

CJWG Meeting Notes

WebEx- 6.23.2021

Meeting Commence 12:03pm

Agenda:

- A) Introductions and Business Items
- B) DAC Criteria Timeline Update
- C) Health Indicators
- D) Indigenous/Tribal Communities
- E) Review Draft Scenario
- F) Feedback on Draft Scenario
- G) Next Steps

Introductions:

- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Sonal Jessel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACTION for Environmental Justice
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
- Jerrod Bley, Clean Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association
- Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County
- Rosa Mendez, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
- Chris Coll, Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program, NYSERDA
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
- Joseph McNearney, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, DOL
- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey – Public Outreach Specialist, DEC
- Amanda Dwelley, Illume Advising (Presenter)
- Alex Dunn, Illume Advising (Presenter)
- David Witt-Indian Affairs and Consultation Coordinator, DEC (Presenter)

Business Items

- May 24 Meeting Minutes approved
- Update on Question of Indigenous Communities –

Indigenous/Tribal Communities

Elizabeth: Are there unrecognized nations and how are the communities recognized?

David: Yes. Unkechaug who are state recognized. Also, communities that are not recognized such as Montakett and Ramapo and Lenape who are state recognized in NJ. We do engage with any Indigenous communities.

Eddie: Can you share the reaction from the Nations?

David: There is some interest that has been expressed. I do not want to speak on behalf of the Nations. Some have a consensus-based process that we want to respect.

Rahwa: One of the requests from NYRENEWS in a letter was that the agencies have an Indigenous panel advisory that is separate. That might be more coordinated.

Rahwa: I would like to engage directly with Nation leadership.

David: We are continuing to follow up with the Nations to have that engagement. Might be with HETF.

Eddie: I am cognizant of how quickly process is moving. How do we respect the Indigenous Nation processes while maximizing their exposure to what is being considered? One suggestion, find out what is a participation that might work with them.

Update on Health Indicators

Eddie: How does NYS account for heat related deaths? Is it captured only during actual heat waves (example of NYC)? Does NYS defer to municipalities? If yes, that doesn't capture as a medical category.

Neil: The focus was more on heat stress hospitalizations/ED visits. We looked at mortality a little bit for summer or warmest months and not just heat waves.

Sonal: FYI, NYC recently came out with a report estimating 350 heat related deaths/year

Eddie: A few years ago NYC estimated 114 heat related deaths but other academic reports estimate over 600 in NYC. This is a vast difference. How does NYS DOH calculate the number of heat-related deaths in NYC? Do they use their own method?

Neil: Right now we have not published a mortality indicator. We publish hospitalization and ED visits. Not sure of how studies collected their data.

Alex: I think we can capture things through other means.

Elizabeth: Are you checking with the NIEHS for data? Wondering where epigenetics lands in assessing susceptibility to disease or poor health as a result of extreme weather events. Also, what about HIV/AIDS? That increases susceptibility. Mold? That also increases during extreme weather events.

Neil: Would have to look for HIV/AIDS at a statewide level. Will reach out to that program. Mold we don't have a statewide source. NYC has some surveys and data at a neighborhood tabulation area.

Sonal: I do think heat stress parameters + cardiovascular + respiratory indicators will capture the communities with heat death increase. Here is the recent NYC heat report: <https://nyc-ehs.net/nyccas2021/web/report/7>

Amanda: Mold may be picked up by age of housing or other indicators.

Amy: I'm surprised we can't find good data to utilize on diabetes.

Elizabeth: What about proximity to brownfields or sick buildings?

Amanda: We have a lot of proximity indicators on the environmental burden category. DEC is helping to gather more on those indicators.

Chris: If we do not have sufficient data on certain indicators or a reliable correlation at this time, can we develop a list of data points that we need to add and incorporate in the future? We will have annual reviews of the criteria, right?

Alex: We found very high correlations across many of the health indicators. That means we can capture some of the ones we don't have great data on using the others. Where we see gaps we will list out for future iterations.

❖ **Preview of Map Tool:**

Jerrod: Why are there gaps?

Amanda: There are gaps based on the scoring approach. Some census tracts with very few people do not provide the best data. They are holding for other analysis.

Alex: We've just gotten the ground-truthing website up so you will be receiving a link. Site will include tutorial on how to use it. We want more of your feedback on indicators. Help us understand what is really important for you and where you feel worried.

Next Steps & Scheduling

- CJWG will receive links to the tool and the indicator slides.
- Working group been asked to provide feedback on other indicators. i.e. Which indicators are important to working group?
- Additional meeting dates for early July will be determined.
- Illume and Rosa will follow up with working group between now and July 20,2021.
- Information regarding meetings and materials can be found on www.climate.ny.gov

Meeting End: 1:00pm