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Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee Meeting

LOCATION: 10 N. Ludlow Street Suite 700, Dayton, OH 45402

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, May 28th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
I.	Welcome & Introductions	11:00	Rap Hankins
II.	Program Manager Domain Updates	11:10	Fabrice Juin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement ○ Review of Resolution(s) for Board Recommendation ● Technology & Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordable Connectivity Program ○ BroadbandOhio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BEAD Challenge Process ■ Connecting Southwest Ohio Coalition ○ AmeriCorps LFA American Connection Corps Member ● Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kettering Foundation Dayton Democracy Fellows ○ 2024 Miami Valley Urban League Pillar Award (B. Martin) ○ 2024 Dayton Business Journal 40 Under 40 (F. Juin) ○ 2024 President's Award for Excellence in Governance, United Way of the Greater Dayton Area (B. Martin) 		
III.	Fiscal Years 2024 & 2025 Focus Areas	11:30	Fabrice Juin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right to Counsel Eviction Analysis (FY24) ● Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership (FY25) ● Age-Friendly Designation in All Counties (FY25) ● Miami Valley Housing Summit (FY25) 		
IV.	Resiliency & Disaster Recovery Planning	12:00	Elizabeth Baxter
V.	Subcommittee Chair & Member Updates/Insights	12:30	All Participants
VI.	Other Informational Items	12:45	All Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upcoming Equity Engagements 		
VII.	Action Items, Follow-Up, & Next Meeting	12:55	Fabrice Juin
VIII.	Closing Remarks	1:00	Rap Hankins

****NEXT MEETING is August 27th, 2024****

All Information is available on the [MVRPC Committee Center](#)

Interpreters for hearing-impaired individuals are available upon request; requests should be made at least one week ahead.

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**February 27, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

REI Subcommittee Members Present

Rap Hankins, Chairperson
Tania Arseculeratne, The Dayton Foundation
Taylor Curtis, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati
Tom Kelley, United Way of the Greater Dayton Area
Courtney Rutledge, Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Amy Piner, Montgomery County
Judge Walter Rice, U.S. Federal Courts

Other Guests Present

Jeffrey Adams, City of Huber Heights
Peter Benkendorf, The Collaboratory
Destiny Brown, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
Dennis Grant, United Rehabilitation Services
Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez, City of Dayton
Debra Lavey, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
Robert Salinas, Community Member
Emilie Schulze, University of Dayton
Richard Schultze, Community Member

Staff

Chanda Davis
Savannah Diamond
Felicia Elam
Fabrice Juin
Brian Martin
Leslie King
Megan Young

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee meeting on February 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the MVRPC Office and via Zoom Video Conference.

I. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Rap Hankins called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

II. PROGRAM MANAGER DOMAIN UPDATES

Regarding the Health & Environment Domain:

The REI Manager shared that ABLE and MVRPC continue to meet to finalize the workplan and budget for the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement (EJ CPS). The anticipated start date is tentatively set for July 2024. The overall goal of the grant project is to formalize the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership to foster regional direction towards advancing environmental justice; while also making community micro-grants and granting-writing expertise available to regional communities. Chairperson Rap Hankins shared that April is Earth Month and that various events will be held across the local community for community members to participate in; and that will also provide an opportunity to connect with relevant stakeholders.

The REI Manager shared that the second iteration of the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Academy remains a topic of discussion between relevant stakeholders, but will

prioritize getting the EJ CPS project started. Fall 2025 has been discussed as the potential kick-off.

Director of Regional Environment & Economic Development Leslie King shared background information and updates on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). Second deliverable (Primary Climate Action Plan, or PCAP) has been submitted and is available online. Leslie indicated that housing was revealed to be the biggest contributor to regional greenhouse gas emission. Projects within PCAP will be eligible for implementation dollars. The next step is to update the quality assurance policy, and eventually complete the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due in 2026. Staff are continuing to engage with low-income/disadvantaged communities (LIDAC). Tom Kelly asked about the involvement of local utility companies on this effort. Leslie expressed that City of Dayton is working with the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC). Chairperson Rap Hankins requested that a resolution be created in support of the CPRG by the next meeting to recommend to Board of Directors; Courtney Rutledge added that a resolution conveying support to the EJ CPS should be also included. Executive Director Brian Martin indicated that the resolution should first go before the Institute Steering Committee (ISC)

