



## Meeting Minutes #19- Spokane Health Equity Task Force

**Date:** April 17, 2025

**Time:** 10 am PT

**Location:** Zoom

**Present:**

- Todd Holloway
- Jenni Jones
- Aerius Franklin
- Devon
- Jim House
- Chris Jaklitsch
- Liz Richardson
- Simone Ramel-McKay
- S Rose
- Rebecca MacMullan
- Jes R

**Meeting Facilitators:**

- Robin Albrandt
- Dee Grimm
- Christina Alfaro
- Allysa Rapadas

**Executive Summary:**

- Allysa led a transition from problem identification to solution development, introducing a "How Might We" activity to reframe issues into potential solutions for emergency preparedness and communication for people with disabilities.
- The task force discussed feasibility and priorities, with Dee Grimm emphasizing the use of SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-relevant) for evaluating and categorizing potential solutions.
- Next steps include task force members reviewing the whiteboard, preparing thoughts on moving forward with solutions, and completing a health check survey, presented additional initiatives (Smoke Ready campaign and SSDI training) for community engagement.

**Meeting Notes:**

*Meeting Overview*

- The meeting focused on reviewing past work and transitioning to solution-focused discussions for emergency preparedness and communication for people with disabilities.
- Key objectives included reviewing the whiteboard work on gaps and strategies, and conducting a "How Might We" activity to frame problem statements for solution development.

*Review of Previous Work*

- Allysa provided an overview of the whiteboard used in previous meetings:

- The task force has been prioritizing focus areas and specific issues over the past few months.
- This month marks a transition to focusing on solutions.
- Key topic areas identified include:
  - Accessible information and communication with the public
  - Bias and perceptions in provider agencies and organizations
  - Challenges in interactions between first responders and people with disabilities
  - Lack of resources (including transportation issues)
- The whiteboard contains detailed breakdowns of specific issues within each topic area.

### *"How Might We" Activity*

#### Introduction to Activity

- Allysa explained the "How Might We" activity:
  - Purpose: To reframe issues and insights from past meetings into potential solutions
  - Process: Participants were asked to create statements in the format "How might we [purpose] for [stakeholders] in order to [intended results]?"
  - Time allocated: 4-5 minutes for individual brainstorming

#### Problem Statement Review

- The key problem statement presented on the whiteboard was:
  - "People with disabilities do not have reliable or accessible ways to get emergency information online or through in-person outreach. People often need to sign up for emergency communications beforehand, and providers disregard or overlook the gaps to meet the needs of the public regarding accessible communications, such as addressing language barriers, the digital divide, or lack of reliable internet connection."

#### Stakeholder Groups

- Identified stakeholder groups include:
  - Community members with disabilities
  - Medical providers
  - Responders
  - Service providers
  - Informational resources
  - Local government officials
  - Stakeholder representatives
  - Community health workers
  - Trusted partners
  - Emergency managers
  - Religious organizations and faith-based groups (added during discussion)

- Tribal partners (added during discussion)

#### Generated "How Might We" Statements

- "How might we ensure that people with disabilities have reliable, accessible, and inclusive access to emergency information so they can stay informed and safe in any situation?"
- "How might we support providers' ability to encourage and support people with disabilities to sign up for accessible, reliable, and inclusive emergency information platforms?"
- "How might we ensure that messaging is simple to understand and responded to appropriately by everyone in order to ensure safety in any situations?"
- "How might we provide opportunities to everyone to sign up to receive emergency alerts through multiple modalities?"
- "How might we create new tools to improve emergency communications?"
- "How can we improve the methods that messages are dispersed?"
- "How can we ensure that emergency notifications reach and are understandable to all, regardless of digital access or communication style?"

#### Discussion on Feasibility and Priorities

- Dee Grimm emphasized using the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-relevant) when considering solutions.
- Todd raised concerns about the uncertainty of federal government support and institutions.
- Simone Ramel-McKay advised accepting what resources are already gone and focusing on immediate, achievable actions.
- Robin suggested concentrating on solutions that don't rely on uncertain tools or funding.
- Simone Ramel-McKay provided insights on emergency notification systems:
  - Current capabilities are limited to English and Spanish for broad public alerts.
  - Some registered notification systems can support up to five languages, but this doesn't include ASL or many other needed languages.
  - Suggested exploring partnerships with organizations that have more extensive language translation capabilities.
- FCC has procedures for expanding language accessibility, but Simone Ramel-McKay noted that these efforts may be on hold.
- Assistance was offered with translation services:
  - Has a contact at the refugee and immigrant connections who can provide translations for specific client groups.
  - Offered to be a liaison for smaller-scale translation needs at no cost.
  - Emphasized the importance of having original documents for translation purposes.

#### Next Steps for Strategic Planning

- Dee Grimm suggested prioritizing ideas based on the SMART criteria:
  - Category A: Follows SMART principles

- Category B: Lacking certain pieces (e.g., not measurable)
  - Category C: Not currently doable, but kept for future consideration
- Allysa proposed starting with one or two ideas to develop solutions and assign tasks to task force members.

#### *Additional Presentations*

##### *Smoke Ready Campaign*

- Rebecca presented on the Smoke Ready campaign:
  - A collaboration between Kian Regional Health District and Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
  - Aims to communicate wildfire smoke risks and mitigation strategies to individuals and households
  - Focus on communities in Spokane already overburdened by air pollution
  - Target audience: families with young children or expecting babies, and people with chronic conditions (cardiac, respiratory, kidney, mental health)
  - In-person focus groups scheduled for May 21st to develop materials and messaging
  - Requested task force help in distributing flyers (English and Spanish versions) with interest form links
  - Stipends will be provided for focus group participants

##### *SSDI Training Announcement*

- Aeries shared details about an upcoming SSDI and U training session:
  - Date: April 23rd
  - Time: 12:00 to 1:30 PM
  - Location: Central Library, Event Room B
  - Virtual option available upon request
  - Registration required via Eventbrite link provided
  - Interpreters requested for deaf community attendees
  - Topics covered: Social Security red books (work incentives, ticket to work programs) and blue books (medical impairments)
  - Will not cover retirement-related topics

##### *Meeting Wrap-up*

- Dee Grimm provided closing remarks:
  - Reminded participants to think about how to make the process work towards strategic solutions
  - Encouraged consideration of other issues to be included in future discussions
  - Announced a new task force survey (health check) to be completed by members
- Robin concluded the meeting:
  - Thanked everyone for their participation and great discussion
  - Expressed excitement about the progress in narrowing down and identifying ways to help the community
  - Promised to send the survey link via email



- Homework for task force members:
  - Review the whiteboard screenshot (to be shared later)
  - Prepare thoughts on how to move forward with solutions for the next meeting
  - Complete the task force survey (health check)

[End of Meeting Minutes]