

Attendees: Mike Genuine (IRCO), Lydia Ledgerwood-Eberlein (MCEM), Joshua Baker (Lloyd Eco District), Marisol Lozano-Peralta (PBEM), Jeremy Van Keuren (PBEM), Glenn Devitt (PBEM), Ernest Jones (PBEM), Regina Ingabire (PBEM), Angelique Nomie (PBEM)

Vision

Mission

Values

Ernie – looked quite good. Nothing stood out that was missing.

Mike – from underserved community lens – this looks good (i.e., Portland’s historical underserved communities).

Josh – is there a desire to be consistent across other bureaus on the definition of underserved communities?

Glenn – what we aspire to is broader and more inclusive than the city’s goals.

Lydia – should community resilience (which seems to be losing its meaning because it keeps getting redefined) be part of the values?

Jeremy – might get director push back if we use the word resilience. Doesn’t mean CRT should not using resilience perhaps it should be more sparing. Should it be pared down? Redefined?

Mike – from a community perspective we are trying to boost our community’s resilience.

Regina – Shad might be coming at the word resilience from a budget perspective. Resilience might be going into a territory that’s different from emergency management. There might also be pushback from leadership. Maybe resilience has become a buzzword that does not mean a lot. But community preparedness could have less push back from a budget perspective.

Jeremy – if we swap resilience with preparedness, we lose something.

Mike – maybe resilience is too granular or soft for municipalities (and grants). However, it means a lot to community members.

Josh – resilience is used in their organization but includes elements such as financial resiliency.

Lydia – county is building resilience across departments, but **maybe preparedness is the EM contribution to resilience.**

Glenn – language evolution. Resilience has been diluted.

Jeremy – can we meet halfway? Use preparedness to bolster resilience? **Jeremy will track changes in Values and send to folks.**

Jeremy – do we want to move to a place of community ownership? If so, how do we incorporate this into our values?

Josh – we use this spectrum internally when we launch projects. It varies by project.

Jeremy – we do this with BEECN.

Jeremy & Glenn – taken the wrong way, this could imply that government creates programs then abdicates them to the community.

Glenn – these initiatives are not profitable and cannot be done without mandates.

Mike – communities warned not to jump in too far. Wasting IRCO's funds. Organization has shown interest in community preparedness and resilience but have not been given full green to address this. If we moved all the way to ownership, communities would struggle.

Jeremy – **what is the appropriate balance between government and community participation?** Further, there is an element of expertise an emergency manager can bring to communities by capturing the spirit of a CBO and translating it to plans and policies.

Lydia – ownership is aspirational. And local government carries state and federal governments on their backs. There is a structure underneath what we do, and government carries this into community spaces. CBOs don't have access to state and federal government. Where are we aspiring to live? Community also means a thousand things and not everyone can be served equally. As government, our role is in the middle.

Mike – spectrum seems like two sides of a bridge that come together. Government can only go so far into community functions and vice versa.

Ernie – collaboration and partnership are important ideas in this concept.

Jeremy – where at all is Community Ownership appropriate?

Josh – COAD participated with PBEM in how to spend UASI funds. This could be an aim.

Lydia – always a power differential between who has the money and who needs the money. Becomes neocolonial. If you want to fit inside the box we create here are the rules.

Jeremy – we have raw materials to build the box, we need the box, tell us what the box should look like.

Jeremy – seems like most appropriate spot for us is “collaborate” with some parts “defer to.” Jeremy will use this spectrum and today’s meeting notes to inform the CRT vision.

Josh – helpful from CBOs to know why we are present. What is our role? Just FYI or are we actually collaborating? Good to learn shared knowledge from guest speakers. Also, times where COADs can weigh in on policies or strategies. Good to call this out specifically.

Jeremy –doing extractive outreach is the city’s model for doing outreach and engagement. Should fight against that.

Lydia – should consciously try to build a different way to conduct outreach.

Vulnerability Bearers

Lydia – might want to turn wording from vulnerable to disaster vulnerable.

