

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: June 24, 2022
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
Amber Lenhart	Michelle Bennington
Avista:	Margee Chambers
Tamara Bradley	Vanessa
Renee Coelho	Tami Dillon
Ana Matthews	Larry Mattson
Darrell Soyars	
	Guests:

Agenda

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| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Amber Lenhart |
| | – Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent | Amber Lenhart |
| II. | EAG Member Spotlight | Amber Lenhart |
| III. | Announcement of upcoming Public Participation Meeting | Tamara Bradley |
| IV. | Power Outage Preparedness | Ana Matthews |
| V. | Your Support Team and Next Meeting | Amber Lenhart |

Facilitator

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item 1

Introductions and Meeting Rules and Intent

Agenda Item 2

EAG Member Spotlight, KJ January, director of advocacy at Spectrum Center Spokane

Agenda Item 3

Company announcement – CEIP was approved by WUTC
 Energy availability- reduction of outages and amount of time customer is out – example of the Customer Benefit Indicators prioritized. Announced Public Participation Plan

Meeting – approval process – renewable targets – actions that will start the implementation phase.

Agenda Item 4

Power Outage Preparedness Survey review – how do we respond and pay special attention to the vulnerable customer population when there is an outage. Do they do things to prepare – are they self-reliant – what resources do they utilize?

Identified customers who are part of a caseload with CARES or have extreme extenuating circumstances – extra set of eyes.

Did we miss anything in our survey pertaining to service area where outages occur?

Member – How many rural areas as well as urban centers, how many of the VP that we have identified, how many of them suffered the outages in comparison to other neighborhoods?

Do you do anything else other than what is listed to be prepared for a power outage?

Member – What about folks without housing? We have a significant population of people who don't. They talk about cooling centers, but if you do not have access to communication and things like that and you are in the middle of a heat dome, I am thinking about House of Charity, apparently, they are moving to a more rural area. I am wondering what we can do to get people into safer situations when they are homeless particularly with woman and children. They have that terrible time getting to places that are cool. We lost quite a few homeless folks last year during the heat issues that we had last year.

Company – we kept having these outages and we had meetings with organizations like Spokane emergency management, 211, red cross and other organizations to gain understanding of each of our roles during a crisis. We learned how to leverage our tools as a group to really help these people. The City has cooling centers and is working with libraries to help with clean spaces for homeless.

Member – Yes, the libraries are also used for cooling centers and we do have a several unhoused people who will come to use the libraries for such services and when there is wildfire smoke and air quality levels are unhealthy.

Facilitator: Some other communities (e.g., Maricopa County in AZ) have shared use agreements with schools to open the gyms and kitchens as shelters

Member: the school idea is really easy for those who do not have access to travel needs for shelters.

Do you know what 211 is?

All members shared that they know what 211 is.

Company - There is a sign on Hamilton and Mission - as you are moving southbound - that promotes 2-1-1 and the City of Spokane's 3-1-1 number.

Public transportation use

Company – It was mentioned in Wednesdays EAG meeting that someone does not have public transportation in the Mead area

Rural Community Interview– do their replies ring true – anything else we may have missed?

Company – Engaged with organizations that are service based such as rural resources, Colville Volunteer Food and Resources Center. They also surveyed customers in urban areas who had a power wheelchairs and energy assistance recipients. Rural members were less likely to seek assistance as they feel they should be self reliant and seeking assistance would appear they are not self reliant so less likely to seek assistance.

Member - As someone who lived rural these are very true statements. Great presentation!

Company – Even when there is a threat to life, like seeking medical attention, they may choose to opt out of that assistance.

How can we support those in rural areas?

Member – Based on your survey and results, your recommendations are spot on!

Member – when I was Charlotte NC, there was a big problem with people who did not have english as first language and what we would do to reach them, the health department sent us all out to talk to people with interpreters to speak to folks about not using BBQs and etc in the house to stay warm and that kind of thing. It was a partnership between us and the City. Bring in someone who lives in that community, someone who knows the culture of that area and give them the information and have them go out and spread the word in their community. Most agencies don't want to do that but it really is the most effective way to reach people and get them to a place where they are at least safe.

Facilitator - Or people burn things they shouldn't to keep warm like treated lumber, Environmental health might be doing a little around this

Power Dependent Interview

Member – I have a friend who is dependant on a power wheelchair, what happens when his power goes out and he is not home, he is not able to obtain access to his home.

Company- thank you so much for that insight! These conversations are so valuable.

Financially Constrained Interview

Any thoughts you have about what we might consider as we assemble an outage plan?

Member – How is it determined how/who is turned back on first during an outage?

Company – When determining outage restoration based on the services available. They are looking at critical infrastructure, it could be power to a water pump that serves the community, power to the hospitals, they look at it from a whole community perspective. They also look at the extent of the damage and that brings another layer that is hard to explain. Thank you all for your thoughts!

Wrap Up

Reminder of upcoming meetings in July 20th and 22nd.