**Colorado Funders for Inclusiveness & Equity**

**March 19, 2015**

**Meeting Notes**

Welcome & Check-ins

COFIE members checked in and welcomed new member Lydia Johnson of The Women’s Foundation of Colorado.

Book Selection

Two book titles were suggested by members:

* We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
* Dog Whistle Politics by Ian Haney Lopez

*COFIE members will be asked to vote via email.*

People with Disabilities with guest speaker Brenda Mosby

Benda opened her presentation by walking the group through four scenarios about a woman’s experience of losing her sight.

There was *ONE handout* for the meeting (scenarios from Brenda).

Some of the debrief questions explored were:

1. How will participants apply the lessons from today in their grant making processes and funding decisions?
2. What should philanthropy (in Colorado specifically) be thinking about as it relates to populations with disabilities in terms of moving the equity needle?
3. What programmatic level and systems-level reforms are needed in order to address equity issues (across focus areas, i.e. education, health, hunger, homelessness, etc.) as they relate to people with disabilities?

Key highlights from the discussion that followed were:

-The difference between someone who is born with a disability and someone with an acquired disability. Brenda falls into the second camp having lost her sight at 40 and shared her challenge of learning how to be an independent, contributing member of society again.

-Information for people with disabilities isn’t getting to the community. Grantmakers and service providers rarely go to where folks are, and depending on mobility, some people with disabilities are unable to get out.

-Grantmakers and service providers don’t necessarily need to change what they are doing, but rather, figure out how to make what they already have to offer in terms of resources and support accessible.

-Key issues people with disabilities face are transportation, housing and employment opportunities.

-The Chinook Fund’s grant application was lifted up as a fully inclusive example.

Next Steps

1. Jamie and Erin will send out meeting notes.
2. Watch for an email from Jamie asking us to vote on a book for the year.