Communities of Opportunity Governance Group

3- Draft Minutes
October 20, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: King County Chinook Building, 401 5th Ave, Room 126, Seattle, WA 98104

Members Present: Michael Brown, Andrea Estes, Ubax Gardheere, Laura Hitchcock, Marty Jackson, Gordon McHenry, Jr, Jenn Ramirez-Robson, Marguerite Ro, Sili Savusa, Nate Smith, and Tony To

Staff: Aaron Robertson, Alice Ito, Andréa Akita, Blishda Lacet, Dan Bernard, Kalayaan Domingo, Shirley Dickerson

Consent Agenda
The Governance Group (GG) approved the October 20, 2017 consent agenda, which included the meeting minutes from September 15, 2017.

In Real Time Check-In
Andréa and staff heard at the September 7 and 8, 2017 retreat that GG members are interested in regular, real time check-ins on time-sensitive and pressing Communities of Opportunity (COO) issues on their minds. To start the October 20th meeting, GG members shared their top-of-mind thoughts related to the work of COO. Staff are tracking the issues raised for future conversations and strategy development.

The topics that surfaced included: concerns about civil rights of immigrants and people of color, including deportation threats and lack of due process and the environment of fear created from encounters with local and federal law enforcement; the alignment of COO work with other regional initiatives and investments (e.g. Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy, BSK investments in COO areas of the County, Accountable Communities of Health – social wellness & equity fund); and challenges and hopes for actualizing inclusion and diversity through representation on boards/tables (including COO); and soon-to-be published research/reports on organizations in King County that are led by people of color.

Retreat Follow-Up
Staff facilitated a conversation among GG members about the highest priority follow-up action steps identified during the September 7 and 8, 2017 retreat.

Racial Equity
The top priority for the GG in 2018 is to develop a COO framework for racial equity. The process of developing a framework is important as a foundation for our strategies and investments, as well as for clarity in setting outcomes, identifying indicators for measuring and demonstrating desired results, and establishes means for accountability in advancing racial justice. The GG is interested in working toward developing a common “language” and the assumptions that guide our racial equity goals. The question of how this would connect back to our results based accountability (RBA) framework was noted.
GG discussed ways to embed racial equity training as part of our learning community and to look for ways that learning occurs across the initiative (partners, governance group, and stakeholders). Local and national resources should be brought into the design/discussion, such as Matías Valenzuela, Director, King County Office of Equity and Social Justice work, Casey Foundation, Equity Matters, Government Alliance for Racial Equity, the People’s Institute.

The analyses and indicators need to reflect the complex environment, structural and systemic barriers, patterns of oppression, disaggregated data (by race, ethnicity, geography), and need to be understood/accessible. The need to combine quantitative and qualitative approaches was underscored, as was making sure that we are not counting “widgets” or services delivered.

Staff will convene a work group to create a plan for GG work on this priority.

**Develop a COO policy agenda**

The GG affirmed their interest in the four result areas—community connection, economic opportunity, health and housing. It would be good to take an environmental scan and list the active policymaking tables in King County that are working in these four areas and strategize how to engage them. It would be important to understand what they are trying to achieve, over what time period, and how can their work help to inform COO on policy priorities that intersect. How can COO share its work through these discussions and seek intersections? These tables may not understand our role or know about our interest in developing policy priorities.

The GG discussed the opportunity to work with and through the Systems & Policy RFP grantees—who will be informing the policy agenda—and utilize policy tables that are already existing establish these connections.

There are underlying systemic barriers to improving quality of life in some parts of the county and for some county residents. How can COO work to reduce today’s disproportionality in economic opportunity? The need is immediate, the longer we wait to address the underlying policy and system barriers, the more negative impacts we see. How can we get there faster instead of just chipping away? One way is to bring public will to drive policy and systems change that impacts all people. The GG needs to have a long-term policy change and outcome view instead of just reacting to current events. When we have an agenda we can invite other policy entities and private sector influencers to join us. Clear statements of principles and values, expressed strategically and matched to the specific audience can help community partners and others understand how their work rolls up to create policy and system changes.

**COO Communications Update**

COO staff and Pyramid Communications are working on the COO high-level messages and storyline. An update will be presented at the November 17, 2017 GG meeting. There is a need for pictures to include in the COO brochure. Staff will reach send a follow-up email and can send a photographer out to any community events.

**Other Business and Announcements:**

- The Policy and Systems RFP is open until Thursday, November 9, 2017.
• The Community Partnerships RFP will be released in late October and proposals will be due in January 2018.
• Six technical assistance providers are available to help COO applicants. The providers are available for all Best Starts for Kids requests for proposals. More information about these TA providers, [www.kingcounty.gov/coo](http://www.kingcounty.gov/coo).
• GG asked if COO plans to send folks to the April 2018 PolicyLink Equity Summit in Chicago? In 2015, COO sent approximately 30 attendees to the 2015 PolicyLink summit and it helped provide a shared racial equity experience and framework, including inclusion as a superior business model, and the key role of youth leadership. Scholarships for conferences/training are included in the framework for COO’s learning community; the GG will revisit this question next month when the Learning Community framework is presented for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The Governance Group met in an Executive Session from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m.