

# Meeting Summary for D-AFN Collaborative Workgroup Session

March 11, 2024

## Group Purpose

The meeting started with introductions from Kristine, Barbara, Keshreeyaji, Alyssa, Yen, Todd, Nilofer, Valerie, Dean, Liz, Renee, Tara, Ivan, and Hollyanna. Each participant shared their personal and professional motivations for attending the meeting.

The discussion then transitioned to the purpose of the group. Nilofer suggested an exercise to help the group craft a purpose statement that builds on their personal purpose for being at the table. Yen pointed out that the group had developed a purpose statement two years prior. Nilofer agreed to table the conversation until they could review and build off this existing purpose statement.

## Priority Areas for Future Discussion

The group was asked to look at the topics that had come up for future discussion from the last meeting and identify two that they wanted to focus on in future meetings. Two areas were identified:

- Addressing social isolation and mental health needs for the DAFN community
- Disaster preparedness & threats and hazard assessment, including CBRNE

The group also discussed challenges with prioritizing topics for discussion before efforts were made to include more diverse voices. It was agreed that this needed to be an iterative process, with continuous work on priority setting and defining the purpose of the group occurring in parallel with efforts to broaden representation at the table.

## Marginalization, Inclusivity, and Intersectionality

Yen discussed the concept of marginalization, emphasizing that it's not just about one's identity but also the context and relationships within which one exists. Yen proposed an exercise to identify and underline the identities that often disadvantage individuals. Yen highlighted the importance of inclusivity and participation, introducing the 'step up, step back' approach to allow individuals with less access to voice their perspectives. Yen also noted the role of intersectionality in solving issues for specific groups while improving access for all. As an example, Yen discussed the significant contributions of Ivan in advocating for legislation that mandates representation of individuals with disabilities in decision-making bodies. Yen also highlighted the passage of a bill that paved the way for inclusive participation from individuals with various access and functional needs. Lastly, Yen and Todd discussed progress made to increase community engagement and intersectionality within the Washington Department of Health.