

# AGENDA

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD Strategic Data Plan Subcommittee**

March 21, 2023

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Subcommittee members: Jackie Leung, Hongcheng Zhao, Rosemarie Hemmings, Veronica Irvin, Kelle Little, Jawad Khan, Dean Sidelinger, Marie Boman Davis

OHA staff: Victoria Demchak, Virginia Luka, Cara Biddlecom, Rose Harding.

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1:00 – 1:15pm	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome members</li><li>• Approve February meeting minutes</li></ul>	?
1:15- 1:50pm	<b>Reflect back on our process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect back on values heard, which need to be defined by the subcommittee.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Data justice</li><li>○ Data equity</li><li>○ Community engagement/community engagement around data</li></ul></li><li>• What about different definitions work?</li><li>• What is lacking?</li><li>• What is needed to adapt and adopt definitions the subcommittee can operationalize?</li></ul>	?
1:50 – 2:00	<b>Public comment</b>	
2:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	

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# MINUTES

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD Strategic Data Plan Subcommittee**

**February 21, 2023**

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**

Subcommittee members: Hongcheng Zhao, Dr. Rosemarie Hemmings, Marie Boman-Davis, Veronica Irvin, Kelle Little, Jawad Khan, Jackie Leung

Subcommittee members excused: Dean Sidelinger

OHA staff: Victoria Demchak, Cara Biddlecom, Rose Harding, Ali Hamade

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Subcommittee members and staff introduced themselves.

Veronica moved to approve the January subcommittee minutes and Jawad seconded. The subcommittee voted to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes.

### **Discuss recommendations and review priorities related to public health data modernization**

Victoria shared that the meeting materials included a compilation of recommendations for modernizing public health data. Some recommendations are specific to survey data and others are much broader. Subcommittee members are invited to weigh in on priorities and OHA staff can provide more information on how these may work and with what timeline and resources.

Marie reflected on the last meeting and shared the limitations related to surveillance data. Communities may have other data. Data can be supported and contextualized with community voice that is meaningful.

Hongcheng noted that sometimes change is happening before we notice it.

Veronica appreciation for toolkits- how to access and contextualize data. Veronica also noted being able to add to the workforce development sections of the recommendations.

Cara asked the subcommittee to highlight any overall values that the subcommittee would want to bring forward for all public health data-related decision-making (e.g. data justice, community engagement).

Hongcheng asked what the timeframe is for 'short-term'. The subcommittee discussed that this could be 1-4 years depending on the activity. Cara explained that for each priority, there is a considerable amount of work that takes time, like data systems changes, training, new data systems and processes, etc.

Jawad shared that the timeframe can also be significant for certain activities.

Dr. Hemmings asked if the purpose of the recommendations document was to prioritize and asked how data would be accessed by communities.

Cara shared that some public health programs provide access to data on OHA's website through Tableau, but it needs to be cohesive and led by community interest in different types of data. Cara noted that Dr. Hemmings is correct and this is an area that would require time and investment.

Marie asked for definitions of our values and asked they be included in the recommendations document. Marie also asked if the subcommittee's focus can line up with health priorities and accountability metrics. Marie suggested a joint meeting with the accountability metrics subcommittee.

Veronica asked if the subcommittee can solicit feedback from other existing groups-meetings with community-based organizations, CLHO, etc. to synthesize.

Marie proposed including person-centered language; strength-based analyses in the toolkit.

Rose reflected on "actionable data" being a starting place instead of an end, that allows for dynamic change over time.

Hongcheng reflected on how the recommendations will be used. Victoria responded that PHAB will house this work and will bring back to OHA staff to discuss timeframes for addressing priorities.

Victoria reviewed the long-term priorities. Veronica asked what could be added for workforce development- feedback loops; sharing best practices.

Jawad requested that data be defined in the long-term recommendations if we are defining actionable data in the short-term recommendations.

Cara suggested taking the prioritized recommendations into a format that could be discussed at the next meeting and then shared with other groups for discussion and further input. Cara shared specifically the challenges with identifying accountability metrics without the right data.

