CJWG Meeting Notes
WebEx - 12.7.22

Meeting Commence 3:00pm
Disclaimer: *Please note this is not a word for word translation.

<u>**Agenda:**</u>
1. Vote on meeting minutes from previous meetings
2. Updates on what we are doing
3. Discuss how we are addressing comments
4. Open discussion of comments
   - Recommend indicators
   - Prioritization by working group members
5. Individual criteria
   - Yes or no to criteria
   - SMI vs AMI

<u>**Panelists/CJWG members:**</u>
- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, EJ Director, Office of Environmental Justice, (DEC) Department of Environmental Conservation
- Adriana Espinoza, Deputy Commissioner for Equity and Justice, (DEC) Department of Environmental Conservation
- Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, (ANCA) Adirondack North Country Association
- Chris Coll, Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program, (NYSERDA) New York State Energy Research & Development Authority
- Joseph McNearney, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, (DOL) Department of Labor
- Dr. Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost and AVP for Faculty Diversity and Recruitment at the Rochester Institute of Technology
- Sameer Ranade, Climate Justice Advisor with (CAC) Climate Action Council
- Sonal Jessel, Policy, and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACT for Environmental Justice
- Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, (ANCA) Adirondack North Country Association
- Alex Dunn, Director, Illume Advising
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
- Tyler Picard, NYSERDA New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, Project Manager Energy and Climate Energy
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo

Attendees Board Rooms:
  Albany, NYC, Raybrook, Avon

Updates on what we are doing- Alex
- Flowchart of comment process explained:
- Reviewed comments> identified indicators commenters recommended
- Method is one tract and indicators is in another tract.
- Indicators were put into rubric> next prioritize indicators list > next examine data for smaller list> integrate data into the criteria
- Finally when we have a quorum members will discuss the methods to pursue
- Quorum was reached so we will deliberate on these bullet points.

Run-through of indicators considered- Alex
- Environmental burdens and climate change risks VS population characteristics and health vulnerabilities
- We've identified 15 high priority categories of indicators to review.
- Illume working with NY state agencies to obtain data for houseless people.

Identified Indicators:
1. diabetes
2. houseless/unsheltered people (economically vulnerable and high risk for climate events)
3. high tax aid
4. proximity to airports (collect this data)
5. zoning practices
6. access to potable water
7. illegal dumping
8. lead in water in schools
9. lead water service lines
10. abandoned buildings
11. concentration of heat-vulnerable jobs
12. cost of living
13. gentrification
14. EN-zone (don't use in criteria list-overlaps with income)
15. Low life expectancy

Abigail: Concerning lead, good data is not available for all of these correct?

Alex: Yes, there may be good data for certain regions but not all.

Abigail: Which ones should we highlight/flag for the short term?

Alex: Proximity to airports is one. All of these will take some doing. We want to try to find data for each of these indicators listed. Neil confirmed data has stayed the same regarding lead indicators.

Indicators to flag worthy of discussion & long-term tracking:
- Proximity to airports
- Lead in water in schools and service lines
- Homeless population
- Cost of living with climate migration
- Gentrification
- Low life expectancy

Abigail: Regarding abandoned buildings it does not mention overlap. Is that because they overlap less?

Alex: Low life expectancy and premature death overlap but not by a lot. We didn't find anything that overlaps with abandoned buildings.

Abigail: Would abandoned buildings tell us anything about gentrification?

Alex: Yes. Those and the buildings that get torn down and rebuilt.

Abigail: The city of Rochester probably has a lot of good data on this.

Alex: We try to avoid using city data because it doesn't quite capture what it is like to live in a gentrified area.

Eddie: I pause about including gentrification because if we can measure gentrification then the inclusion of those communities as DACs feels counter intuitive. Isn't the disadvantage to the lower income people in that community when the gentry moves in? This in turn raises property value causing displacement to low-income residents.

Alex: EN Zone defined: It's a way of measuring poverty and income which includes multiple things.

Illume to work with agencies eg) DEC, NYSERDA to see what data we can get from these below indicators
1. diabetes
2. houseless/unsheltered people
3. high tax aid
4. proximity to airports
5. zoning practices
6. access to portable water
7. illegal dumping
8. lead in water in schools
9. lead water service lines
10. abandoned buildings
11. low life expectancy

Overview of example income thresholds -Alex

Chose SMI (state median income) in individual criteria instead of AMI (area median income). Reason for choosing SMI is that it aligned with public administered programs.

Joe: Curious on the comments up to this point. Did they reflect our discussion or rational from the last couple years on this?

Alex: They did not. As a researcher I say area median income is a better metric but it would be hard to implement.

Chris: From an administrative perspective the state has only so much in resources targeted at low-income households. SMI is used as a threshold for eligibility. This is because we want to capture categorical eligibility per household. We already have a way to track the benefits and investments. Not sure there's a clear path to switch the eligibility criteria from SMI to AMI.

Abigail: Feels we should move forward with this. -CJWG no disagreements

Overview of Additional Criteria (from the comment period) -Alex
- low-income household criteria and the implications by regions.
- review data across time-evaluating- to see whether the current definition is meeting the needs of the legislation.

Eddie: Alex, you mentioned there was a split in the comments on this particular question. Was it a clear consensus or evenly split? Just trying to get a sense of what you are seeing as the 'voice of the commenters.

Alex: There were many form letters submitted to us. I did not get a sense that this was more than a handful of people disagreeing. I propose for February 2023 we continue with SMI. Also continue with individual criteria for this year. FYI, for December 14's CJWG Shannon will discuss updates as Alex will be out.

Vote on minutes from March 16,2022's CJWG meeting
- No questions from CJWG members
- Vote results: Yay, minutes approved and will be uploaded to the CJWG website as soon as practicable.
- No further comments/concerns from working group

Next Steps

- For December 14,2022's meeting:
  - Plan to approve the minutes from November 30,2022's CJWG meeting.
  - We will discuss investments and benefits.
  - At the end of December 14's meeting we'll have a quick chat about timeline to make sure we are on track for February 2023's deadline.
  - Reminder: January 2023 meetings will be 2 hours to cover everything.

- Reminder CAC voting on scoping plan December 19,2022

  - **Meeting Adjourned: 4:17pm**