



**Equity Advisory Group –  
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date:	02/21/2024
Time:	12:00 pm -1:30 pm
Location:	Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>EAG Member</i>	<i>Member Organizations</i>
<i>Amber Lenhart</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clyde Abrahamson	<a href="#">Spokane Indian Housing Authority</a>
<b><i>Avista Team Member</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Margee Chambers	<a href="#">Spokane Clean Air</a>
<i>Kelly Dengel</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Connie Kliewer	<a href="#">NEWESD101</a>
<i>Annette Brandon</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clair Trapp	<a href="#">Rural Resources</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Tietz	<a href="#">Salem Arms Community Housing</a>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KJ January	<a href="#">Spectrum</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	William von Bracht	<a href="#">Othello, school English as 2<sup>nd</sup> language</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Bennington	Community member at large
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brook Beeler	<a href="#">Department of Ecology Eastern Region</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jupiter McGee	<a href="#">Sunrise Spokane Affiliation</a> (youth led) ( <a href="#">Facebook</a> )
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Strong	<a href="#">Spokane Public Library</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tami Dillion	<a href="#">Skills'kin</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alexsander Swenson	Youth - Girl Scout
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kimmet	<a href="#">Takesa Village</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Groom	<a href="#">SNAP</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rowena Pineda	<a href="#">Reimagine Spokane &amp; Asian Pacific Islander Coalition</a>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Kindem	<a href="#">Aging &amp; Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington</a>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Boone	<a href="#">Red Cross</a>
		<b><i>Guests</i></b>	
		<i>Joshua Dennis</i>	<i>WUTC</i>

**Agenda**

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# EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

## I. Welcome & Introductions

### Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent

## II. Partner Share

- Jean Kindem of Aging and Long-Term Care looking for people who want to join their board. Contact Jean for board application.

## III. Agenda Item 1 – Root Cause Discussions

### Brief Refresher – Annette

- Avista shared the benefits to the energy system with the physical delivery of power including Energy, Social, Economic, Environmental, and some potential burdens with Affordability and Access.

### Introduction to root cause activity - Amber

- Spoke about the barriers to equity including social, economic, environmental, and political factors. She also spoke about the difference between Equality, Equity and Justice (to address the cause of inequity).

### Video – Jason’s Story

- Understanding the ‘why’ and what is each person’s part in solving the issue.

### Root cause discussion activity

- **Member:** Race, ethnicity, social economic status, working poor and poor don’t have a relationship of Avista beyond paying the bill. There is a lack of relationship with Avista – regardless of class or ethnicity – there isn’t anything to do with Avista beyond pay the bill. All of what Avista offers isn’t known because of lack of relationship.
- **Member:** People have a lack of time to be more interested. And are skeptical of the company.
- **Member:** People are busy with taking care of life and family and dealing with the power company is beyond what people even think about.
- **Member:** Avista isn’t in touch with the community, and Avista isn’t aware of how they are seen in the community. They lack rapport.
- **Member:** Avista should focus on public communication to tell the story of low income assistance, and not about the CEO pay.
- **Member:** Hard to see the “humanity” of the company and within the company. To address this, get more Avista people on the community boards, chamber of commerce, SNAP, etc.
- **Member:** Have a go-to person for the community center, or neighborhood, the local person who is around the area and in the school district, the hospitals. Be where the people are and know the people of Avista. Be a trusted advisor.
- **Member:** Avista could join existing meetings in the community and put themselves in those groups to share information.
- **Member:** Avista could advertise on TV for a wide audience to invite to participate.
- **Member:** Electricity and Wi-Fi are necessary for any business endeavor.
- **Member:** Cost barriers keep people from access to electricity.

- **Member:** Lack of knowledge about job opportunities and training related costs, family support while in training or having a job. Is there a hiring discrimination – those trained aren't getting the jobs?
- **Member:** She feels race and ethnicity aren't the key factors that place barriers for issues with Avista in the Spokane community and Avista's connectedness to the community.
- **Member:** Income level is a driving factor in engagement with Avista. If too busy trying to support family – all interest goes to the family – not to Avista. If Avista had programs to assist families financially, then they'd be interested.
- **Member:** Lack of broadband availability in rural areas
- **Member:** Accessing the energy benefits needs a home and then having a current model furnace and filtration system.
- **Member:** Put specific opportunities on the social sites – be direct and specific. Post pictures to add humanity to the post. Use trusted messengers in the posting.
- **Member:** The language that's used by Avista needs to be easily understood and accessible. Use 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and avoid Avista buzz words.
- **Member:** Share testimonies from people who have been helped by Avista and share that story with the communities for paying the bill or advisory group participation.
- **Member:** Displays to support pride in community.
- **Member:** Does Avista ever go to community organizations where most of the people are from a foreign country and don't speak English?
  - Company response –Avista is working on a language translation effort.
- **Member:** Will this list of questions and the think session be available for review? Amber agreed to talk with Kelly and Tamara about how we can share this with the group, so the members can share with their networks.

#### IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

- Avista's Power Outage and Medical Needs flier was shared– one participant said Spanish isn't enough for the translation.
- The in-person meeting idea shared for April/May with a promise of a follow up email.

#### V. Wrap Up

#### VI. Additional Resources

<i>Resource Link</i>	<i>Description</i>
<a href="#">Washington's Clean Energy Future</a>	Avista page for CETA related activities
<a href="#">Clean Energy Transformation Act</a>	Clean Energy Transformation Act - Washington State Department of Commerce
<a href="#">Chapter 19.405 RCW</a>	Laws and Regulations: Revised Code of Washington Investor-owned utilities
<a href="#">Chapter 480-100 WAC</a>	Laws and Regulations: Washington Administrative Code Investor-owned utilities
<a href="#">WA Energy Strategy</a>	Washington State Energy Strategy
<a href="#">CETA Overview</a>	CETA overview and interim assessment