

The purpose was clear: Narrow the 10 applications in the Health and Wellness area down to five organizations that we want to visit and learn more about. However, as a new Impact100 member and a Founders Fellow, I wasn't sure what to expect going into the second FAC meeting. Veteran Impact members told me that this meeting would be everything from *exciting* to *overwhelming*, *energizing* and *exhausting* – and, despite seeming contradictory, it was all true!

I prepared for the meeting by reading all of the applications at least twice and rating them on the online system, assigning a number between 1-5 to each the best way I knew how: based partly on logic and partly on my gut. Before the meeting, I was glad to receive an overview of the group's results, so I could see if a particular proposal was clearly supported, hotly contested, or somewhere in between. Once we were all together, the applications on either extreme were quickly moved to one pile or another, and we spent the majority of the meeting discussing the other 8 proposals.

I spent much of the meeting listening intently as others shared their opinions on a battery of issues including whether a given organization reached enough individuals, was financially sustainable enough, or had the administrative capacity to manage a \$100,000 grant. When I did voice my thoughts, I felt like they were heard and valued. The discussion went on for hours as we examined each proposal one-by-one, first in small groups then in the large group, before we agreed on the top five organizations that would move on. I left the meeting completely confident that each organization had been properly vetted, inspired by the great work nonprofits are doing in Philadelphia, and looking forward to the site visits that await.

– Katie Muller, 2016 Founders Fellow