

**DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative Minutes:**  
April 7th, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**I. Welcome from DOH & Land Acknowledgment—Passia Abraham**

**II. Partner Highlight: Pierce County Aids Foundation (PCAF)—Erick Seelbach, Executive Director and Erica Crittendon—Interim Prevention Director**

- PCAF’s mission is related to taking care of people living with HIV, helping folks navigate bureaucratic systems, as well as preventing the spread of HIV through, providing education and services in the South Sound area of Washington
- Eligibility Confusion - confusion on the use of the word disability vs. comorbidity and there has been a lots of delays in ensuring that people living with HIV have been included on priority lists for COVID-19 vaccine eligibility. The eligibility tier language requires people to have more than one morbidity or underlying condition, which ignores the impact of COVID on people living with HIV; The CDC has now included HIV in COVID-19 vaccine prioritization but there is still some confusion about eligibility in WA state
- Vaccine hesitancy - People are required to disclose their HIV status and there are concerns of this information being tracked or stigmatized, worry about interaction with HIV medications, concerns about the impact of vaccine and side effects, and additional equitable barriers experienced by BIPOC living with HIV
- Access issues - Locations not accessible to folks with transportation barriers, times are not accessible to essential workers/those that work 9-5, drive through sites that don’t allow walk ups for people without cars, requirement of showing extra verification while white identifying folks do have the same requirements, online appointment systems not accessible to everyone
- For folks living with HIV, there’s a lot of intersections with other populations (such as BIPOC communities, those experiencing homelessness, etc.) so it is important to view vaccine access barriers around hesitancy through an intersectional lens
  - More information is on the slides and [www.pcaf-wa.org](http://www.pcaf-wa.org)
    - Email: Erick Seelbach: [eseelbach@pcaf-wa.org](mailto:eseelbach@pcaf-wa.org) | Erica Crittendon: [ecrittendon@pcaf-wa.org](mailto:ecrittendon@pcaf-wa.org)

### III. Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy and Building Vaccine Confidence Panel – Fathiya Abdi

- Heard a lot about vaccine hesitancy and we want to take the time to recognize vaccine hesitancy should not be an excuse for inequitable vaccine access but in part it may be present due to inadequately addressing vaccine barriers. Our community partners continue to proactively address community concerns and respond to needs with care.
- **Community Speakers:**
  - **Faaluaina Pritchard (Lua); Asian Pacific Cultural Center**
    - Mission is to bridge communities and generations through arts, culture, education, and business
    - Have been involved in COVID-19 vaccination and vaccinated over 1,226 people who were majority Asian and Pacific Islanders, also help provide COVID-19 testing and navigation services for AA/PI folks
  - **Zaira Sanchez; United Farm Workers Foundation**
    - Working on vaccination efforts and education in the farm worker community because there was a lot of misinformation and fears in the beginning of the pandemic; gone out to locations the community frequents, utilizing social media platforms, webinars, etc.
    - Mainly found that farm workers are willing to get the vaccine despite the comments about hesitancy
  - **Rowan Salton; Northwest Youth Services**
    - Bellingham based organization providing housing and survival resources for homeless youth
    - Seen a lot of vaccine hesitancy among unhoused youth since a lot of information they receive is from word of mouth and found that fact sheets (from the CDC) wasn't super helpful
    - Unique efforts: staff ambassadors sharing their vaccine experience, partnered with a tribal nation to provide a pop-up Johnson & Johnson vaccination clinic (was able to vaccinate 8 unhoused youth at clinic!)
  - **Jan Olmstead; American Indian Health Commission**
    - The Commission works in support of the Tribal and Urban Indian Health Immunizations Coalition, a tribally driven and prevention support for immunizations and infectious disease, to address immunizations as an equity issue and priority health disparities issue in Indian Country

- Goal is to develop a community driven approach to vaccine hesitancy and promotion and are focusing on extending partnerships to other supporting organizations
- Have found community influencers very helpful with vaccine promotion
- **Van Dinh-Kuno; Refugee and Immigrants Northwest**
  - Working with DOH to vaccinate over 3,000 refugee/immigrant community members although experienced a lot of access barriers to get this population vaccinated
  - To reach people who are unable to come to centers, have been using mobile vaccine clinics
  - Also working with faith based outreach to promote vaccination
- **Rose Mendoza; Clark County Latino Youth Conference**
  - Partnering with local organizations to bring resources to Latinx and Spanish speaking communities to help them navigate through the pandemic and gain information on vaccine phases and resources, and address community fears around COVID and social health inequities for communities of color
- **Aaliyah Messiah; POCAAN**
  - Provides multiple services to marginalized communities in Seattle/King County including those living with HIV/AIDs, the LGBTQ+ community, those experiencing homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse, etc.
  - Working with the community to promote COVID-19 vaccination including partnering with churches, facilitating discussions with community members about education and promotion, and providing pop-up vaccination events
- **Gabriela Ewing; Hispanic Disability Support SWWA**
  - Serves Hispanic adults and children with learning disabilities
  - Vaccine barriers for Hispanic individuals with disabilities include language barriers, technological challenges to register for vaccines, and vaccine hesitancy due to misinformation on the vaccine

