

Meeting Summary, May 24, 2023

Portland Children's Levy Community Council

Recording of meeting: [Portland Children's Levy Community Council Meeting May 24, 2023 - YouTube](#)

Attendance: 6 of 11 members

PCL's Community Council convened on Wednesday, May 24, at New Song Community Center. The meeting agenda focused on the following objectives:

1. Adopt bylaws for the Community Council as an advisory body
2. Discuss, modify, and vote on recommended key features of PCL's future community engagement plan for Allocation Committee's decision in June and future implementation by PCL staff.

The meeting began with a brief welcome and introductions by PCL staff. Staff informed council that a member resigned due to scheduling conflicts. The resignation leaves 11 total members serving. PCL staff will plan steps to fill this position and keep council's 11–13-person membership full.

Finalized Council Bylaws

During its March meeting, the council decided that its voting process would be anonymous, written voting. Staff updated council's bylaws to reflect this voting process and provided the revised bylaws to council members for review and approval. PCL staff clarified that the Community Council is a key advisory body to the Levy's Allocation Committee and does not make final policy or financial decisions for the Levy, so its bylaws allow tie votes. Staff set up a voting process using PollEverywhere, an electronic voting tool that honors the bylaws' clause for anonymous, written voting. Through PollEverywhere, the council voted unanimously to approve their bylaws. PCL staff will file the bylaws, as required, with the City of Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life.

Planning Community Engagement: Recommendations to Allocation Committee

In April, PCL staff facilitated small, optional meetings with individual council members to gather their input for planning 3 key features of PCL's upcoming community engagement process: goals of the process, priority topics for

community input, and priority communities to engage. Seven of council's 11 members attended a meeting. Staff asked members 3 questions about those features and used members' responses to prepare and frame draft recommendations presented to council at the May 24 meeting.

After presenting results from the April meetings and a set of draft recommendations, staff facilitated council in 2 smaller groups to discuss and modify the draft recommendations. Each group had the opportunity to present and explain their modifications to the whole council. As each group reported out, staff edited the recommendations, so they could see their feedback incorporated. The whole group discussed the changes. Using PollEverywhere, staff facilitated Council to vote yes/no/abstain in support of each recommendation and asked members to explain why they voted yes/no/abstain. ***The 3 recommendations that Council voted on can be found as an appendix to this summary, followed by all members' comments in support.***

Recommendation 1: Goals for PCL's 2023 Community Engagement process

- 6/6 member voted yes, in support.
- Members reasons included that the goals focus on inclusivity, the impact of the pandemic, and building trust with the communities served by the Levy.

Recommendation 2: Topics for community engagement/community input

- 6/6 members voted yes, in support.
- Most members' reasons included wanting to hear from communities about mental health needs and priorities for youth and families.

Recommendation 3: Priority communities to engage

- 6/6 members voted yes, in support
- Members' reasons included support for the general priorities. They also cautioned staff to be mindful of engagement methods that are inclusive and responsive to best engage different communities.

PCL staff will present Council's 3 community engagement recommendations to the Allocation Committee at their meeting on June 13. If approved, the recommendations would shape PCL's community engagement process.

Appendix: Council's Recommendations for 2023 Community Engagement

RECOMMENDATION 1: Goals for Community Engagement

- Learn from diverse stakeholders about the most effective and needed services for children, especially children most affected by historical inequities and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Identify community solutions to improve outcomes for children and families, including culturally informed emerging grassroots strategies and pandemic recovery practices in PCL's program areas
- Build positive relationships with marginalized communities by incorporating the city's core values.
- Promote community understanding and awareness of Portland Children's Levy's work including the funding processes, services funded, and demographics of children and families served.
- Improve transparency in the community engagement process, and ensure that community members who engage in the process receive ongoing communication about PCL and how it uses community feedback

RECOMMENDATION 2: Topics for Community Engagement

Mental health topics:

- Barriers youth and families experience accessing mental health resources; access to self-care and emotional regulation supports
- Culturally specific approaches to mental health and/or social and emotional well-being for youth and families
- Variety of options for mental health supports in PCL program areas
- Aligned training for PCL-funded providers in social-emotional well-being and healthy relationships
- Effective practices for supporting children/families with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Mentoring topics:

- Social-emotional focus on confidence, self-sufficiency, and self-regulation; culturally specific; for youth aging out of foster care

Other topics:

- Digital literacy support needs for families as we emerge from COVID-19 emergency
- Culturally specific and responsive strategies for addressing violence prevention and trauma
- Support services for youth and families experiencing housing instability
- Childcare affordability gaps and barriers
- Community-identified topics

RECOMMENDATION 3: Priority Communities to Engage

Very low-income families & single heads of household/single parents

LGBTQ2SIA+ youth, including BIPOC youth & African immigrant youth

Youth and families from the following communities*: Black/African American, African immigrants & refugees, Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander, Latinx/e/o, Native American & Alaska Native, Ukrainian, Russian, and Middle Eastern communities, immigrants and refugees

Youth and families with the following lived experiences:

- Trauma/violence
- with disabilities
- housing instability
- multigenerational homes
- aging out of foster care, ages 16-24
- teen parenting

**Council's additional guidance regarding communities*

- *Greater focus/specificity in these cultural groups- for example, these are broad and don't want to lump groups together. That PCL staff are mindful of which communities are left out in this planning by not being specific and designing for inclusive practices in community engagement.*
- *Considerations for how to collect data on how people identify in this process so we understand who we engaged in community input.*
- *Emphasis on inclusivity with the methodology used in community engagement- which methods best reach specific communities*

Reasons Council members supported Recommendation 1 (goals)

- The recommendations are strong- appreciate the continued focus on the pandemic's impact.
- I like how our edits it specifies that the emerging strategies are culturally specific and defines further what kind of positive relationships we want to build with marginalized communities
- I feel that the first recommendation accurately depicts the level of trust and relationship-building we intend to create in this engagement process.
- The group spent time considering how to be inclusive with the target groups to achieve the best outcomes.
- Goals are clear and inclusive strategies for community engagement. These goals are built on the foundation of the City's core Values.

Reasons Council members supported Recommendation 2 (topics)

- We gathered input from each team and made sure that we were transparent and inclusive in our wording.
- Appreciate the focus on mental health, and I think the group made excellent additions.
- We made changes to be flexible and responsive to target the priority populations.
- I strongly believe that mental health is essential to community development and feel that especially coming out of the pandemic we need to ensure we are meeting the communities' needs where they are right now.
- Mental health is a vital topic if not all as it relates to community engagement. The council has done a great job specifying different supports and strategies as topics of discussion,
- I voted yes because I like how our edits address barriers to mental health resources for not only the youth but their families since sometimes it is the youth's family member(s) navigating the system to seek resources. Also, mental health support is only effective if the whole family's needs are addressed. I also liked the self-sufficiency edit in place of independence for youths in foster care.

Reasons Council members supported Recommendation 3 (priority communities)

- We trusted that the PCL staff would make every possible effort to be inclusive. We recognized there are many areas that could be more fully expanded.
- Appreciate the specificity of groups identified and recognize more work needs to be done to be as inclusive as possible. Also appreciate the new focus on LGBTQ+.
- The council has provided a very broad range of communities to engage. Given the data, these feel like the essential target communities that should be included.
- I voted yes because I believe it is inclusive of communities who are in need to be prioritized as far as community engagement. I liked how with our edits we added emphasis on inclusive methodology in community engagement.
- I trust that the data the Levy has provided on communities served is accurate and feel that the specific communities listed are where the focus should be placed.