Naomi: Worked on What Counts volume and new of NNIP previously. SF had hadn’t previously worked with NNIP. Trying to become better at disseminating data. How can FED do this work better across our different geographies?

SF Fed covers 9 states between Alaska and Hawaii. Have research and field staff. Do work on equitable transit development, housing, equitable development, etc. How can FED better engage with community intermediaries to better do work?

Jacob W: Minneapolis FED also big, out to Montana, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Upper Michigan peninsula. The only data intermediaries I know are in the Twin Cities, though. Some in North Dakota. I’ve been involved with the Center or Urban and Regional Affairs and that’s how I got involved in NNIP.

Lisa Nelson: At Cleveland FED, we have staff from Communications development at branch in Cleveland and Pitt. Worked with Claudia for 10 years before coming to FED. Cleveland partner has great data . Cincinnati trying to develop partner. Was also involved in the strengthening communities with neighborhood data book. Wrote chapter on how data has been used by CDCs in communities to deal with distressed property.

Kathy Petit: Most is what FED can do for our partners, but in other cases Claudia has given data to the FED for analysis. We did upwards of 10 reports on vacant and abandoned properties and the foreclosure issue. We use our research to influence policy.

Naomi: Talk about interactions between NNIP and Fed.

Kathy: Put together list of connections previously. With NNIP, did a joint edited volume with Federal Reserve Board around neighborhood stabilization. Fed Reserve Board funded videos in Cleveland. Don’t have check to write and aren’t direct funders. Fed is a great convener, convened all affordable housing meetings in New Orleans. Also do wiring and communication and dissemination and do case studies. Can do fancy publishing and layouts vs. regular reports.

Naomi: Some Feds try and make interactive tables and maps available

KP: Furman just added sent someone to Fed to use property data form Experian. Most Feds aren’t always friendly but there is some friendly person there. Finding the right contact is key.

LN: There’s a community development function at the Fed and we all have those roles.

Naomi: Each have their own issues. Some more supportive than others in pushing boundaries.

JW: In Minneapolis one of our specialties is Native Americans.

Naomi: Have any of you engaged with Fed staff?

Spencer Cowan: Did study for Richmond Fed and worked with Chicago Fed and familiar with Atlanta Fed

Starr Silver: We fund studies on early childhood and have engaged with a local Fed.

Mark Abraham: Met with NY Fed on banking issues. Fed doesn’t fund individual work but may be changing to fund services to Fed. Banks usually looking for community investments and Fed can make recommendations.

KP: Furman gets funding from bank for Sate of City.

SC: Woodstock gets funding form banks for technical assistance.

Ryan: Citibank gives a lot of money.

Naomi: When we put a call out people come and we can bring together public and private and nonprofit orgs. Any areas where you are having trouble connecting? For example, if you are working in housing do you need to be connected with agencies that do similar work? Kind of abstract.

Sheila Martin: Right now there is a growth going on in housing around our community. One of the things we do is bring people in to talk about regional issues. In Portland, there’s an urban growth boundary and very 5 years they decide how to expand based on population forecast. That’s a political fight because homebuilders always want it to be expanded and the planners never want it to be expanded. We have battling analysis about what is going to happen with housing affordability and what is going to make housing more affordable and whether or not to give up more farmland. I thought we needed to have a regional affordable housing forum but it wouldn’t be the same people because it would be different groups—homebuilders vs. metro. That’s a place where a convening with everyone would be helpful. It’s also an ideological debate.

Naomi: That’s the type of stuff we would love to help foster. We say we are neutral, but we do have a bias and an angle. Figuring out how to move past ideological values is important.

SM: Land use laws are also different across the river. Portland can dominate

MA: Lots done on tax policy and how to extend to tax policy and health. Fed hosts conference eon inequality and it would be good to look at benefits of different tax structures.

KP: How much communication is there among the other Feds? How would we spread the word to all offices?

LN: It’s been informal.

Naomi: There’s been an effort to create a working group of staff interested in data issues. Sending it to us and we can figure out how to get it to the other groups and make it more formal. We might also think about bringing in the NNIP partner when we have a convening. Doing a joint presentation maybe. That way you can educate our staff about it vs. informal ways.

Lisa Pittman: I’m in Miami, but I have no idea what the Miami office does.

Naomi: The Atlanta Fed went through a bit turnover and it’s confusing about who the contact should be. Emily is the person on the Atlanta Fed office who is interested in these issues and can move them forward. Emily is based in Nashville but you don’t need a contact in Miami. Even though the SF Fed has a set area, we do work all over the nation. Been doing work on Social impact bonds, etc. Do work far beyond the territories where we are officially slated to join with.

KP: I’ve been talking to Michael about the work he’s doing with gentrification and that is all over the country.

Naomi: Would it be helpful to do some mapping project to show the staff who are topic specific or who it would be good to connect with to discuss these issues? We could do a webinar to introduce our structure and function to the NNIP partners. We just want to be as helpful as we can in the local and regional work we are doing.

SC: There’s a central list of what data you can make available? I stumble across things all the time that would have been useful in the past.

KP: Would it be helpful to put something together about what is available? It sounds like they are so decentralized that we couldn’t have one.

SC: If it’s from the Dallas fed, it isn’t just Dallas. I would take it from Dallas if it is national. I’ve seen work from Cleveland and I would love to get ahold of that.

LN: Beyond parcel level data, we do have access to loan delinquency data (status of loans, etc.,) and credit panel data. The issues are that it is property. And we could release data but the loan data is just at the zip code. The credit panel is more difficult. It’s block level but they are picky about how it is released. Some of our work is very localized. In Cleveland we look at measures of stress in MSAs.

