

## **Governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group – 8/16/18 Minutes**

Agenda, Materials, Posters, Resources and Handout's from Meeting 7, August 16, 2018 can be found [here](#).

### **Welcome**

Members were welcomed with remarks from Lua Pritchard, Executive Director of [Asia Pacific Cultural Center](#).

APCC is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization was formed in November 1996 from the vision of a small group of citizens representing three generations of Americans from Asian and Pacific Islanders heritage. APCC represents 47 countries and cultures, offering programs and services honoring their distinct artistry, business protocols, history and social practices.

### **Panel 1 - Prioritizing Community Strength and Resiliency panel from Department of Commerce**

Takeaway from morning panelists and Q&A.

- As a response to the idea of PRWG members exchanging information on what their respective organizations do, Brian Bonlender, Director, Department of Commerce gave an overview to members to develop understanding of the work of Commerce and the connection to strengthening communities.
- Diane Klontz, Assistant Director – Department of Commerce gave full overview her division, she is responsible for Community Service and Housing. She also talked about homelessness and the housing affordability gaps in Washington
- Commerce housing trust fund has 49,000 housing structure.
- Tedd Kelleher, Senior Managing Director, Housing Assistance Unit gave a powerful slide presentation (attached) on “Why are we seeing so many people outside”. His unique vantage point is that any dollar that comes through the state for homelessness comes through his shop and he works on strategies to help statewide housing. – Some takeaways
  - Several paths that lead people to a place where they are living outside. Among the top are:
    - Failure of Family
    - Failure of Job
    - Failing Health
  - Data shows that the one thing that has changed that lead to people living outside is increase in rental rates.
  - The rent increase is a problem for all economic levels. Higher rental rates in King County are not unique to the rest of the state – rent surges are everywhere. Paradox is that people need to go somewhere but where will they go?
  - Income lags behind Rent costs.
  - Data wise we have come a long way in the last 10 years. 10 years ago HUD and other agencies did not have good research and data.
  - The “truth” that if we provide additional assistance, we will incentivize people not to work. This theory is NOT supported in the data.
  - We lack structure to house people. Since 2005, our population has increased in Washington State by 19%, while housing units have only increased 14%

- Interventions to change behavior work less than half the time.
- Many data drivers in the presentation, Washington family stability, Opioid related deaths, etc.
- Ted describes “math” to get people inside – An intervention can be effective and pay for itself in reduced public costs (i.e. this person living outside has a problem, I want to do the right thing to help them). But it is not about significantly improving income and relative housing stability – the right thing to do is improve lives or save lives.

**Guest Speaker and Panel 2– Lunch: Deeper understanding of current activities in Pierce County that impact folks in poverty.**

Michael Mirra: Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority: (See attached copy of presentation and related articles)

- Goodwill Industries helps people with barriers to employment through different training programs, wrap around services, and financial education (they partner with Center for Strong Families)
- Specifically the Women to Work is a pilot program in which a workforce development center goes into the community like a school or child care center and identifies a mom that needs help with training or securing employment.
- Portia Lee who went through Goodwill Industries of the Olympic and Raising Region went through the Women to Work program and told her story.
  - Women to Work sat down with her and ask what HER vision was for her family. Helping her focus on other factors beyond just the basic necessities of life. Examples are what were families doing to have a great time together like a Zoo Membership or the Puyallup Fair – so the program could give them a gift card to say buy food while you are there.
  - Implement a Moms sharing group that was led by the moms
  - Every quarter the Moms were given a family fun guide
  - All of this is to help take away the stress that comes from being in the situations and say not being able to buy your kids food while you are there.
- Homelessness goes way beyond the rent increase prices – i.e. Non-renter history – you need 2 years to even apply.
- Partnerships with other organizations
- Stronger mentoring programs

UPDATES

- Marcy Bowers would like to have folks keep in mind great additions to the steering committee.
- RFQ for the Racial Equity Consultant will go out to get on board in October. Desire is for that consultant to give us their vision based on what this group needs and where we are at. Help us discover how this Racial Equity work should be done given that we are getting a report to the Governor.
- Data group met and they had a good conversation and a good framework got started that they will get to the members when it is ready.

- Communications Team met – and there will a strategic plan forthcoming.
- Progress Report, Babs gave group a Draft outline and asked for yay or nay on direction.
- Merger on Joint Task Force – it was determined that H.B. 1482 does require DSHS to convene a task force and that is moving forward.
  - Outreach has happened to those Legislators who have been appointed to Task Force: Senator Jeannie Darneille  
Senator Manka Dhingra  
Senator Hans Zeiger  
Rep Gina Mosbrucker  
Rep Christine Kilduff  
Rep Mia Gregerson
  - Babs met with the Legislators and reported a great meeting, very excited about the work and broad support of doing the work and doing the work together. Legislators are really interested in the holistic question of how do we reduce poverty (rather than focusing on this or that program).
  - Still a question of fixing the structure differences in the legislation
  - Governor needs to appoint 8 agencies to the Task Force and letters went out to those agencies asking them to appoint the same person in their agency that serves on the PRWG.

### **Session on: Root cause framework and mapping of strategies**

Members reviewed the [2018 Aug 16 root cause revamp Meeting 7](#) document (referred to as the *Characteristics of the System Document* below) showing comparisons of the current systems in place against the systems we need to reduce poverty. They also reviewed the [2018 Aug 16 root cause strategies recommendations Meeting 7](#) (referred to as the *Strategies & Recommendations Document* below).

Members discussed right track/wrong track, any major themes missing, and if these ideas capture the work together so far.

