

## 1-18-22 WEP working group meeting minutes

Motion to approve December minutes – 18 of 18 in favor, passes

**Update on stipends** – commitment from county administration to make this happen, they are developing plan for county to serve as fiduciary for WEP. Plan should be done this week and will share that with WEP. By end of week, should have full plan in place. Ask that people email Alma if they are asking for stipend (will be on honor system). Believe county will not be withholding taxes but will send people 1099 form at end of 2022 and people will need to report on taxes themselves.

Questions about whether stipends could be paid to people's organizations rather than individually and about what to do if someone makes more than \$50K but works for nonprofit with budget less than \$350K. – Goal should be to err on side of inclusivity. People should email Alma and Sue about specific issues.

**Update about Sheriff** – talk about letter he sent that was shared with WG. Sheriff also said that he would still share data but that his employees on call for him 24/7, 365 so won't let them participate because would be on WCSO time and they're already understaffed.

Sandhya of Vera explains about his methodology concern, that he was told unlikely that WEP would be able to do traffic stop analysis and that, if we did, we would develop appropriate methodology and that he could influence that if he participated.

*Questions and comments from membership about letter from Sheriff -*

Question about whether methodology issue is pretextual or genuine – can't say what Sheriff really thinks but note that this objection was raised fairly late in the process after he was already saying he didn't think he would participate.

Concerns raised about legality of saying staff can't participate even after regular working hours.

Concern about Sheriff's letter already being an attack on WEP's work and credibility and whether WEP should respond publicly.

Concern about Sheriff "monitoring" WEP's work. Not appropriate for law enforcement to be "monitoring," and he should be told that.

Issue is not about whether he personally engages. Issue is more about nonparticipation by agency that gets majority of county budget and him wanting more resources for his office to fund positions for people that he will then not let participate in community efforts if he doesn't approve.

Need to respond publicly now and not wait until end of year when WEP releases report and he attacks it. Have a smaller group draft a letter back to him and bring that to WG to approve? Need to do something more public than just response to him? Press release? Press conference?

Comment that seems like Sheriff Clayton really does support goals of WEP even if not willing to participate in way group wants. Maybe shouldn't get distracted by this issue and just focus on WEP's work.

What do we hope to gain from engaging in public back and forth with him? Not likely that this would get him to change his mind. Would that just limit participation by law enforcement even further?

Also, would probably be hard to craft a response that everyone in WG would be okay with.

Alma explains that did just send invite to chiefs of other county LEA's and got response from several that they are interested in participating.

Maybe should still send a letter responding and at least address the issue of his not allowing staff to participate, but not be confrontational about it.

Alma will ask a few people to join her and Sue in drafting a response and will then email it to WG members to see if they approve. No one objects to that.

**Subcommittee updates** – Eli talks about data subcommittee first meeting, went well, got positive feedback, good that Chief Cox participated.

Dez talks about prevention subcommittee first meeting, good group, almost everyone showed up. Will be working on adapting subcommittee charge and list of experts.

**Research priorities activity** – recap of exercise from last meeting

Proposal to combine 2, 4, and 6 into one priority. Question about whether 4 and 6 are sufficiently distinct.

Others feel like all 6 are good priorities and not missing anything major.

Still need more discussion/feedback before can vote on this. Vera will follow up with everyone on this to keep conversation going; would like to decide on this fairly soon so can give guidance to subcommittees.