## II. **Small Group Discussions– Passia Abraham and Hang Ngo**

- Community Agreements:
  - Transparency, Respect, Take space, make space, Grace, Confidentiality and Take care of yourselves and others

- Small group discussions prioritize voices, needs and requests of those most disproportionately impacted by COVID19 so if you aren't a member of that group please stay in listen only mode
- The purpose of the groups are to provide a space for Collaborative members to share vaccine efforts in your community, connect with other, build opportunities for partnership, share resources and brainstorm recommendations and how DOH can support
- DOH developed a set of discussion questions that our Community Small Group Discussion Facilitators will use to guide the conversation:
  - What is going well and/or current challenges you have experienced with vaccine engagement and outreach efforts?
  - What vaccine related hesitancy and concerns are you hearing?
  - Do you have any recommendations? How can DOH best support?
- Community Small Group Discussion Facilitators (**notes for each small group discussion were taken by DOH**)
  - **American Indian/Alaska Native:** Jan Olmstead; American Indian Health Commission
  - **Black/African American:** Aaliyah Messiah; POCAAN
  - **Asian American:** Lin Crowley, APIC SPS
  - **Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander:** Faaluaina Pritchard; Asian Pacific Cultural Center
  - **Latinx:** Rose Mendoza; Clark County Latino Youth Conference
  - **Immigrant and Refugees:** Van Dinh-Kuno; Refugee and Immigrants Northwest
  - **People with disabilities:** Gabriela Ewing; Hispanic Disability Support SWWA
  - **People incarcerated/jailed/detained:** JM Wong and Dorian Taylor, Free them All
  - **Agricultural Workers:** Zaira Sanchez; United Farm Workers Foundation
  - **People experiencing homelessness:** Rowan Salton; Northwest Youth Services

## V. Closing Thoughts – Passia Abraham

- Thank you to the Panelists and Facilitators today and to all our Community Partners! Special shout out to all our community partners that we've been partnering with and funding to do community outreach.
- Please share feedback about the Collaborative meeting today through this survey:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID\\_Collaborative\\_Feedback](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID_Collaborative_Feedback)

- Feel free to reach out and contact us at:  
[vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov)

## **Collaborative: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy & Building Confidence**

### Small Group Discussions

- **What is going well and/or what current challenges have you experienced with vaccine engagement and outreach efforts?**
- **What vaccine-related hesitancy and concerns are you hearing?**
- **Do you have any recommendations? How can DOH best support?**

### **American Indian/Alaska Native**

- **Facilitator:** Jan Olmstead; American Indian Health Commission

#### WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Using community influencers

#### CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Concerns about J&J Vaccine
- Limited resources, vaccine supply, and accessible clinics – especially for community members experiencing homelessness
- Technology barriers to schedule vaccine appointments
- Misinformation/need to gain trusted messengers

#### WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- History of mistrust of U.S. government and medical/research professionals due to historical trauma

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Provide funding for vaccine hesitancy work
- Provide toolkit that can be adapted by communities
- Address population needs with a focus on individual needs; not every population needs the same thing

### **Asian American**

- **Facilitator:** Lin Crowley; Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition South Puget Sound

## WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Community trusted CBOs

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Anti-Asian hate and violence
- Seniors having a hard time getting the vaccine
- Inconsistencies between how different local government jurisdictions work
- Misinformation from home countries
- Cultural barriers
- Technology barriers for scheduling nearby appointments

## WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Religious concerns about vaccine

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Providing trusted faith-based resources
- Uplifting community work to help community members get appointments, access transportation, relay information, etc.
- Facilitate partnerships with private organizations to provide perks for vaccination (ex: free Krispy Kreme donuts or grocery store discounts)
- Provide more information on vaccine safety, side effects, effectiveness
- Support grassroots outreach to contact people about vaccination

## Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander

- **Facilitator:** Faaluaina Pritchard; Asian Pacific Cultural Center

## WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Vaccinating people at pop-up events
- Partnership with Swedish and City of Seattle to provide information and assist vaccine sign ups
- Community organizations partnering with each other