Regarding the Technology & Connectivity Domain:

Tiara Wright shared that the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is no longer accepting new enrollment applications as of February 8th and that, barring additional funding from Congress, April is expected to be the last month enrolled households will receive the full benefit. The Miami Valley Urban League is working to keep community members informed on the end of the federal benefit program. The REI Manager indicated that the impact of the ACP includes 23 million enrolled households out of 52 million eligible households nationwide (about 44% enrollment rate) and 1.2 million enrolled households out of 2 million eligible households in Ohio (about 58% enrollment rate).

The REI Manager shared that the REI is serving as a co-lead for the Affordability Workgroup being facilitated by the Connecting Southwest Ohio Coalition. The workgroup is actively pushing to hold internet service providers accountable in de-enrollment process to avoid participating households from unexpected bill charges. The United Way of Greater Cincinnati is leading the charge on advocating to Congress for the continued funding of the ACP. Robert Salinas asked how we are reaching community members about this topic. REI Manager and Tiara Wright expressed that the Affordability Workgroup is leaning on the internet service providers at the table to prioritize communication to their clientele; and the Miami Valley Urban League, the Ohio Connectivity Champions, and American Connection Corps (ACC) Member Felicia Elam are actively engaging with local residents at libraries and other spaces frequented by community members. Martha Jeannette-Rodriguez emphasized the need for face-to-face outreach, and also the opportunity to leverage media entities specifically serving diverse demographic groups. Chairperson Rap Hankins also emphasized that we nudge internet service providers to leverage paid advertising (such as billboards). Destiny Brown mentioned the potential for text communication.

ACC Member Felicia Elam updated that she acquired NorthStar certification to conduct digital literacy training, and is exploring AARP's Senior Planet program as another potential resource to make available to the local community. Felicia Elam also attended

the Net Inclusion 2024 conference hosted by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance and shared what was learned and gained.

The REI Manager reiterated that the REI has attempted to approach the matter of advancing broadband and digital equity across three fronts; infrastructure, affordability, and literacy. Executive Director Brian Martin shared the ACC Member Felicia Elam is available to support cross-agency local efforts related to digital equity, and that regional partners can reach out to MVRPC if interested in hosting an ACC Member during this next application cycle.

The REI Manager shared that the City of Dayton, University of Dayton, and CareSource have pulled in the REI to support the planning and coordination of a “Digital Equity Day” on April 13th.

Regarding the Transportation Domain:

Director of Regional Environment & Economic Development Leslie King provided a summary on the 2024 Greater Regional Mobility Initiative (GRMI) update currently being conducted. Focus is mostly on non-drivers, and current update prioritizes cross-county transportation. Support from Subcommittee Members was requested to share the survey widely. Leslie also shared that membership into GRMI Council is another possible way to get involved. Robert Salinas emphasized the importance of this effort in making the immigrant/refugee/New American experience less difficult for individuals and families coming from other countries. Martha Jeannette-Rodriguez expressed support for the effort and reiterates struggles encountered by foreign community members.

Tom Kelley asked about how the impact of the GRMI is presented by dollars allocated to services delivered and/or services gaps closed. Leslie indicated that this is something that can be explored. Chairperson Rap Hankins added that bus lines being discontinued by Greater Dayton Regional Transportation Authority and the matter of carbon footprint as relevant concerns. Executive Director noted that GRMI funds are also meant and being used for seniors and persons living with disabilities. Dennis Grant confirmed that United Rehabilitation Services have leveraged GRMI funding to acquire vehicles. Chairperson Rap Hankins expressed that DriveElectric Dayton would also like to participate in GRMI Council. REI Manager reiterated that Transportation Domain largely relies on the direct contributions of the GRMI within the regional community.

Regarding the Engagement Domain:

Peter Benkendorf shared that the Community of Well-Being Initiative is seeking to redefine how we measure success across the regional community through a focus on well-being as an outcome towards a thriving region. A visioning session was recently held with community thought-leaders. A final report is expected soon and hope to welcome additional collaborators and partners.

