



Spokane Health Equity in Disasters Task Force Meeting #1 Summary

Date/Time: September 21, 2023

Call to Order

- ASL interpreters were not present at time of meeting, WID staff requested a delay in meeting launch to secure accommodations. Meeting had a delayed start by a few minutes for ASL interpreters to join.
- Welcome provided by Robin Albrandt, task force POC.
- Attendees introduced themselves. Robin noted that some agencies who were interested in participating were not present due to scheduling conflicts.

Open Items

- Dee Grimm provided a PowerPoint presentation to explain the project. Key points of the presentation included
 - Terminology review
 - Social inequity
 - Health inequity
 - Root causes of inequity and social determinants of health
 - Disabilities and inequities
 - Premise of the Project – to look at how prejudice, bias, misconceptions are, and will, impact our local resources and how people are treated in disaster
 - Jim House added in chat that technology is an example of how this can impact individuals who are trying to respond to and recover from disasters.
 - Solutions need to begin at the local level to involve local and national issues
 - There were lessons learned from COVID that highlighted disparities for people with disabilities in disaster situations. Including increased isolation, separation from support personnel, allocation of scarce resources, bias in perceptions of quality of life.



- Project goals: 1. Improve health outcomes for people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. 2. Improve programs and services for people with disabilities at the local level, focusing on community health resiliency. 3. Engage representatives, identify promising practices and provide technical assistance to generate actionable solutions.
- Anticipated outcomes: decreasing disparities in health outcomes at the local level. Create partnerships with local community partners, improve outcomes for disability populations.
- Project steps 1. Identify jurisdictions, identify task force members, identify what is working in the community and experienced of what works well locally. 2. look at community health assessments to know what is working or not working locally in the jurisdiction.

Looking at a broad spectrum of different environments, rural vs. urban, and being broad based about who is involved in the project. Then developing root cause analysis of local level issues, and develop action plans to improve outcomes and hopefully document outcomes to make national recommendations.

This is a multiyear project. We are in year 2 of the 5 year project.

- Expectations of the task force, including making sure that there is racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in the task force to address intersectionality. Wanting the group to be socioeconomically and geographically diverse, and specific to the demographics and character of the local environment.
- We asked the POC, Robin, about who should be on the task force we created a list, on the slide, that can be enlarged and enhanced. We want to have policy leader representation to affect change so that when we do identify and discuss where we see local disparities, we need to have people that can make change.



Private sector partners can help us get the word out and work with us. Including tribal Nations and disabilities stakeholders with lived experience.

We know that what is being done on a day to day basis that is inequitable with translate to what happens in a disaster. We also want to be diverse in the functional needs that we are addressing and cover as broad a spectrum as we can.

- Bilingual advocates were mentioned in the chat.

We want the task force to assemble community representation, policymakers, service providers, emergency management, and to look at potential disparities in different sectors.

We want the task force to perform an assessment of existing services and practices in the community and develop a plan where we can help modify, remedy, or even remove inequities, give service delivery, policies and practices that the task force identifies as barriers to equitable treatment, and hopefully actually implementing some of the strategies at the local level.

- It was determined that the Spokane task force is to meet on the third Thursday of the month. Agendas will be shared one week before the meeting so everyone has time to prepare. Task force members will assist us with distribution of surveys and information gathering. WID will assist with task force facilitation but you are the local experts based on your experience, knowledge, and based upon what you do daily about community issues. So the task force is very vital in helping us to come together to work well in the community on a daily basis and translate that to disasters.

New Business

- Dee reviewed next steps

- Task force is asked to identify who should be sitting at the table on the task force. So for the next meeting the task force members are think about who else should be there.
- The next meeting is to look at sharing some work that has already been done. We don't want to reinvent the wheel. You have probably done work related to this subject and we would like to find out what you all have already done.
- Dee turned the conversation over to Dawn who added
 - A web page is being developed to provide a way to document the resources and expertise of the task force. The web page will be shared with the task force through Robin. It will be populated with information, resources, updates, meeting minutes, and variety of other things to facilitate effective communication.
 - Task force will be active for up to 24 months and task force will evolve. And web page will be used to track activities, what will be put in a parking lot and to integrate real-time lived experience as things come up and as the Task Force develops different focus areas, to be able to document in a more strategic manner and to look at some of the things that are successful.
 - Robin will have an additional webpage to track manage and receive assistance.
 - Web page is intended for effective functioning and can be modified to the task force needs so feedback is desired. Task force playbook will be available and will also be adapted as needed.
 - Thank you all for using the chat and sharing information.
 - WID and Robin will be providing homework for next session.
- Dawn turned the conversation over to Robin for questions.
 - Dee interjected that the three homework items are: 1. Who is sitting at the table 2. What you already know are issues or concerns 3. Document what is already being one in the community.



- Robin noted that there have been some suggestions for task members in the chat and many of them were invited to attend but were not able to attend.
- Robin asked if there are any questions.
 - Todd mentioned that there are several people who are also part of community collaboration with the DOH and other groups who will be doing similar work. He noted that the website will be a huge benefit to be able to identify the direction that the task force is going, where they can get information and who needs to be at the table et. Cetera. He shared that from an independent living perspective, they are looking at where the medical model and social model intersect are where folks in the disability rights and independent living movement who are in this Task Force will have a lot to say about. But as was mentioned there are a lot of ripple effects that they have identified from the global pandemic that tell that the other populations people with access and functional needs and other marginalized groups, we need to get feedback from them. And that he thinks that we have connections and we have created groups within the Department of Health that can help us there as well. So we do have a disability and access of and functional needs Working Group that is started with the Department of Health. We'll bring everything we have from that group to support this Task Force.
- Robin thanked Todd and commented that it was a good group that will be a huge benefit. She noted that the slide show will be on the website and reiterated that the Agenda will be out the week before the next meeting along with the homework. Robin noted other items in the chat:
 - Erin stated that transportation is a huge barrier in rural communities. Especially some of the places that were just affected by the wildfires, the great road or elk or the Oregon road fire, the great fire.

Closing

- Robin thanked everyone for coming and noted that it was good to be back together with some friends that she has worked with for quite a few years and to meet new friends to be able to develop the task force for the community. Meeting was adjourned.