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Technology/infrastructure barriers to access vaccines
- Misinformation
- Transportation to appointments
- Need for translation services
- Concerns about J&J vaccine

- Getting homebound community members vaccinated

#### WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Fear of side effects, needles
- Do not feel the vaccine is necessary

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Highlight stories of community members who have been vaccinated
- Support work already being done by community organizations

#### Latinx (Spanish Interpretation)

- **Facilitator:** Rose Mendez; Clark County Latino Youth Conference

#### WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Community pop-up clinics
  - Community run
  - Mobile pop-up clinics
- Community organizations partnering with each other
- Good environment at vaccination clinics (food and music and more)
- Community influencers
- Partnerships with faith-based organizations

#### CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Not all vaccination sites are ADA compliant (No CLAS, or other services)
- Providers have low vaccine supply
- Long waitlists
- Pop-up clinics during working hours

#### WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Not wanting to be the first ones to get the vaccine, history of BIPOC communities used for research
- Fetal tissues in vaccine

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Supporting work already being done by community organizations
- Providing pop-up clinics during evenings/weekends to reach people that work during normal weekday hours
- Messaging
  - Showcasing influencer videos of community members who have received the vaccine
  - Telling people they have the right to the vaccine



## **Black/African American**

- **Facilitator:** Aaliyah Messiah; POCAAN

### WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Early access for elders
- In Seattle/King County AA community did a good job
- Community Partners who can register friends and family

### CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Homebound elders and people with disabilities
- Difficulty reaching people between 30 and 45 years old
- Concern about breakthrough cases
- Concerns about Johnson & Johnson
- Hesitancy does not equal refusal

### WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Fetal tissues in vaccine

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Address fetal tissue Fact Sheet-
  - accurate information shared by group members and crossover with faith communities
  - Discussion about support of vaccines from Catholic Churches
- Fact sheet about what's in vaccine
- Messaging
  - Word of mouth spreads quickly
- Targeted messages for people 30-45 years of age
  - Desire to move away from hesitancy
- Fact sheets about mRNA and what that is
- Community partners need to have access to appointments
- Fact sheet for PLWH/HIV
- More info about breakthrough cases and what that means
  - Particularly for 30-45 year olds
- More information about Johnson & Johnson

## **Individuals experiencing homelessness**

- **Facilitator:** Rowan Salton; Northwest Youth Services

### WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Vaccine ambassador program
- Getting DOH grant
- Meeting people where they are
  - Example: Olympia Free Clinic + the county, clinics every Wednesday in downtown Olympia with J&J vaccine
  - Hosting popup clinics is important because of transportation and other challenges, due to migratory nature of homelessness
  - Getting vaccines out to encampments; outreach to unsheltered folks
- Using a trauma-informed approach in a non-judgmental way- easier to have conversation and develop relationship and trust in a shelter
- Sharing personal anecdotes to combat vaccine mistruths
  - Sharing personal stories of vaccine hesitancy and how it was overcome, also that a Black female scientist developed vaccine
  - Sharing information about vaccine ingredients (for ex: there is no pork in vaccine)
  - Peer-to-peer education has been crucial
  - Black community may actually be more trusting of J&J because it's a household brand
  - Buttons that say "I got the vaccine"--staff wear them and generate conversations that way

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Needing to prioritize one dose (J&J) vaccines for unhoused folks
- People who have taken the vaccine have alleviated some worries for some folks, but others are just not getting the vaccine
- Communication with providers/lack of supply at doctors' offices
- Unaccompanied minors--issues around parental consent affect getting vaccinated
  - More young people will be eligible. There is a Mature Minor Doctrine in Washington State, but not all providers know about it

## WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Concerns around Ramadan and vaccine side effects
- Worries about microchips / implant rumors

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Prioritizing single-dose vaccine for unhoused folks
- Communication from DOH about youth getting vaccinated (mature minor doctrine)
- Sharing information on vaccine and availability through a digest that unhoused folks use

- Have people from the community at pop-up clinics to talk to them and do more outreach
- Champions in the homeless communities who can empower them to get vaccinated
- Need more information from DOH—age restrictions, and J&J

## Immigrant & refugees

- **Facilitator:** Van Dinh-Kuno; Refugee and Immigrants Northwest

## WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Collaboration among counties and organizations for pop-up clinics, helping out together on efforts
- Community-based organizations working with Seniors
  - Example: helped register Seniors for vaccinations in various locations, provided transportation access (they may not know how to navigate on their own).
  - Received transportation from Uber
- Youth helping with language needs
- Vaccine efforts in airport
  - Providing vaccine information in 12 languages to give to each airline company
- Utilizing language toolkit to reach out to communities.
  - Example: billboard in cafeteria in airport. Going to workplace in larger immigrant sector places.
- Reaching out to faith leaders in area to support vaccine education/information
- Referring clients to clinics specific to BIPOC