Below is the feedback received:

## Characteristics of the System Document

Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add mention of <b>ageism</b></li> <li>• Add mention of <b>LGBTQ community</b>; <b>incarcerated people</b>; immigrant communities, undocumented</li> <li>• Age, ability, sexual orientation?</li> <li>• Add mention of adults, elders</li> </ul>
Policy & Program Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add <b>emphasis on community</b></li> <li>• Add mention of foster kids</li> <li>• Add <b>cliff effect</b>; community level control; systemic barriers; <b>economic development</b></li> <li>• This pillar seems to have sucked up the largest portion of the work we need to do; possibly needs to be the heart of a framework, with results supporting the work</li> <li>• <b>Systems should connect</b>; folks seeking help from one agency should be automatically connected to others</li> <li>• Beef up economic development, environment</li> <li>• Add competitive skill acquisition for individuals</li> </ul>
Power & Influence	
Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't play the blame game- if we need/want to talk w/ others whom we think hold this viewpoint, remember, the ability to hold a rational conversation ends when we push those buttons- if we truly want to have transformative conversations, we have to have them in safety &amp; respectfully. I.e., the words we use in groups we agree with are not going to necessarily be the ones we use w/ others</li> <li>• Community ownership?</li> </ul>
Values & Beliefs	
History & Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrective action?</li> <li>• Social justice initiatives</li> <li>• System we want understands and <i>honors</i> how past and current policy has yielded current results &amp; <i>makes reparations</i></li> <li>• Take action to overcome; criminal justice system stops growing debt → is it really restorative?</li> </ul>
Other general notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal justice system &amp; intersection w/ poverty; <b>foster care system</b>; navigation- <b>climate and built environment</b>; economic development; how to acknowledge impact of broader economy</li> <li>• Consolidate History &amp; Truth, Values &amp; Beliefs, Narrative, Power &amp; Influence into one bin that support the movement of Policy &amp; Program Investments</li> <li>• Too many pillars will result in too many recommendations; keep in mind audience for recommendations, i.e. governor vs. practitioners</li> <li>• Add mention of balance between environment and economic development</li> <li>• Include the business community somewhere in this document</li> <li>• Add cliff effect; emphasize communities; navigation; economic development; business element so this feels less like a social services document; ageism; youth</li> <li>• Navigation: have disconnected services, people falling off cliff. Want system where one ends and another begins</li> <li>• Connection to Environment: have environmental issues separated from human issues. Want: environmental sustainability and poverty are seen as interconnected; we protect our food and other natural resources</li> <li>• Traditional "illegible" products that don't prey on low income people</li> <li>• Gainful employment; salary, benefits &amp; working conditions that can pay for goods &amp; services</li> <li>• Scheduling guarantees</li> </ul>

## Strategies & Recommendations Document

	Strategies	Recommendations
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every person brings skills, strategies, and competencies; <u>ask</u> how do our systems, services, &amp; supports recognize, acknowledge, and build on them? And if the honest answer is that they don't, then ask what would it take to do that?</li> <li>• First bullet under this section "unclear"</li> <li>• Broaden definition <i>and the conversation</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add minimum income to survive &amp; livable wage</li> </ul>
Policy & Program Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Please</u>, recognize that out of home childcare, preschool, etc. is not always best or desired by family. So, how can we support parents/caregivers <u>where they are</u> rather than expecting them to come to us?</li> <li>• Less regressive tax system</li> <li>• What does [social networks, inclusion, dignity &amp; belonging] mean as a strategy?</li> <li>• This section is much more specific than the rest of the categories.</li> <li>• Move last bullet re: social networks to "Results" category</li> <li>• Re: tax system bullet, what does this mean? <u>Increase revenues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address cliff effect</li> <li>• WFTR</li> <li>• Greater investment in housing; identifying unused housing units and using them</li> <li>• Greater subsidization of higher education</li> <li>• Make sure economic development recommendations (?)</li> <li>• Turn empty buildings into low-income housing</li> <li>• Economic development</li> <li>• Economic and workforce development are key components here; help biz, help people</li> <li>• Housing needs a mention here</li> <li>• Housing security, lower rent, increase in affordable housing, food security</li> </ul>

Power & Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build leadership- support it, mentor it at the community level from folks living in poverty. For examples, look at POWER (formerly WROC) or co-ops, etc</li> <li>• Systems work better together, de-silo, serve people holistically</li> <li>• Not sure how bullets 2-4 will impact this specific topic- will help other areas though</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in local communities deciding what works</li> </ul>
Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's stop saying "voice;" its impersonal. Let's talk with people and communities and really listen</li> <li>• Share data to tell system story ex: commerce data from meeting</li> <li>• Add words about impact of current public policy; what we have learned</li> </ul>	
Values & Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's make sure the folks we are proposing to listen to understand that this is not a promise of anything... there have been so many broken promises to folks in poverty, to tribes, to marginalized people</li> <li>• Follow recommendations from sessions</li> <li>• Honor history <i>in K-12 curriculum</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform systems that most harm communities of color, ex: criminal justice reform</li> <li>• Truth &amp; reconciliation events</li> <li>• We understand/believe that everyone needs not just to be taught to fish but they also need to be given a fishing pole (either by their parents or by the state/nonprofits), if we want them to be self-sufficient</li> <li>• All bullets under strategies should be moved to recommendations</li> </ul>
History & Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From whose perspective? (in regards to strategies of truth &amp; reconciliation)</li> </ul>	
Other general notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make better use of the resources we have</li> <li>• Environment &amp; Economic Balance: balance every economic development initiative with environmental imperatives (e.g., we can't encourage more seafood restaurants or boat building or oil pipelines if we love our orcas! Which we do!)</li> <li>• Bullet #2 in Values &amp; Beliefs and History &amp; Truth are essentially the same</li> <li>• Talk about "the cliff"; critical point</li> </ul>	