at the issues involved. The state has to take some responsibility and we have to figure out what we can do. A third to a quarter of the money that we would need. Do you increase or have a second levy to address those needs? The county may decide it needs to be a stand-alone issue.
- How is data and evaluation used to make funding recommendations for the levy renewal? Answer: Utilizing the outcome data, analysis of all data and making informed decisions on direction as a result.
- Are you aware of any other measures up next year? Is the BSK levy a property tax? Answer: I'm not sure exactly, there may be something with the libraries. Yes, BSK is a property tax levy, all of the numbers are based on forecast of property values.
- What are the implications for COO and what should COO be paying attention to? Answer: We are recommending a commitment to keeping COO at the investment level that we made, wrapping community around young people. There is some work that we have to do with GG and CYAB, there's some beautiful intersections, stopping to prison pipeline, youth development and two others, we can begin to look at those connections for the future. Bringing COO and BSK investments together to assure the wellbeing of our young people.
- A five-cent increase is needed to sustain funding.

RFP for Black-led Systems & Policy Change: Dionne Foster reviewed the RFP process and shared a list of [recommendations to award funding to seven organizations](#) working on projects that focus on topics such as justice system reform, food justice, Black maternal health, anti-displacement work, and youth leadership for school reform.

The RFP for Black-led Systems & Policy Change closed on October 27th and we received 28 partnership applications. Review panelists and staff met with 10 applicants in virtual site visits in December and has made funding recommendations. Grantees gave feedback on how meaningful it was to have COO's vision and support for this work and for creating a process that included review and recommendations by a committee of members from the Black community. Seven organizations are recommended to receive COO awards.

COO originally planned for five grants at the time the RFP was released. With funding from Best Starts, Seattle Foundation, and an additional commitment from the Stolte Foundation, COO will be able to make

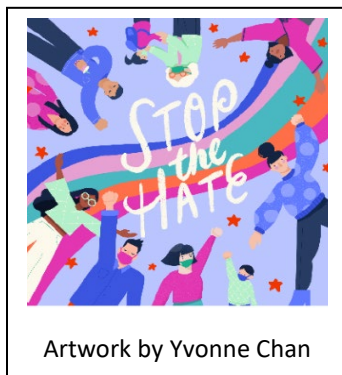
seven awards. Dionne noted that the City of Seattle also announced awards today for funding, which includes one of the organizations that COO is recommending to fund.

A question was asked regarding funding allocations to KC Equity Now and Wa Na Wari (\$145K each) as those two organizations were listed as partners in each other's work. Dionne described the different projects that each group has proposed, explaining that KC Equity Now is a coalition of more than 60 groups and many of the other grantees. They formed a strong black collective that addresses different and unique bodies of work. Wa Na Wari is conducting survey work on black homeowners and residents to find out what their needs so they can stay in place. They can resource each other; they're unique projects with deep networks.

Action: Approval for \$1,015,000 in grants to [grants to policy and systems change by black-led organizations](#). This funding will be awarded to seven groups, with each group/partnership receiving up to \$145,000 for their proposed project.

Motion to approve the grants was made by Tony To and seconded by Sili Savusa. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Governance Group congratulated and thanked Dionne for leading this process.



Artwork by Yvonne Chan

Meeting Briefing: COVID 19 Anti-Hate & Stigma Digital Art Campaign

Whitney Johnson introduced the [work of several artists](#): *Tori Shao, Drag & Drop Creative, Sharyn Santiago, Toka Valu, Che Sehyun, Nasrin Afrouz, and Yvonne Chan*, who were selected for to create digital artwork for an anti-hate and stigma campaign. The artists' work is reflective of the resilience and strength within these communities and is in alignment with the COO principles of community health and community care.

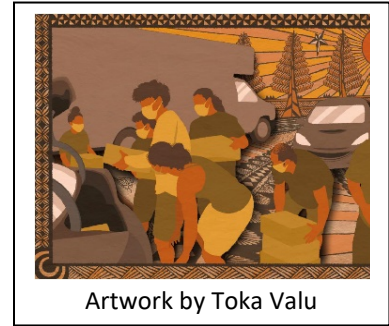
The idea originated from the King County Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) and the COVID-19 Equity Response Team members. Early in 2020, there were increasing reports by Asian American communities of hate and stigma from fears of COVID-19. An art campaign to create anti-hate, anti-stigma messages was supported by \$20,000 from COO. An open call for submissions went through OESJ with Public Health communications staff providing the review and selection of submissions. A total of seven artists participated with 16 individual art pieces submitted.

The project provided direct support of \$2,000 to each local artists from COO communities. Submissions were limited to 2D digital art that supported inclusive narratives. The artwork will be shared with general residents most impacted by COVID-19 through Public Health Seattle-King County, OESJ, and COO digital platforms.

