**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, December 8, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

In-person attendance only: STAR Center, 3873 S 66th St. Tacoma, WA

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Kristina Walker, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit

Ryan Mello, JMAC Vice Chair, Pierce County + Pierce Transit

Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma

Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools

Marty Campbell, Pierce County + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma

Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Joshua Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Joe Bushnell, Melanie Harding, Jacques Colon, Rosa McLeod, Alex Mather, Kacee Woods, Deborah Trevorrow, Nathe Lawver, Sinoun Hem, Renee Meschi, Sandra Eliason, Chavis Young, Lisa Keating, Bucoda Warren, Adam Kulaas, Sarah Rumbaugh, Leslie Barstow, Sara Irish, Juan Beltran-Gonzalez, Alicia Klein, Hugh Taylor, Amy Cruver, Ryan Wheaton, Mark Minickiello, Brenna Price, Evan Koepfler, Linda Kaye Briggs, Hunter George

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting at 8:15 am and provided welcoming remarks. Chair Walker reviewed the JMAC annual report, thanked staff for all of their work to support projects and initiatives, and summarized meeting agendas from 2023 to highlight topics covered throughout the year. She then called on partners to provide highlights from each of those topics.

**POLICY FOCUS AREA PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS:**

**JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION (JEDI)**

**Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma,** shared examples of how the Tacoma Equity Index is being used to influence local decision making.

**Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**, reviewed the Equity Action Collaborative, including new Pierce Transit and Pierce County partnerships. Gizzi shared additional information such as Equity Action Collaborative’s efforts to create best practices, improve language access, and compensate members of under-served communities for their time and input. Gizzi also noted that they received Public Health Services funding from the state Legislature for TPCHD and responded to a question from Chair Walker on the process of joining. Gizzi also reviewed the Imagine Justice Project and Peace Point, where youth with lived experiences in the justice system help create a plan to prevent and reduce contact with the criminal justice system.

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Bucoda Warren, City of Tacoma**, reviewed the City of Tacoma Decarbonization Plan, including plans to exclude fossil fuels for new buildings, prioritize clean energy and carbon-free vehicles, and expand electric vehicle charging stations.

**Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit,** reviewed Pierce Transit’s Sustainability Initiatives, including a focus on data tracking key metrics, and converting their entire fleet to zero emissions by 2043.

**Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma**, highlighted the ongoing work to develop a Community Safety Action Strategy.

**JMAC Vice Chair Ryan Mello** reviewed homelessness prevention and mitigation, including collaborative work between Pierce County and the City of Tacoma, and noted that about a third of Pierce County citizens are cost-burdened in their housing. Vice Chair Mello also reviewed results of the point-in-time count and the Unified Regional Approach to Homelessness.

**Melanie Harding** reviewed Behavioral Health Alternative and Co-Response programs, including new initiatives from the City of Tacoma (HOPE Program and Co-response program), Pierce Transit (HEART Program), and Pierce County (partnership with MultiCare to provide co-responder and alternative response teams). Vice Chair Mello reviewed Pierce County’s co-responder program – 2,400 clients served, 279 of the clients were diverted from the emergency room or jail. Background checks and compensation are creating challenges to filling vacancies in the co-responder program. Harding continued reviewing Public Safety Alternative Response models at Tacoma Public Libraries, City of Tacoma, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

**Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma,** highlighted the Summer Teen Late Nights program, noting that partners collaborated to provide safe spaces for youth at 12 locations over 10 weeks, with more than 10,000 entries.

**Adam Kulaas, Tacoma Public Schools,** highlighted growing attention to youth employment, including the Jobs 253 program, which served over 1,000 kids in paid work experiences in 2022-2023. He also reviewed the Maritime 253 program and the work to build a new high school called Maritime Skills Center.

**Hunter George** highlighted the Local Procurement Work Group, which is facilitated by the Tacoma Anchor Network and works to improve contracting processes as well as supporting women and minority owned businesses. George noted that the work group had been awarded a grant to enable more data collection.

**Cindan Gizzi** invited Chair Walker to talk about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Culture of Health Prize, which the City of Tacoma received. Over 200 cities applied for the award, and 9 cities received it.

**DISCUSSION**

Meeting participants then participated in table discussions revolving around the following questions:

* JMAC exists to facilitate collaboration among governments. As JMAC works to align efforts and outcomes, do you see ways that JMAC is supporting your work in the community? How so?
* The power of the work happens in partnership with community. As JMAC develops its 2024 work plan, what topics or initiatives would you add, subtract, or change that fit within the strategic themes of JEDI, Public Health & Safety, and Community Wealth Building?

Following tabletop conversations each group reported out on their discussions, including:

* JMAC as a community-focused organization, a hub for resources and knowledge, partnership, and aligning processes.
* Linda Kaye Briggs shared a summary about Project Play, a new report by the Aspen Institute, which took data from 70 focus groups and produced a report on the state of youth sports and physical activity in Pierce County.
* Improvement of local procurement processes
* Workforce development
* Removing barriers for community access to funding and resources and increasing communication
* Intentional collaboration
* Public safety as infrastructure
* How the Equity Index is a useful tool for JMAC

Chair Walker provided closing remarks.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is Friday, January 12, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Remote attendance will be available.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 10:01 am

\**Minutes taken by Pierce County*