



## Meeting Minutes #9- Spokane Health Equity Task Force

**Date:** June 20, 2024

**Time:** 10 am PT

**Location:** Zoom

### Present:

- Todd Holloway
- Simone Ramel-McKay
- S Rose
- Virginia Matheny
- Sarah Nuss
- Aerius Franklin
- Rebecca MacMullan
- Bethany Osgood

### Meeting Facilitators:

- Denise Grimm (Dee)
- Dawn Skaggs
- Robin Albrandt
- Allysa Rapadas

### Executive Summary:

- Welcomed new emergency preparedness specialist Rebecca McMullen and discussed survey updates, with plans to increase participation through social media, outreach to additional providers/organizations, and in-person assistance.
- Identified key health equity concerns, including access and communication challenges, serving populations with diminished capacity, provider bias and lack of cultural competence, and limitations in emergency planning and response.
- Task force members to provide 3 key concerns and share relevant data, with plans to analyze input and develop actionable strategies at the next meeting.

### Meeting Notes:

#### Introduction and Announcements

- Welcomed new team member Rebecca McMullen, the new emergency preparedness and response specialist, who will be joining the task force.
- Provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

## Survey Update and Outreach Strategies

- Current survey response numbers:
  - Client/consumer survey: 34 total responses
  - Provider/partner survey: 18 total responses
- Task force members shared strategies to increase survey participation:
  - Promoting through social media website, email, and community events/fairs.
  - Reaching out to additional providers and organizations (e.g. tribes, homeless coalitions, rural areas).
  - Reiterating survey importance and resending to previous contacts
- Discussed using QR codes and in-person assistance at locations like libraries and senior centers to increase participation.
- Identified potential providers to reach out to:
  - Providence, MultiCare, independent/small clinics in rural areas like Deer Park, Cheney, Medical Lake
  - UNIFI healthcare system
  - Homeless shelters and the city's homeless outreach program

## Discussion on Health Equity Perceptions and Concerns

- Service Delivery:
  - Challenges with access, communication, and technology/digital access
  - Serving populations with diminished capacity (e.g. dementia, cognitive issues):
  - Difficulty assisting those with diminished capacity to complete forms and follow up.
  - Need for providers and services to accommodate cognitive/mental health needs.
  - Lack of consistent cell phone service and internet access in rural areas, impacting communication.
- Provider Services:
  - Implicit bias, limited time for holistic care, lack of cultural competence.
  - Trust issues, misdiagnosis, and poor quality of care in rural areas.
  - Providers not taking time to understand whole person and cultural context.
  - Short appointment times don't allow understanding the patient's full situation.
  - Providers prioritizing system requirements over patient needs.
- Emergency Management:
  - Funding/resource limitations to support whole community planning and outreach.
  - Politicization of emergency management impacting equitable services.
  - Need for more inclusive planning, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts
  - Difficulty reaching diverse/vulnerable populations.
  - Lack of interpreters and accessible communication for events.
  - Prioritizing areas to focus on due to limited resources.

[End of Meeting Minutes]