



COVID-19 After Action Review Task Force Meeting Summary

February 23, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Virtual

Attendees are included in Attachment A.

Opening Remarks & Review of Agenda:

Kevin Harris welcomed the participants to the meeting. Kevin reviewed the meeting's agenda and the general timeline. Kevin introduced Jessica McKee of the AIHC.

Equity Gatherings Update:

Kevin Baker shared information about the Equity Gatherings. The Come One/Come All, Disability Community, Food Insecurity, and State Agency Equity Gatherings have taken place. The Black/African American Equity Gathering is scheduled for Friday, February 24th.

- Kevin Harris: The Disability Community and Food Insecurity Equity Gatherings had strong turnout. We heard some unique stories. For example, we heard about a blind woman's struggles around loss of tactile 'markers' during COVID. We also heard about broad systemic issues surrounding food insecurity.
- Phyllis Shulman: During the State Agency Equity Gathering, people discussed the need for cross-agency collaboration. People also discussed the need for community partnership. I was struck by the idea of building systems that support the conditions for equity. Some systems require personal information, which blocks access to services.
- Winona Hollis Hauge: I appreciated hearing about the blind woman's struggles. How are we coordinating with service providers, including Lighthouse for the Blind? How can we better serve children meals outside of the pandemic? Some stories have already been published. The Task Force may not be aware of these stories. The NW Asian Weekly Newspaper and Eli Lilly published an article about work that has been done. Also, the Seattle Speech and Hearing Center on 19th Avenue should be included.

Group Discussion:

Phyllis Shulman invited the participants to share stories and experiences. The report will highlight stories and experiences throughout its various sections.

- Angie Hinojos: Many stories have already been published. Microsoft published a case study about the importance of community partnerships.



- Tristan Allen: The Department of Commerce published a [review of capital programs](#). The review captures community narratives, some of which are COVID-specific.
- Melanie Bacon: I publish a weekly newsletter. I'll use the newsletter to request stories. The county should gather stories, even if the stories aren't included in the report.
- Angie Hinojos: Stephanie and Marlando Sparks of Restoration Community Impact had a compelling story about grassroots efforts.
- Briane Probasco: The WA Association for Community Health may have stories to share.
- Adam Wasserman: Stories should be sent by April 15th.

AIHC Report Summary:

Jessica McKee presented a summary of the AIHC After Action Report.

- COVID disproportionately impacted American Indian and Alaska Native populations. These populations experienced higher infection, hospitalization, and mortality rates than non-Hispanic whites. There is a need for comprehensive, culturally-appropriate public health services for these populations.
- Tribal sovereignty is the inherent authority to govern and protect the health, safety, and welfare of tribal citizens. Tribal membership is a political status. The state-tribal relationship is a government-government relationship. In the state, there are 29 federally-recognized tribes and two Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHP). These programs serve natives who live outside reservations.
- During the pandemic, tribes and UIHPs cared for people. Tribes and UIHPs oversaw tests, vaccines, non-pharmaceutical interventions, clinical care, wraparound services, and isolation and quarantine. Tribes and UIHPs also had responsibilities as employers.
- The (Tribal) AAR Task Force held 44 webinars with tribes and UIHPs. The webinars began in November 2021 and ended in January 2023. Tribes and UIHPs identified over 45 recommendations for federal, state, and local health jurisdictions to improve preparedness for the next public health emergency.
- Recommendations include increased funding for tribal public health staff and increased opportunities for tribes and UIHPs to "sit at the table." Best practices include access to medical materials and medical countermeasures, regular attendance at the AIHC weekly response calls, dedicated tribal liaisons, and government-government relationships.



Latino Community Recommendations:

Angie Hinojos and Carlos Jimenez presented a summary of Centro Cultural Mexicano's recommendations for the Latino Community.

