

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: January 18, 2023
 Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
Amber Lenhart	Connie Kliewer
Avista:	Jupiter
Tamara Bradley	Cindy Kimmet
Amanda Ghering	KJ
Ana Matthews	
	Guests:
	Molly Brewer - WUTC
	Shay Bauman – Public Counsel

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Share
- III. Condition #10 Update
- IV. Named Communities Investment Fund
- V. Public Participation Plan Update
- VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Facilitator

Amber Lenhart
 Amber Lenhart
 Amber Lenhart
 Ana Matthews
 Ana Matthews
 Tamara Bradley
 Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Introductions and Meeting Rules and Intent and review of today’s agenda.

Partner Share

Do you have any upcoming events that members of this group may be interested in attending or be able to support? Are you hearing about any common needs or issues that could use help? Or are there challenges your organization is faces that we may be able to reflect on as a group?

Company: SNAP is still accepting appointments for the month of February so please share that with those that need it.

Member: If anyone has any trans adults in their lives that could use some community building I just started taking part in a monthly meeting held at the central library downtown on the first sat of every month ^_^



Member: Her organization is doing a book study is happening around academic and social success based on belonging and how you create an environment to help other feel like they belong, Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity--The keys to successful equity implementation. Floyd Cobb and John Krownapple

Condition #10 Update

Working on the power dependency pilot, we are drafting ideas and the size of a battery, seeing what the need is within our named communities and agencies we could partner with. Also obtaining legal and risk management consultations. There is a variety of medical devices and how many KWs they use and what type of battery would provide an alternative battery source and how long would the battery last etc., Any questions or comments? We will continue to bring these updates to you and ask questions on a path forward as we progress through this condition.

Named Communities Investment Fund Update

We have discussed the NCIF for several months now, last month we developed a list of potential projects. Today we will discuss the ideas identified last month and projects that Avista already has underway. In February we will prioritize those projects. Discussed all programs and initiatives outlined below.

Initiative	Energy Efficiency	Can be an initiative of the EAG NCIF led projects	Notes
Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure for and within NC	No	No	Avista Electric Vehicle Community & Low-Income Initiatives
Increase tree canopy and shade in NC	Yes	Yes	Biennial Conservation Plan
Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for NC	Yes	Yes	Exploration underway Avista Outreach
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing	Yes	Yes	Incentives for appliances that are energy efficient Projects must benefit customers; that can include organizations/businesses that support homelessness
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for schools, community centers, and other places where NC spend time	Yes	Yes	Current programs in place – account executives are not focused on NC exclusively
Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services	Yes	Yes	
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners	Yes	Yes	Help develop and support funding strategies for energy efficiency upgrades that may include energy audits
Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities	Yes	Yes	Pilot

Think about ways that we can leverage existing projects and where there may be gaps that we can try to fill. We can continue to refine this list and add to it.

Member: That is okay with me ^_^ if things are being done in general with them!

Member: Are EV purchases being boosted from your initiatives?

Company: We will investigate and get back to you.

[Public Participation Plan Update](#)

Public Participation Partner (P3) came and supported Avista through its public participation plan efforts. They came to our Washington service territory and spent time at the following locations learning from the community and how we can better reach them and their communities:

- Latinos of Spokane
- American Indian Community Center
- The Salvation Army Spokane
- Our Place Community Outreach
- Carl Maxey Center
- Spokane Indian Housing Authority
- Kettle Falls Adventist Church

They conducted a survey and included that survey in several languages and different methods as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arabic• Dhari• English• Mandarin• Marshallese• Russian• Spanish• Vietnamese | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notices on website• Promotional video• Social media posts• Email campaigns• Digital and printed flyers• Avista e-newsletter• Avista phone tree message |
|--|--|

Barriers to Participation

- Language barriers
- A need for educational materials
- Technology challenges
- Transportation to in-person meetings
- Timing of meetings
- Location of meetings
- Awareness that meetings are occurring
- Trust

Communication Methods

- Diverse and multiple form
- Colorful envelopes to communicate important information
- Email
- Text messages
- Receiving information from trust sources
- Clarity of communication
- Website

Reviewed survey results displayed on slides 19-22.

Next steps: review best practices provided from P3, work with P3 on CEIP public participation strategy and implementation process utilizing all the items they have learned through public meetings and surveys which should be complete in the next 30 days.

We will then take their action plan and implement that within our service territory.

What do you feel is meaningful to the public regarding our CEIP that we can discuss during our next public participation plan? How does this resonate with everyone?

Member: always smart to use experts when possible

Facilitator: is the public participation plan a public document?

Company: not at this time, it is so new, and we haven't vetted it thoroughly yet.

Member: Yep, just doubling down, utilizing trusted messengers and those that provide direct service is for the best!

Company: Once we file the action plan with the Commission we will send an email link to the EAG members and that will be accessible to the public at that time.

Wrap Up

Thank you all for your wonderful ideas, please feel free to send us any additional ideas.

Reminder of upcoming meetings on February 15th and 17th