



MEDA Community Review Working Group
June 18, 2020
9:00am

On the call: Becky Bey, Kelli Roemer, Steve Simonson, Lori Higgins, Jan Stoddard, and Gloria O'Rourke.

1. Introduction and Updates
 - a. Choteau - REM went virtual! See attached.
 - b. Troy - survey response (wow) and draft summary
Kay's comment: potential is there; Troy is aware of challenges.
 - c. Discuss options: Phase 1 and 2 combined if do virtual listening sessions. Listening sessions in September; in person September 28 and/or 29 or combined event.

Becky: best to do in person; but likely won't be able. Virtual format may have long standing benefits for very rural communities that it is difficult to visit or expensive to visit. Value in virtual – but a combination might be best. Becky has experienced a combination; need the technical skills. Katie is a consultant in Helena. Becky offered to let several “watch” a virtual meeting. Katie Loveland – uses mural.co; Becky will help us connect.

2. Grant - AFRI R3 grant pending; Rapid Response Recovery – likely not to hear until December. Lorie reported: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, was moved to Kansas City by President Trump. The move caused 2/3 of the staff to leave. It is uncertain when the word will be known on the grant status. Lorie hopes to know within 8 to 10 months. The current grant runs out in May.

Gloria shared her attempts to apply for Montana COVID relief funds. Community Reviews were not "innovative" and MEDA had already received a \$6000 grant for scholarships. Steve Simonson offered to submit on MEDA's behalf. Jan will check in with people to see if MEDA could apply again as it is for a totally different purpose and audience.

3. Peer-2-Peer Network - your feedback, ideas, interest
When leaders share information with each other, things get done. As a result of Resource Team Assessments and Community Reviews – a peer-to-peer exchange is being formed. Answer question: how did you do that?

Kellie would like to participate as well as Kay. Kellie just completed interviews for her doctorate with those working in coal communities. She has found peer learning leads to more openness and addressing difficult conversations. She noted the Troy survey comments of "we don't need outsiders." Kellie said people are less open when responding to perceived "experts" rather than peers.

4. Discuss Fall Applications yes/no
Keep on hold for another month until more information is known.
5. Next meeting
Gloria will schedule a meeting before Troy's listening sessions are set up.