The artwork was well-received by the Governance Group members, who shared these comments, questions and suggestions:

- The artwork was described as moving, vibrant, inspiring, positive, amazing and visionary!
- Can the artwork be used as transitional slide visuals at the upcoming MLK celebration?
- What type of support did the artists receive? They were recognized and credited.

- We seldom get to see artwork from Pacific Islander community being uplifted and visible. To see the work of Toka Valu in this campaign is a moving and powerful statement; for [our] communities to see themselves reflected through this artwork is incredible!
- Is there ability to lift up the artwork through other social media platforms such as All in Washington? Is there a possibility to support these same artists around a vaccine education campaign?



Artwork by Toka Valu

Updates & Appreciation:

- The majority of the board members terms are up for renewal; COO invites members to continue to serve another term. Andrea will reach out to members in the New Year about reappointments to the COO advisory board/GG.
- As this is Kacey Guin's last meeting with the board. Members expressed appreciation and gratitude for the role she played in supporting COO, for her service on the board and the way she showed up with her thoughtful questions and information sharing.
- Sili lifted up organizations that were mentioned on this call: Africatown Community Land Trust, KC Equity Now, YWCA for the holiday events they are organizing in the central area, Rainier Beach area. They've included support to White Center and working with the CDA, they will provide gift cards for 200 families, hot meals next Wednesday, providing \$30,000 for the cost of the event. She was appreciative of communities that are looking after each other with shout outs to individuals (Margo and Isaac).

Upcoming Events –

- Community Real Estate Stewardship Team (CREST) hosted by Puget Sound Sage will hold a virtual event and share out from the CREST cohort members on January 9, 2021 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, RSVP at bit.ly/crestcsl. CREST is one of the Learning Community projects, funded by COO.
- In early 2021, COO with Communities Rise Cohorts will hold two foundational workshops on transformative justice approaches to conflict and generative solutions, and principles on restorative and healing justice. [Vision Change Win](#) will lead the workshops.
- Civic Commons is hosting with Evergrey a roundtable discussion on [Belonging](#).

The meeting closed with a member expressing a deep admiration for participants on their commitment to the board and the critically important work that is being done and acknowledged that 2020 was a year of transformation for as individuals and community.

3- Staff Report

This month, the theme for our meeting is aligning and collaborating. We're happy to have several guests from other initiatives, connected to the work of COO, who'll participate in the meeting and share information and suggest ways for us to collaborate.

The January 15, 2021 Governance Group Meeting agenda includes:

Introductions: Children & Youth Advisory Board Co-Chairs

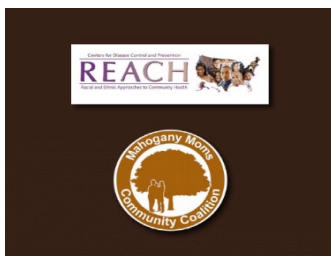
Hikma Sherka and Jessica Warner, co-chairs of the Children & Youth Advisory Board (CYAB), will join us to introduce themselves and their involvement with CYAB.

The King County CYAB is an oversight and advisory board comprised of King County residents and stakeholders with geographically and culturally diverse perspectives who make recommendations and monitor distribution of levy proceeds. Executive Constantine appointed 35 experts, researchers, and community leaders to the Children and Youth Advisory Board, and the King County Council [approved the members](#) in January 2016



Learning from other King County Initiatives: Introduction & Spotlight on 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, we wanted to introduce colleagues from the REACH program who are creating community action plans with the Black and African communities for greater health equity. Joyce McCraney and Delores Baccus are engaging multigenerational members of the African American community to create community action plans:



One Loss Too Many: A Community Action Plan for African American Maternal & Infant Health.

The racism experienced by the African American community has led to health disparities for generations and is particularly pronounced for moms and babies. This community holds solutions to save the lives of its families, friends and future generations, and yet these ideas are seldom considered. One Loss Too Many is a partnership with Mahogany Moms and Public Health

Seattle & King County that centers the voices of African Americans in south King and Pierce Counties in Washington state, and the institutions that interact with them.

You can read more about Community Action Plan work [here](#).



ONE LOSS TOO MANY:

A Community Action Plan for African American Maternal & Infant Health



The racism experienced by the African American community has led to health disparities for generations and is particularly pronounced for moms and babies. This community holds solutions to save the lives of its families, friends and future generations, and yet these ideas are seldom considered. One Loss Too Many is a partnership with Mahogany Moms and Public Health Seattle & King County that centers the voices of African Americans in south King and Pierce Counties in Washington state, and the institutions that interact with them.

