



Meeting Minutes #20- Spokane Health Equity Task Force

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 10 am PT

Location: Zoom

Present:

- Todd Holloway
- Jenni Jones
- Aerius Franklin
- Devon
- Jim House
- Liz Richardson
- Simone Ramel-McKay
- Sue Pniewski
- Rebecca MacMullan
- Jes R

Meeting Facilitators:

- Robin Albrandt
- Christina Alfaro
- Allysa Rapadas

Executive Summary:

- The task force selected the guiding statement: "How can we further community collaboration to better understand communal needs and capacities?" to focus their efforts on improving emergency preparedness and communication for people with disabilities.
- A brainstorming session generated ideas for enhancing community collaboration, including creating a comprehensive partner list, leveraging existing resources, conducting surveys, and participating in community events.
- Robin proposed forming a pilot work group to implement the creation of a key contacts and partners list as a strategic task, with potential support from the Functional and Access Needs group as suggested by Simone.

Meeting Notes:

- The task force meeting focused on reviewing previous work, selecting a "How Might We" statement, and brainstorming ideas for community collaboration in emergency preparedness and communication.
- Key goals included:
 - Choosing a specific "How Might We" statement to guide future work
 - Generating ideas for improving community collaboration
 - Discussing feasibility of proposed solutions
 - Planning next steps and future meeting topics

Review of Previous Work

Focus Areas and Problem Statements

- Allysa Rapadas reviewed the group's previous work on focus areas, issues, and root causes, particularly around accessible information and communication.
- The key problem statement identified 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 communication such as phone and providers disregard or overlook the gaps and the needs of the public regarding accessible communication, such as addressing language barriers, digital divide or a lack of internet connection."

Stakeholder Groups

- Key stakeholder groups identified included:
 - Community members with disabilities
 - Medical providers
 - Responders
 - Service providers
 - Local government officials
 - Community health workers
 - Emergency managers
 - Religious or faith-based organizations
 - Tribal partners

Selection of "How Might We" Statement

- The group reviewed and voted on potential "How Might We" statements.
- Allysa Rapadas facilitated a voting process using chat reactions to gauge preferences.
- The selected statement was: "How can we further community collaboration to better understand communal needs and capacities?"

Brainstorming Session

Ideas for Community Collaboration

- Participants shared various ideas for improving community collaboration, including:
 - Creating and maintaining a comprehensive list of partners and contacts
 - Leveraging existing resources and partnerships within organizations
 - Conducting surveys to collect data on community needs
 - Attending and participating in community events and coalitions
 - Developing a system to track and register for relevant events

Discussion of Feasibility

- Robin Albrandt emphasized the importance of thinking beyond the task force members and leveraging organizational resources.
- The group discussed the feasibility of creating and maintaining a shared contact list or spreadsheet.
- Task force member has already created an extensive spreadsheet of events, conferences, and coalitions for their organization.

Next Steps

Action Items

- The group agreed to move forward with creating a list of key contacts and partners as a strategic task.
- Simone Ramel-McKay suggested that the Functional and Access Needs group could take on some of the proposed actions.
- Robin Albrandt proposed forming a pilot work group to start implementing the contact list idea.

Topics for Future Meetings

- Todd suggested discussing broadband and other communication connections at the next meeting.
- The group identified a need to explore how to reach people who are currently not receiving any emergency messages, particularly in rural or urban parts of Spokane.

Administrative Updates

Next Meeting Schedule

- Robin Albrandt noted that the next scheduled meeting on June 19th conflicts with a holiday.
- The group agreed to reschedule the meeting to Thursday, June 26th at the same time.

Resource Reminders

- Christina Alfaro reminded participants that the PDF of the whiteboard and work done during the meeting will be available in the resources tab on the Task Force website.
- A recording of the Zoom meeting will also be available.
- The link to access the website is provided in the agenda.
- Allysa Rapadas requested participants to complete the health check survey, which is anonymous and accessible through a link in the agenda.

Closing Remarks

- Robin Albrandt mentioned that they had the opportunity to present the task force's work at the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response Summit the previous week.



- Robin Albrandt expressed appreciation for the group's work, noting that many people were impressed by their progress and achievements.
- The group was referred to as the "purple elephant" by Donna, highlighting their effective collaboration, commitment, and passion.
- Robin Albrandt expressed excitement about continuing the work and about Spokane County emergency management taking on the work group's identified tasks for implementation in the community.

[End of Meeting Minutes]