

# Metro | Meeting minutes

Meeting: Equity Strategy Advisory Committee  
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014  
Time: 3 to 5 p.m.  
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council chamber, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, 97232  
Purpose: Discuss the draft indicators, and provide feedback to the six community-based organizations on positives and deltas.

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## Attendees

Equity strategy advisory committee	Carl Talton, Rey España, Daniel Vázquez, Julia Meier, Ben Duncan, Virginia Nguyen, Irene Konev
	Absent: Pam Treece, Philip Wu, Kirsten Kilchenstein, Judi Martin, Betty Dominguez
Metro	Paul Slyman, Molly Vogt, Pietro Ferrari, Cassie Salinas, Juan Carlos Ocaña-Chíu, Valerie Cuevas
Baseline Workgroup guests	Duncan Hwang, Andrew Riley, Cat Goughnour, Scotty Ellis
Other Guests	Meg Merrick (PSU), Michael Alexander (Urban League), Midge Purcell (Urban League), Katie Sawicki (Urban League), Mara Gross (CLF)

## Welcome and updates

Carl Talton opened the meeting by asking everyone to take a moment to introduce themselves. Guests for today's advisory committee meeting included the baseline workgroup members and executive directors from the organizations represented on the workgroup. New advisory committee member Irene Konev was welcomed.

The advisory committee meeting minutes for June and July were approved unanimously.

Pietro Ferrari stated that the agenda for this meeting was designed in two parts: business and a presentation by the baseline Workgroup following a successful presentation they made to Metro staff on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Juan Carlos Ocaña gave a summary of the Metro staff-CBO meeting. The feedback was overall positive and showed staff enthusiasm for the next steps in developing the equity strategy.

Pietro spoke about the special meeting of the advisory committee that took place on August 7 to discuss strategies and approaches for community engagement on the development of the strategy. Pietro explained that as a result from ESCA members' suggestion, Metro staff developed and provided a toolkit for advisory committee members to reach out to expert leaders to provide

feedback on each of the 10 indicator categories identified. The toolkit was emailed to advisory committee members on August 19 and includes the following:

1. [Online link](#) to the spreadsheet of stakeholders to contact to provide feedback on the indicators. Advisory committee members can add stakeholders and assign themselves as the advisory committee lead for that stakeholder.
2. Internal talking points about the Equity Strategy Program for advisory committee members to reference when contacting stakeholders.
3. Program Overview PDF that can be emailed to stakeholders as reference.
4. Invitation letter to stakeholders with survey link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/metroequity>) to request feedback from stakeholders.

Advisory committee members will contact stakeholders inviting them to provide feedback via the survey through September 5. The survey will close the morning of September 8 and feedback will be provided to the baseline workgroup as they continue with the draft equity baseline report.

### **Baseline workgroup presentation of the draft indicators**

Juan carlos introduced members of the Baseline workgroup. Scotty Ellis and Andrew Riley presented the process that the workgroup following to select and define ten indicators for equity in the region. The indicators were selected using racial justice and social determinants of health lenses and evolved over months of discussion. The workgroup also developed a priority scorecard to assist in identifying and selecting data that is most suitable, highest quality and best geography. Metro's Research Center provided availability and feasibility information for potential data to help the workgroup narrow down data measures for each indicator and distinguish certain data sets as aspirational.

Indicators (Please see materials for complete indicator definitions and data sets)

1. Stable and accessible high quality housing choices
2. Accessible, affordable and safe transportation options
3. Access to parks and natural space
4. Fair distribution of environmental burdens
5. Meaningful engagement and empowered people
6. Healthy people, families and communities
7. Fair access to employment and economic prosperity
8. Access to affordable and nutritious foods
9. Access to and attainment of quality education
10. Community justice

Next steps include incorporating the feedback received from Metro staff at the Aug. 6 workshop and requesting feedback from the advisory committee and expert stakeholders on the indicators and their draft definitions. Metro staff will begin mapping roles and responsibilities of Metro to the indicators with senior leadership. An 80% completed draft of the preliminary equity baseline report will be shared with Metro Council for feedback on Oct. 14, 2014 at work session with a completed report expected in November.

The workgroup will begin drafting the report with Jared Franz as the lead writer. The report will include historical narrative, community voice, the indicators with definitions and related data

measures. The report will make recommendations on how Metro measures equity in the region and equitable outcomes. The report will inform the development of the equity strategy and indicators will be able to call attention to where Metro can affect equity.

#### *Discussion*

After the presentation, Pietro Ferrari asked the committee and guests for questions that staff or the workgroup could address. The committee and guests were also encouraged to provide input on any data sets that rise to priority or suggestions for anything that may be missing.

Ben Duncan suggested including a data measure for potential loss of life in years or similar for measuring health outcomes.

Paul Slyman voiced enthusiasm for how the equity strategy will inform the varied portfolio of Metro's programs.

Mara Gross suggested that a clear direction be articulated on where Metro expects the indicators to progress with more about Metro's role in that progress and suggested data on climate change be included.

Julia Meier commented that the program is at the point of defining what an equitable region looks like and then later steps will define Metro's role. Defining Metro's role first would have limited what an equitable region would be defined as.

Katie Sawicki suggested Metro conduct a baseline study internally with 5 Metro programs to measure how to underserved communities are currently impacted.

Carl Talton noted that it will be important for Metro to see the benefit to the functions of the organization that the equity strategy will bring in order to continue with the program.

Midge Purcell asked when and how indicators will inform Metro decision on budget and program decisions. Rey España suggested more Metro specific measures for the region-wide indicators such as minority contracting usage, diversity of workforce and MWESB use. There was agreement that Metro-specific measures will be needed to affect change; this is expected to be part of the strategy development.

Michael Alexander commented that today's dialogue reflects the complexity of the issue and that the deliverable is not ready. More clarity on the definition of the indicators would be helpful. Midge Purcell commented that the indicators are based on real disparities and actions can be taken now to address those even while the strategy is being developed.

The advisory committee voiced interest in making some recommendations to be carried out now while the strategy is being developed, acknowledging that change is slow in a large institution and actions need to be intentional and require support. The advisory committee would like to further discuss making recommendations at the next meeting.

**Next steps**

Next advisory committee meeting is September 24, 2014, 3 to 5 p.m. at Metro Regional Center.