The subcommittee discussed next meeting agenda items: continued review of the recommendations and discussion about who to engage in the recommendations and priority.

Hongcheng asked that recommendations be actionable and consider the future.

Dr. Hemmings asked if OHA can add timeframes for each of the recommendations.

**Public comment**

No members of the public commented.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

## PHAB Strategic Data Plan Subcommittee

March 21, 2023 – 1:00-2:00 PM

### Defining Values and Working Definitions for SDP Discussion

#### Data Justice

“Data justice recognizes that the types of data the government collects and relies on are insufficient for understanding community needs, experiences and, equally important, desires. These data do not represent communities in ways that communities would represent themselves – and government data often entirely erases some communities due to “the problem” of small sample size (e.g., Pacific Islanders) or using too broad, and ultimately meaningless, categories (e.g., Asian).” - [Coalition of Communities of Color, in consultation with OHA’s REALD & SOGI Team](#)

#### Data Equity

When approaching any new source of knowledge, whether it be a dataset or dinner menu (or a dataset of dinner menus), it’s essential to ask questions about the social, cultural, historical, institutional, and material conditions under which that knowledge was produced, as well as about the identities of the people who created it.

Rather than seeing knowledge artifacts, like datasets, as raw input that can be simply fed into a statistical analysis or data visualization, a feminist approach insists on connecting data back to the context in which they were produced. This context allows us, as data scientists, to better understand any functional limitations of the data and any associated ethical obligations, as well as how the power and privilege that contributed to their making may be obscuring the truth... Along this line of thinking, it becomes the responsibility of the person evaluating that knowledge, or building upon it, to ensure that its “situatedness” is taken into account. For example, information studies scholar Christine Borgman advocates for understanding data in relation to the “knowledge infrastructure” from which they originate. As Borgman defines it, a knowledge infrastructure is “an ecology of people, practices, technologies, institutions, material objects, and relationships.” In short, it is the context that makes the data possible. --[Data Feminism \(ch. 6\), Catherine D’Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein](#)

Instead of taking data at face value and looking toward future insights, data scientists can first interrogate the context, limitations, and validity of the data under use. In other words, one feminist strategy for considering context is to consider the cooking process that produces “raw” data. [Data Feminism \(ch. 6\), Catherine D’Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein](#)

“Those of us who use data in our work must alter some of our most basic assumptions and imagine new starting points. Shifting the frame from concepts that secure power, like fairness and accountability, the those that challenge power, like equity and co-liberation, can help to ensure that data scientists, designers, and researchers take oppression and inequality as their grounding assumption for creating computational products and systems. We must learn from—and design with—the communities we seek to support. A commitment to data justice begins with the acknowledgment of the fact that oppression is real, historic, ongoing, and worth dismantling.” --[Data Feminism \(ch. 2\), Catherine D’Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein](#)

### **Community Engagement/ Community Roles in Data Creation and Interpretation**

Embracing the value of multiple perspectives shouldn't stop with transparency and reflexivity. It also means actively and deliberately inviting other perspectives into the data analysis and storytelling process—more specifically, those of the people most marginalized in any given context. —[Data Feminism \(ch.5\), Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein](#)

Providing access to data and describing the methods employed are becoming conventions in data journalism, just as they are in scientific fields. Although these accounts are presently focused on technical details—where the data were from, what statistical models were developed, and what analysis was performed—there is a seed of possibility for using this same space to reveal additional details: Who was on the team? What were points of tension and disagreement? When did the team need to talk to data stewards or domain experts or local communities? Which hypotheses were pursued but ultimately proved false? There is a story about how every evidence-based argument comes into being, and it is often a story that involves money and institutions, as well as humans and tools. —[Data Feminism \(ch.5\), Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein](#)

Embracing pluralism in data science means valuing many perspectives and voices and doing so at all stages of the process—from collection to cleaning to analysis to communication. It also means attending to the ways in which data science methods can inadvertently work to suppress those voices in the service of clarity, cleanliness, and control. Many of our received ideas about data science work against pluralistic meaning-making processes, and one goal of data feminism is to change that. —[Data Feminism \(ch.5\), Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein](#)