- Centro Cultural Mexicano held interviews with Latino healthcare providers, community organizers, nonprofit directors, educators, youth, and more. The interviews were used to identify recommendations, which are listed below.
- **Communication Recommendations:** Strengthen communication between government entities and community members before an emergency. Release Spanish information with English information. Provide targeted language access for smaller communities. Utilize trusted entities for information. Avoid anti-Latino messaging.
- **Community Organization Recommendations:** Provide long-term, unrestricted funding for community-based organizations that provide direct service. Eradicate exploitative institutional behaviors. Make services available on evenings and weekends. Make culturally-relevant foods available. Utilize existing non-governmental networks. Understand the different needs of different communities.
- **Business Recommendations:** Provide resources and mentorship for small businesses. Clarify language around programs, such as the PPP programs.
- **Essential Workers Recommendations:** Clarify the classification of "essential workers." Provide adequate protections, resources, and information in every workplace. Ensure equitable allocation of resources, including equitable geographic access.
- **Youth and Education Recommendations:** Provide access to mental health services. Engage mental health practitioners who speak Spanish. Provide guidance for parents to access appropriate services in Spanish. Provide access to technology and support.
- **Coordination and Planning Recommendations:** Create pipelines that connect government entities, community organizations, and institutions. Map where Latinos live. Map where resources exist to understand geographical access points.
- **Undocumented/Asylum-Seeking Individuals Recommendations:** Create relief programs. Provide messaging to ensure participation in those programs.
- **Program Delivery Recommendations:** Coordinate statewide programs for consistency in implementation. Communicate to avoid reinventing the wheel and duplicating efforts. Create baseline program standards.



- Data Recommendations: Share data to allow for complex analysis. Provide access to real-time data. Reconsider Latino personal identifiers. Implement qualitative data-gathering mechanisms for accurate assessment.

Emerging Principles/Issues:

Kevin Harris introduced foundational principles and issues. The main foundational principle heard is equity. The issues to-date include funding, communication, collaboration, partnership, access, essential workforce, administrative systems, emergency rulemaking, data/information, and governance/decision-making/accountability.

- Briane Probasco: Can you explain the distinction between the Task Force experience and the general experience?
- Kevin Harris: We're trying to resynthesize the Task Force experience into the general experience. There isn't a strict definition or boundary.
- Angie Hinojos: We're representing many people, perspectives, and experiences. I would like this to be reflected in the process.
- Nathan Weed: We've identified the foundational principles and issues. We've developed an understanding among the members of the Task Force. The "Task Force experience" acknowledges our deliberation and thinking. The "general experience" helps include the voices of others.

Report Format & Ongoing Engagement:

Nathan Weed reviewed the report format. The participants can provide feedback on the report during the March meeting. Once the report is submitted, the Task Force will dissolve. However, the Department of Health will seek opportunities for further input.

Adjourn:

Kevin Harris thanked the participants for attending the meeting. Kevin reminded the participants of the next meeting on Thursday, March 23rd from 9:00 – 12:00.



Attachment A: Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Adams	Joy	Washington State Employment Security Department
Allen	Tristan	Washington State Department of Commerce
Bacon	Melanie	Island County
Dolack	Kerstyn	Washington State Military Department
Hinojos	Angie	Centro Cultural Mexicano
Hollins Hauge	Winona	Central Area Senior Center
Jimenez	Carlos	Centro Cultural Mexicano
McCluskey	Brendan	King County Emergency Management
McPherson	Amber	Washington State Department of Health
McKee	Jessica	American Indian Health Commission
Mueller	Martin	Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Nichols	Travis	Washington State Department of Health
Ockerlander	Amy	City of Duvall
Probasco	Brianne	Washington Association for Community Health
Shannon	David	Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Stoutenburg	Matt	Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
Turk	Rosalinda	Washington State Department of Health
Wasserman	Adam	Washington State Military Department
Weaver	Ron	Washington State Department of Health
Weed	Nathan	Washington State Department of Health
Wilburn	Hazel	The William D. Ruckelshaus Center

Facilitators:

Kevin Baker, Kevin Baker Consulting
Kevin Harris, The William D. Ruckelshaus Center
Phyllis Shulman, The William D. Ruckelshaus Center
Christina Sanders, WSU Division of Governmental Studies and Services