SC: When I work with student loan data, it’s in a locked facility and everything needs to be cleared. Can we do something along that line?

Naomi: Dick Todd (sp?) has been doing something along those lines. He’s been working with vendors to make data more available without violating the terms of the contract. We can give out processed maps but can’t give data directly to orgs. A Fed person needs to be working on the project to get the data and publish. We get requests all the time but we are locked in by contractual engagements.

KP: Each Fed has different contracts.

LN: Early on, there was supposed to be uniformity but that might make it more strict.

Naomi: Making a list of what we have is possible. There’s a lot. Could also do something to help get the word out about your work.

KP: If NNIP has research questions related it would be possible to run analysis at the Fed. Zip code or metro level could mask it enough.

LN: We could also do ranges.

Naomi: Challenges in communicating with other partners and reaching the types of organizations you’d like to reach? How could you better connect with private sector?

MA: Definitely private sector or workforce investment boards. Lots of the large institutions that aren’t doing community work but are key stakeholders in the region because they want to understand their employees who live in the region.

Peter Tatian: I was asked to do a presentation related to neighborhoods in DC as part of the CRA review. It wasn’t usually what they did but they wanted the neighborhood perspective. I did it at the community convening and for the banks.

KP: What was the reaction?

PT: They thought it was very relevant. Even though I didn’t know anything about banking, it was useful for them to know about what else was going in neighborhoods in DC. I hadn’t been to one of those before so I don’t know if my presence made a difference.

LN: It’s a good way to give it context. Make it clear what banks should be investing in.

MA: I’ve talked about bank CEOs about that and their idea was to come to the golf meeting. The CRA convening might be useful instead.

PT: People had to come to his because of the regulator.

Naomi: We regular do CRA convenings in whatever footprint. For example, Bank of America, since they are large scale, has an enormous footprint. Other banks think smaller. Helping banks understand what the potential is for their CRA dollars could be really interesting.

LN: Quite frankly, some of the bankers are not very innovative and they just do what they did before. We also do CRA roundtables and they want to know what they can do but they also don’t want to try something new. We can help the, think outside the box but we can’t tell them what to do.

MA: How often are CRA roundtables?

LN: We do it a couple times a year with all of the regulators.

Naomi: Our office has a big conference every year that brings in lots of CRA bankers. Also people form CDFIs, etc. Next year it will be in LA in March. We could have a panel on data stuff and think about how we introduce these ideas to a big audience of bankers and regulators.

SM: For one of our projects we are talking to the Portland Housing Association and they want some research broken down by race and ethnicity and where people are moving to afford a home. The city just put out a big sate of city but it was mostly about rental housing. This org is providing services for people leaving the city. We wanted to put together a proposal and were thinking of going to the Wells Fargo Foundation.

MA: Since there are vendors to the Fed, what is the process for being a vender? That’s what I talked to the NY Fed about.

Naomi/LN: That night be very local. Depending on Fed, there could be a lot of bureaucracy to do the contract. We’d like to get some places to do smaller-scale surveys.

MA: When we did work for FDIC we asked the banks the same questions.

Naomi: Anything else to help clarify why we do what we do or why we exist?

Whitney Soenksen: We just had a convening with a bunch of community members and the new staff from Atlanta come and brought a great group of people working on economic/workforce issues and that spawned a really great discussion. Some were CDFIs or the United Way. It opened the eyes of community folks about what the Fed could help with. The Data Center has been good about engaging the Atlanta Fed. We’re also having the Fed host our results on the NOLA Index around workforce. The Brookings paper is also being presented at the Fed for the 10th anniversary of Katrina. We want to start this before the actual 10th and get buy-in on what the data is.

PT: Recently they convened a lot of the free tax prep people in DC but they also had a Fed economist come and explain the data they had. He was a little wonky but it is a good thing that Feds can contribute analysis as well.

KP: If someone called, is there a travel budget?

Naomi: For us, our staff travels a lot and we participate at speakers across a variety of events across the nation. Travel is part of how we each out to the community and deliver research or facilitate conversation. We don’t need to be reimbursed by the group.

SC: I’ve noticed that Fed conferences are somewhat expensive for a small non-profit. Are there any discounts/rates that it make it more affordable?

Naomi: There are some that are available and it is worth asking.

PT: How are the community affairs office evaluated?

Naomi: It’s a challenging given the loose nature of our work. Before it was counting the number of convenings and numbers of publications. We don’t just want to count the output. We don’t have a good way of capturing it yet. For example, have there been new polices enacted as a result? Measuring capacity building is a struggle. It’s hard. We operate at a 30,000 foot level often. We don’t build stuff and we don’t fund stuff directly. We try to enable which is more difficult to quantify but we’re being held accountable. The board comes and evaluates each office and it is more qualitative then quantitative.

PT: What are the results you’re trying to get?

LN: We’re trying to meet the district’s need. Not just publications, but whether you’re addressing topics that are an issue to the district. We all have work plans that we follow and document how we address particular issues.

Ryan Gerety: What is your role in engaging policy makers?

Naomi: We try and get things in front of national and state staff and met with people in city hall to make them aware of the work we are engaged in.

LN: What we did was most around the vacant and abandoned properties in the housing crisis. We kept seeing things and met with lots of key stakeholders: bankers, state legislature and shared with them what we wanted to do. We also wanted to encourage counties below a certain threshold to develop land banks. It’s a fine line for the Fed since they don’t want us influencing policy.

JW: For Minneapolis, one of the largest impacts is early childhood education and lots of that involves testifying in front of state level government bodies. We give them the data and let them interpret it.