

Alliance - Equity Subcommittee - March 24, 2025 * 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Members in Attendance: Aaron Townsend (they/them), Craig Leets, Dishanta, Jill Baker, Rachel Howard, Ritu Roy, Roger Brubaker, Rosanna Jackson, Shanda Hochstetler, Vivian Koomson

Staff in Attendance: Kris Bifulco & Jenn Fraga

Meeting Purpose

[To discuss priorities for consultation with Dr. Joyce Chu and plan next steps for the Equity Subcommittee of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide.](#)

Key Takeaways

- **Survey Results:** Top priorities for Dr. Chu consultation identified as 1) Equity subcommittee's role/function within Alliance, and 2) Equity framework for 5-year YSIP goals
- **Role Clarification:** Urgent need to clarify advisory role and expectations for subcommittee members to ensure effective participation
- **Schedule Changes:** May meeting rescheduled to May 13th, 12:30-2:00pm; April meeting cancelled
- **Networking Opportunity:** Optional in-person gathering planned at OSPC conference reception on April 28th, 6-8pm

Topics

Dr. Chu Consultation Priorities

- **Survey Feedback:** Results showed top priorities as 1) Equity subcommittee role/function in Alliance, and 2) Equity framework for 5-year YSIP goals
- **Preparation Strategy:** Discussion on how to best prepare and frame questions for Dr. Chu, considering the limited consultation time
- **Facilitation Suggestion:** Proposal for Dr. Chu to facilitate discussion leveraging local expertise and perspectives, rather than solely providing input
- **Scope Consideration:** Debate on whether to focus on Alliance-specific initiatives or broader YSIPP goals for equity review. Subcommittee did not come to a final decision on how they want to proceed with this and decided that they would like input from Dr. Chu on how to best move forward. Questions / concerns around this were: the YSIPP as a whole seems too big for one subcommittee to focus on so should we instead only look at the ones assigned to the Alliance since that is our specific scope?

- **Cultural Infusion:** Emphasis on ensuring cultural infusion is the norm, not the exception, in all initiatives

Clarifying Advisory Role

- **Role Ambiguity:** Members expressed frustration and need for clearer definition of advisory role and expectations to ensure meaningful participation
- **Feedback vs Action:** Questions raised about the balance between giving feedback and actively building strategies, and how this aligns with an advisory role. Members on different subcommittees have expressed frustration with feeling that they are only there to talk about issues but not actively do work and create things which is where their desire lives. We have lost momentum and members in some groups who have expressed a specific way to move forward but then are told by state partners that it is outside of our scope and that they are doing that work on a larger scale. Members want to do more than discuss and provide verbal feedback and want to do work that the Alliance has done before, like the Purple Paper from the Schools Subcommittee. People feel that we will be more of a 'checkbox' advisory group to OHA if we aren't able to move things forward.
- **Upcoming Discussion:** Executive Subcommittee to discuss definitions of "monitoring" vs "advising" and more details of the scope of subcommittees, including what they can and can't do, on April 7th, 2:30-4:00pm. More work may need to be done on this conversation after that Subcommittee meeting due to the level of frustration many members are feeling and that we have lost engagement due to this.
- **Open Invitation:** Subcommittee members invited to attend or provide input for Executive Committee meeting to shape role definitions
- **Historical Context:** Reference to previous efforts by Schools Subcommittee to define monitoring and advising roles, which will inform the broader discussion

Equity Accountability

- **OHA Goals:** Discussion on holding OHA accountable to 2030 goal of eliminating health disparities and centering equity
- **Evidence Request:** Suggestion for subcommittee to ask for concrete evidence of progress, such as diversity metrics in trainers (e.g., doubling of tribally-connected trainers)
- **Balancing Act:** Acknowledgment of need to balance collaborative relationships with speaking truth to power when necessary
- **Performance Metrics:** Call for specific, measurable outcomes to demonstrate OHA's commitment to equity goals

- **Transparency:** Emphasis on the importance of OHA being open about challenges and progress in equity efforts

In-Person Gathering Options

- **Conference Opportunity:** Discussed options for meeting during Oregon Suicide Prevention Conference to build relationships
- **Reception Plan:** Decided on optional gathering at postvention summit reception on April 28th, 6-8pm at the conference hotel
- **Logistics:** Information on exact location to be shared closer to date; signage will be available at the venue
- **Inclusivity Concern:** Acknowledgment that not all members will be able to attend due to conflicting commitments

Next Steps

- **Calendar Management:** Jenn to send updated calendar invites, canceling April meeting and rescheduling May meeting to the 13th (done)
- **Executive Committee Input:** Members invited to attend or provide input for April 7th Executive Committee discussion on advisory roles, 2:30-4:00pm
- **Networking Event:** Optional in-person gathering at OSPC conference reception on April 28th, 6-8pm; members to adjust travel plans if interested
- **Consultation Prep:** Subcommittee to prepare specific questions and topics for Dr. Chu consultation at May/June meetings, focusing on role clarification and equity framework
- **Accountability Measures:** Members to consider concrete ways to hold OHA accountable for equity goals and prepare to discuss these in future meetings

Action Items

- Contact Dr. Joyce Chu re: roundtable focus on equity committee role & YSIPP equity framework - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- Cancel April equity subcommittee meeting in calendar - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#) (done)
- Adjust May equity subcommittee meeting to May 13th 12:30-2:00pm in calendar - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#) (done)
- Forward April 7th 2:30-4pm exec meeting invite to interested participants - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- Send out info for April 28th 6-8pm reception at OSPC to equity subcommittee members - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)