Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group
February 17, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: King County Chinook building Rm 126

Members Present: Michael Brown, Katherine Cortes, Ubax Gardheere, Betsy Jones, Jeff Natter, Sili Savusa, Tony To; Adam Taylor and Gordon McHenry (participating by phone)

Staff Present: Andrea Akita, Dan Bernard, Marguerite Ro, Aaron Robertson, Kirsten Wysen, Veronica Gonzalvo; Cheryl Markham (participating by phone)

Guests: Cindy Domingo and Larry Evans

Welcome and Introductions: Michael Brown welcomed members and guests; each person present introduced themselves.

Strategic Plan Discussion -- Landscape: Initiative Mapping and “Connecting the Dots”
Andrea introduced a brainstorming exercise to identify other initiative where there are opportunities for coordinated impact and alignment. The ideas that were generated will be used to help provide some context for the discussions that COO will have with the Urban Institute in March-April.

COO members and staff members wrote the names of organizations, projects/programs, and funding initiatives which were posted on a white board. The initial list of potential strategic partners, programs, and resources emerged from the ideas and were plotted on the board.

COO Initiative Operations

1. Advisory Board
   We have extended the application deadline for COO Advisory Board members. As of this week, we have received letters of interest from 11 applicants interested in serving on the COO Advisory Board. We want to thank Ubax, Tony, Paola, Michael and Betsy for participating on a workgroup to review initial applications. Members of the IGG who have expressed an interest serving on the Advisory Board are requested to submit information to Kirsten.

   The IGG will vote on a slate at the March 17th meeting.

2. Backbone/Partnership Support
   In accordance with the commitment from the Seattle Foundation to provide backbone support for 3-5 years, when site partners were selected. The Foundation is disbursing funds to each of the sites by or before the end of February. Seattle Foundation will honor its commitment to provide the minimum annual backbone funds of $150,000 to each of the three site partners – Rainier Valley, SeaTac/Tukwila, and White Center.
This is in accordance with the COO minimum commitment for 3-5 years, made when the site partners were selected.)

3. Decision Agenda/Process
   With the addition of the Best Starts for Kids funding and creation of plans for implementation, the staff will be creating a decision schedule, including reviewing the decision making processes for different funding processes, funding sources. We plan to have discussion with Advisory Board decisions at the March 17th meeting.

4. Meeting with COO Grantees
   We are making plans to convene COO grantees (policy/systems + place-based) in March. The meeting will help create a stepping stone for COO’s Learning Community strategy, increase knowledge, to add voice to our policy/systems changes work, connect with each other on current work in four sectors and across them (health, housing, economic opportunity and community connections) and help in developing our learning community and scoping a policy agenda for COO.

   First step is a cohort meeting with COO partners – those who are part of place-based work in White Center, SeaTac/Tukwila & Rainier Valley – plus the partners who received funding through first rounds of Policy/Systems grants since 2014. A second cohort meeting will be scheduled in the fall.

5. Evaluation Timeline
   Update on timing for the Evaluation Plan for BSK/COO. The Evaluation Plan is due to King County Council by July 1st. With this timeline, evaluation team members are working on schedule to complete their draft report by April. This means that we planning on discussion at the March 17th meeting on COO evaluation component of the plan. Working toward this goal – we are convening groups – data workgroup/evaluation impact work group. Volunteers needed.

6. Staffing and Team Retreat
   COO Core Team members will meet at the end of February for a staff retreat. We will be working to redefine role/responsibilities as we build a new team and embark on our implementation plans for 2017.

   An administrative specialist position will be posted next week; the person hired will support COO and BSK.

7. SPARCC
   Last year we were invited to submit an application to the Strong, Prosperous and Resilient Community Challenge. King County was not chosen as one of the initial recipients: http://sparcchub.org/. SPARCC’s initial six sites are Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Memphis, and San Francisco Bay area.
Announcements, Updates and New Business

Updates on COO Grants. Deanna requested that IGG receive a report on the planning grants Auburn and Skyway place-based planning grants.

Farewell and Thank You. Jeff Natter announced that he will not be continuing as an IGG member, due to demands of PHPDA property development and management duties. David Fleming is not pursuing a board seat. Michael Woo is also stepping down. COO will plan to have a celebratory gathering at the beginning of the first new board meeting.

Immigrant and Refugee Communities. King County Executive announced a plan to provide rapid response services to help support immigrant rights and education, including pathways to citizenship; the proposal includes one-time funding of $750,000. SCA, 30 cities and 70 elected officials have signed on in support. Mayor David Baker (Kenmore) was at the announcement with Executive Constantine.

There is deep fear within the community, with the DACA arrest of Daniel Ramirez. Highline School District has seen a spike in absenteeism. Students and young people were striving toward their education and now people are in hiding. FQHCs are reporting that people are not renewing their health insurance because they are afraid to be on government lists. How do civil liberties apply to COO? It is being used as a tool to oppress even people with green cards.

Sound Cities Association Event. SCA is sponsoring a networking event featuring Attorney General Bob Ferguson on March 29, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Seattle Foundation Activities. Seattle Foundation is looking at their COO, Vibrant Democracy and Neighbor-to-Neighbor as core activities to build our region. There will be opportunities for IGG to help Seattle Foundation think about what more we can do? What partnerships can we build? How can we dismantle structures of institutional racism? Seattle Foundation is doubling-down and recommitting to this work, which is an organization-wide priority, not just within their grants. It is being expressed in working with donors, throughout their communications, and making sure that they are elevating institutional change efforts. They hope that through this leadership other funders are inspired.

We were reminded that COO and funders (King County and Seattle Foundation) must be careful so that communities of color are not pitted against each other. When we talk about immigrants and refugee and longtime resident people of color, “all means all.” What’s happening among immigrants and refugees now is inclusive of what’s happening to all people of color. Funding can create resentment and maybe too much competition between groups.