The Challenge

The chronic stress that African American women experience due to anti-Black racism and discrimination increases the risk of maternal death and poor birth outcomes.¹ In the United States, Black women die from childbirth at a rate that is over three times higher than white women² and are more than twice as likely to lose a baby in the first year of life than white women³. Black women experience the highest rates of preterm birth, diabetes, obesity and infant mortality.

Exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months (as recommended by many health organizations) decreases many of the mentioned health risks for babies, and reduces the incidences of breast and ovarian cancer, and type 2 diabetes, among other risk factors for mothers. Because breastfeeding leads to improved health outcomes for both mothers and babies, human milk's ability to prevent disease should not be underestimated when addressing health disparities and inequities.

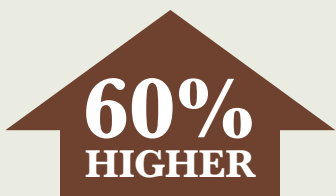
Approach

The approach of this work is community-led and collaborative, with the goal to together identify the problems at hand and create a community action plan with solutions at the individual, community and systems level. Project aspects include the following:

1. Conduct a literature review to identify, analyze and explain:
 - > The impact of racism on maternal and child health in the African American community
 - > The infant and maternal mortality rates for south King and Pierce Counties
 - > Best practices in culturally appropriate maternal and infant care
 - > The importance of first foods of the newborn and infant to lower infant mortality
 - > The importance of safe infant sleep practices to lower infant mortality
2. Host community roundtable events in south King and Pierce counties to identify needs. Promote and recruit for these meetings via flyers through community partners (i.e. churches, coalitions, practitioner's offices, public health, etc.).
3. Create a Community Action Plan for African American families in south King and Pierce counties, informed by input from community events, with goals, specific actions and timelines.

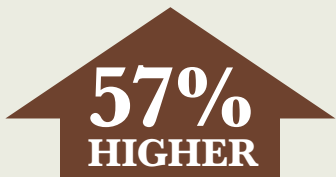
Black Infant Mortality Rate Discrepancies

Infants born to Black mothers in KING COUNTY suffered an average infant mortality rate nearly



than white residents (2015)⁴

Infants born to Black mothers in PIERCE COUNTY suffered an average infant mortality rate more than



than white residents (2015)⁴

“Miss Delores Baccus has shown exemplary leadership while facilitating difficult conversations about the intersections of being Black & female, motherhood, economics & how all of that impacts our health. We have been & are in crisis! Having the opportunity to learn & contribute with other concerned citizens has been insightful, cathartic & necessary. I’m very appreciative!” —**Sheyla**

Results

Three meetings were held at a local church, with approximately twenty community members attending each. Thirteen people attended all three of the meetings. Community members arrived engaged, ready to restart discussions from the previous meetings and continue working on completing the plan. The importance for community-based organization Mahogany Moms to remain the lead for this work and partnership, and that all documents created remain under community ownership. There was a true desire to talk about the topics, and to effect real change in their communities.

Following the second meeting, a Community Action Plan was drafted with the following needs identified:

- > Widespread training on racism, bias, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), cultural humility, and equity for everyone working with African Americans
- > Education on generational trauma
- > Stop using African Americans as test subjects and emphasize patient autonomy
- > Equitable pay/Compensation
- > Stop tokenism– One person does not speak for a community or race of people
- > Create Diversity Task Forces to enforce accountability

This Community Action Plan identifies changes that the African American community in King and Pierce counties need to achieve overall health and wellness in their communities. This work includes changes in many sectors: hospitals, law enforcement, legislation, education (youth and adult), state government, county government, hospital associations, WIC, breastfeeding, community services. These improvements will not only help African Americans but would also benefit other communities of color as well.

Sustaining Success

Community meetings will continue to be held quarterly. Future plans include the need to identify someone in each of the identified sectors to participate in the community meetings to help drive the necessary changes.

Contact Information

Delores Baccus | MA, RN, IBCLC, Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program Manager, Public Health Seattle & King County, WIC and Nutrition Services
Email: delores.baccus@kingcounty.gov



Continued Work

- > Develop a way to share our processes with other communities to do this work
- > Bring African American women to the table in the development of Washington State Hospital Association equity policy for birthing hospitals.
- > Conduct physicians' training/workshop on racism, equity and social justice with WA State Department of Health with funding from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.
- > Prioritize policy and program changes needed for the included sectors.
- > Work with Public Health, Seattle & King County, WA Department of Health and WIC on breastfeeding education activities.

1 Ihusen, Bower, Epstein & Sharps, 2016; Mutambudzi, Meyer, Reisine & Warren, 2017; Chambers, Erasquin, Tanner, Nichols & Brown-Jeffy, 2018

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Continue in Pregnancy-Related Deaths, 2019.

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2016

4 Washington Department of Health, 2015