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Many folks under impression there is a cost to vaccine
  - People being asked about health insurance (even though it is not required)
- Dose allocation--more people than vaccines allocated for
  - Need more vaccines to continue to do work
  - Trouble receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> doses (rescheduling the 2<sup>nd</sup> one)
- Registration process is very lengthy; currently helping folks on-site with all the steps
  - Tech literacy, and information is not in plain language
- Language barriers
- Initial issue was communicating about the vaccine and accessibility

## WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Concerns about composition of vaccine
- People are willing to take the vaccine but fear of what community “thinks” of them getting vaccine (going to church)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Need for community influencers.
  - Pictures of community members getting vaccine – incorporate in messaging/communication
- More vaccine supply to pop-up/community clinics
- Reaching community members in larger immigrant sector places such as airports
- Supporting community-led work
- Standardize questionnaires to make sure people are not being asked for health insurance or social security number

#### People with disabilities

- **Facilitator:** Gabriela Ewing; Hispanic Disability Support SWWA

#### WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Working on accessibility with text messaging
- Partnering to make sure distribution happens quickly
- Mobile Units

#### CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Technology is creating access barriers to vaccine
- Reaching homebound folks

#### WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Religious beliefs

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- More information for caretakers and those who support homebound folks

#### People incarcerated/jailed/detained

- **Facilitator:** JM Wong and Dorian Taylor; Free Them All
- **Support:** Omid Bagheri Garakani

#### Notes:

#### WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Family members of people incarcerated are trusted messengers for their loved ones inside

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- There is mistrust of prison and jail officials given the ways COVID-19 has been handled inside facilities
- It is challenging to communicate with people inside and provide authentic engagement to address their concerns.

## WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Distrust of prison/jail staff providing vaccine services

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Family members need support in getting and understanding vaccines.
- Vaccine providers and health educators who are not prison/jail staff but who can provide services to people incarcerated will help build vaccine confidence
- A virtual live townhall with community educators and people incarcerated would be good

## **Agricultural workers**

- **Facilitator:** Zaira Sanchez; United Farm Workers Foundation

## WHAT IS GOING WELL

- Culturally appropriate events
  - Necessary to boost vaccine confidence, accessibility, appropriateness, and affordability and overcome hesitancy
- Use of community influencers/ambassadors
- Farmworkers want to get vaccinated; a text survey of agricultural workers shows high number of recipients interested in the vaccine

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Common issues with Massive Vaccination Sites, that they were serving large numbers, waiting in line, lacked interpretation, and had a uniformed police/army presence.
- Need wider outreach
- Language barriers

## WHAT HESITANCY CONCERNS HAVE YOU HEARD

- Wanting vaccine in a traditional setting such as a hospital or clinic

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOH

- Finding providers who can dedicate time to the effort to make sites safer for the workers
- Community-based organizations with relationships with workers present at the vaccine site
- Culturally / Language appropriate materials
- Spanish-speaking staff to help with scheduling
- Build trust with the community
- Not just about getting the vaccine, have materials, food, festive atmosphere for patrons
- Be informed / informative
- Community influencers necessary to carry the message for agricultural workers about vaccines.

## Resources:

- [Resources and Recommendations](#) – Information on Vaccine Material (can be filtered by 35+ languages)
- [Provider Discussion Guide: Building Confidence in the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine \(PDF\)](#)
- [Provider Discussion Guide: Building Confidence in COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines \(PDF\)](#)
  - Both provider discussion guides are in the Healthcare Providers section->Vaccine Information->Toolkits and Resources->[Patient Education Resources](#)
- [Discussion Guide for Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines for People Experiencing Homelessness \(PDF\)](#)
  - located on the [Resources and Recommendations page](#)
  - Although this resource was developed for people experiencing homelessness, it may be helpful for other populations as well.
- [COVID-19 vaccine safety: what to know \(PDF\)](#)
- [Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network – COVID-19 Vaccine Know Your Rights](#)
- [Is it COVID-19 or Vaccine Reaction](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions page](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Partner Toolkit](#)
- [All in WA: Vaccine Equity Initiative](#) - funding vaccine access and outreach

## Currently in the works:

- Myth Busting Material
- Clear guidance for parental consent for minors