Jeremy – communities that tend to be less served by government are put into vulnerable places, sometimes by design to include institutional racism and intolerance that has existed over generations. Appreciates “vulnerability bearers” because it incorporates passive aspects of vulnerability.

Josh – what about language accessibility?

Jeremy – we do need something we can present to other bureaus without a Wiki page for definitions.

Regina, Lydia, Josh – “vulnerability bearers” needs more definition.

Jeremy – do we want to drag this term into the light more?

Regina – what do we want to achieve? We want our mission values to be something that anyone can read and understand given the communities we serve. Regina appreciates “simple,” so why would we want to complicate matters with a new term that requires further explanation and that could get flagged (per Lydia’s comment) or diluted?

Jeremy – the reason we might want to include a term that requires definition is because if we start using the term the hope is it prompts others to begin considering and possibly using this term.

Mike – looking at this term from a trauma lens implies weakness rather than bolstering empowerment.

Regina – if you ask communities if they define themselves as vulnerable, they will vehemently deny it.

Lydia – disaster vulnerable concept is created by government, not communities. Government is the bearers of oppressive systems that make communities vulnerable in the government's eyes.

Mike – communities come to classes to be resilient, not to address vulnerability.

Jeremy – is government's responsibility to open more avenues to resilience?

Mike – people are coming for individual mindsets (i.e., a 30-minute class on frozen water pipes could save a community member thousands of dollars).

Lydia – does government brings subject matter expertise (i.e. we're not here to save you)?

Mike – individuals are coming from the perspective of what can we do to prepare for something I don't know is coming? We are talking about individual community members.

Jeremy – concerned the principle behind government as SME only risks making CRT too passive. We do have to make educated policy decisions on how to make communities less vulnerable.

Mike – that is why the spectrum comes together in the middle and doesn't quite connect. Rather, hands shake at the middle.

Jeremy – is role of government deciding where to open that marketplace of collaboration?

Mike – yes, because government would see that.

Lydia – not saying but implying government also has limitations (i.e., resources). Work is focused and centered on disaster-vulnerable people because government vulnerability exists.

Ernie – should recognize that when the needs of the most vulnerable are being satisfied, people who are not very vulnerable gain from it.

Jeremy – people only see the community they live in.

Mike – we come together as responsible community members and take votes on how to spend resources. Boosting a project for one community impacts the wellbeing of another community. This group's strength is prioritization and equitability. Without this group there is no mechanism to address community needs.

Jeremy – PBEM can go to COAD saying we have "x" number of resources, please help us identify where they should go.

Mike – we are addressing vulnerabilities (not saying you are vulnerable) via preparedness.

Regina – using “historically underserved communities” is a fact statement that **addresses inequities in our system** and doesn’t imply that we are going to save you.

Jeremy – vulnerability is a reductive term. What is the other side of this term? Capable?

Lydia – resilience? Knowledge of something oncoming makes you more psychologically resilient.

Jeremy – whatever we do come up with should address government responsibility for underserved communities. A historical trend we are looking to actively reverse.

Regina – we are the government, we are the ones who underserved you, we acknowledge what happened whether by design or not, we acknowledge and are not shying away from this reality.

Lydia – and are trying to **rebalance** this.

Regina – community preparedness team. Community is the biggest word in this term and we are serving communities. Whatever we write up should allow communities to say, “yes, someone is thinking of us. Someone is designing this program finally for us.” Keep in mind the words we use should mean something to the communities that read them. Our words should emphasize our commitments to our communities.

Jeremy will recraft values based on today’s conversation and route to group.

Lydia – where does equity fit with new federal government?

Jeremy – we have direction to stick to our guns in terms of equity, despite funding concerns.

Glenn – definition of under resourced - resources are more than just money and supplies.

Lydia – resources include people.

Marisol – resources include maintained engagement and follow through.

Glenn – Vision – we are agents for positive change, not just emergency disasters.

Lydia – legal provisions that define emergency management do not include community outreach or engagement. Legally, we are not required to do this in emergency management, although we do it.

Jeremy – where did community resilience fall in FEMA?

Ernie – things were much more immediate in the field, addressing people with immediate needs. Communities with more disaster experience handled disasters better.