Jeffrey Adams shared updates on the City of Huber Heights diversity needs assessment. The need was identified by the Culture & Diversity Citizens Action Commission. MVRPC supported the promotion of the request for proposals to qualified vendors. The application period has closed and review of proposals is to be underway soon. Chairperson Rap Hankins indicated that the City of Huber Heights is a part of the First Suburbs Consortium, and that member communities should be presented with results from the diversity needs assessment as a shared learning opportunity.

Amy Piner shared that Montgomery County is currently conducting an internal review for a Digital Equity Action Plan, and is likely 30 to 45 days out from being complete.

The REI Manager reiterated that the Institute is always looking to be invited into any spaces and places seeking to advance equity and livability.

III. FY24 PROJECT FOCUS: RIGHT TO COUNSEL EVICTION ANALYSIS

Debra Lavey shared that Learn to Earn Dayton (LTED) secured funding towards right to counsel pilot project, with plans to execute the project through the community services provided by the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) and in alignment with the coverage area of the Omega CDC Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood. The funding will be utilized to make legal representation available to northwest Dayton tenants facing eviction, at no cost to them. The funding will also improve the data collection on eviction region-wide to provide greater context on eviction (and specifically preventable eviction) as a contributor to the housing crisis, and to inform potential interventions. Anticipated launch of pilot project is summer 2024.

Destiny Brown shared updates on the Dayton Tenant Union and expressed that the current urgent priority is Issue 6 being up for vote within the City of Dayton. The Dayton Tenant Union is also advocating for a tenant to be added to the housing steering committee being created by City of Dayton. The REI Manager also shared that the REI has connected with the Dayton Tenant Union to explore the potential facilitation of regional representation within the community group.

The REI Manager concluded by expressing that, in addition to an action-oriented emphasis, the Subcommittee's continued advancement and legitimacy is directly tied to a clear stance on promoting equitable approaches; which, on the topic of the housing crisis, includes the stance that "tenant representation is a requirement to any relevant intervention and effort". The REI Manager also shared that the Kettering Foundation is being leveraged to support this effort.

Chairperson Rap Hankins expressed that housing is also a workforce development issue, and should be considered as such in all actions and activities; and that housing is both an urban and rural issue. Courtney Rutledge added that housing is also a racial equity matter; and that the Miami Valley has the potential to be first region to achieve right to counsel.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBER UPDATES/INSIGHTS

Chairperson Rap Hankins shared that DriveElectric Dayton is growing, and is willing to go anywhere in the Miami Valley to expose community leaders/members to electric vehicles for the purpose of continuing the momentum.

Taylor Curtis shared presently relevant/urgent insight and perspectives on Black History Month and what it means for the REI Subcommittee. Current federal/state legislation has the potential of closing down domestic violence shelters due to YWCA having a mission of eliminating racism. Agencies and institutions are rolling back promises and initiatives related to racial equity/justice. The REI Subcommittee should remain informed on this matter.

Richard Schultze emphasized the need for metrics to measure the impact of success of the equity and livability efforts being pursued by the Institute; and compiled a listing of

possible metrics that the Institute could leverage to quantify and “put a number” to the work.

The REI Manager shared that MVRPC has internal opportunities that could be made more accessible to allow the Subcommittee to better identify what is missing and what we need in regard to metrics.

Robert Salinas presented a petition to put 15 citizens on a board to determine political districting maps and requested signatures.

V. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The following upcoming equity-related engagements were shared by the REI Manager:

- Chicago Freedom Exhibit (March 10th to May 2nd)
- 2024 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day (March 12th)
- 2024 Commemoration of Fair Housing Month (April 4th)
- 6th Biennial Ohio Civil Rights Transportation Symposium (April 9th to April 10th)
- 3rd Annual Imagining Community Symposium: Health & Environmental Justice (April 11th to April 12th)

VI. ACTION ITEMS, FOLLOW-UP, & NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, May 28th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

VII. CLOSING REMARKS

Rap adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.