

Granite State Future
Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee

May 23, 2013

Local Government Center, Concord, N.H.

Meeting Summary

Present:

Barbara Salvatore, EngAGING NH
MaryLou Beaver, Family Assistance Advisory Council
Molly Donovan, UNH Cooperative Extension
Rebecca Sky, NH Health & Equity Partnership
Bill Guinther, NH Housing
Bruce Mallory, Carsey Institute, UNH
Michelle Mears, SRPC
Tara Bamford, NCC

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by CoChair Bruce Mallory.

1. Updates-

NHHFA has begun Fair Housing and Equity Assessment training for RPC staffs through the Community Planning Grant. FHEAs are a “light version” of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing required by HUD programs administered by the Office of Community Planning and Development . Bill noted that it can be difficult to determine the extent of housing discrimination in New Hampshire as many instances go unreported, but it is clear from case record and other sources that we have Fair Housing problems here.

Bruce mentioned a civic health index update published by Carsey – high education levels and stable economy have been related to high civic health. Now that education levels are leveling off and economic recovery is slow, there are questions about what this will mean for civic health. Immigration used to be middle aged, higher incomes, now trending toward young, immigrants. It was agreed that land use impacts of refugees is an area the RPC’s lack and need more knowledge on.

MaryLou, Barbara and Michelle are all participating on work groups for the BIA strategic economic plan for NH. MaryLou has raised the point that early childhood education is an economic development issue b/c it shapes your future workforce. Barbara has raised the point that a healthy state is a draw for business.

The RPCs are working on vision statements, public input, core data, an online forum, and chapter outlines.

NH Listens is conducting sessions around the state for Transport NH. Participation has been good; focused on those involved in transit service or needs.

Molly is doing a listserve for RPC staff working on the community planning grants and will ask Ben if the rest of us involved in GSF can sign up for it.

2. Regional Plan Framework and Equity & Engagement matrix

Committee members suggested the following changes:

Consider incorporating the equity checklist into the intro pages to the framework, e.g., on p.1 mention that it is a product that can be used for local plans as well, and perhaps could be mentioned on p.5 when talking about all voices being heard.

Housing, p.21 – statewide plans and studies 2 corrections – NHHFA “Assessment of Impediments for Fair Housing” should read “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing,” and NHHFA “Biennial Plan” should read “Biennial Housing Plan.”

Rebecca reported on a recently released NH Center for Public Policy Studies benchmark report on health equity that should be added to the matrix – Health and Equity in New Hampshire – 2013 Report Card – <http://www.healthynh.com/images/nhhep/healthequity2013.pdf>

There is a follow-up to NH’s Silver Tsunami that should be added to the matrix - The NH Center for Public Policy Studies - Aging and the Public Long-Term-Care System
<http://www.nhpolicy.org/report.php?report=323>

NH’s Silver Tsunami is in Econ part of matrix – also is good demographic background, and follow-up report relevant to housing.

Corrections to Housing section of Equity & Engagement matrix – existing resources 4.g. “quartly” should be “quarterly” ; 6th bullet in baseline data column is a formatting error; last bullet in that column needs a comma between “assistance” and “individual” ; short term metrics column, 3rd bullet -change “statistics” to “data” ; existing policies column, 4th bullet under goals - 2nd sentence should read “Affordable rental housing for people with disabilities, very low and extremely low income, and elderly are also a high priority.”

3. Statewide Existing Conditions and Trends Assessment

Suggestion to seek permission to use the graphs on p. 17 of this report

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report-Johnson-Demographic-Trends-NH-21st-Century.pdf>

to illustrate demographic trends – pp5-6; growing number of minority births are one factor changing demographics.

Several emphasized the importance of immigrant and refugee trends as a consideration for regional planning.

It was noted that some of the data e.g. housing, is already out of date and will need to be updated before the project is completed next year.

Barbara noted that while much demographic data is reported with one grouping for 65 years of age and over, that is misleading as a measure of the special needs of seniors; due to longer life spans and better medical care, projections for those 80 and over would give a better measure of the population experiencing physical changes that make them less able to participate, and in need of transportation services etc.

4. Next steps for assistance to the RPCs/ how to structure ongoing technical assistance-

Equity checklist- ok to add logo and post to website. Tara will distribute through manager's group.

Plan for how to field questions from RPCs or specific requests for assistance – Bruce offered to have questions for participants of this TASC or about material related to this TASC through him. If there are a lot of questions on a particular topic, a special workshop on that topic could be planned for RPC staff.

5. Community of Interest and Community of Place – Molly aims to provide reports to Jen Czysz by June 21st.

Young adults were added as a Community of Interest. Most focus groups included individuals from a variety of groups, e.g., disabled, minority, immigrant, elderly. Staff made 35 to 40 contacts to get 20 focus groups including 120 participants. Every group involved direct participation by the clients served vs staff. The top themes overall were 1. Transportation 2 Housing 3 Jobs 4 Access to social services 5 Youth recreation. Youth mentioned that there is nothing for high schoolers to do after school unless they are involved in team sports. They also expressed concern about the quality of their schools. All five groups (low income, disabled, seniors, youth, minority/immigrant/refugee) reported transportation as the top concern.

6. Next steps- It was agreed that rather than having more public meetings with general issues discussions in the fall, it would be more helpful if NH Listens/UNH Extension instead helped connect the RPC's with the 620 participants in the Community of Interest meetings and Community of Place meetings to engage them in the next steps of plan development – developing strategies for addressing the concerns.

7. Next meeting will be in September and will include a check-in on how the RPCs are doing, what kinds of questions Bruce is getting, and whether some work sessions on specific topics would be helpful.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04.

