

Update from the Health Equity Workgroup

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August 3rd, 2015

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting



Austin/Travis County
Health and Human
Services Department



Resolution Direction

- ❖ On May 7th Council passed a two part resolution that requested City Manager to establish a working group to gather information for improving health outcomes for infants, mothers, and other members of the community.
- ❖ Provide a progress report including initial recommendations and potential items for budget consideration to the Health and Human Services Committee by August 3rd, 2015.
- ❖ Final report by December 7th, 2015.

Resolution Direction

- ❖ The second part of the resolution directed the City Manager to coordinate with the working group and other City Departments to:
 - evaluate the impact that existing City policies and practices have on health equity
 - evaluate best practices in other cities
 - develop recommendations for addressing race and socioeconomic-based inequities throughout the City
 - develop an equity assessment tool to be used by every City Department during, but not limited to the budget process
- ❖ Provide a progress report including initial recommendations and findings to the Economic Opportunity Committee by September 14, 2015.
- ❖ Final report by December 14, 2015
- ❖ HHSD and stakeholders met to discuss the second part of the resolution
- ❖ HHSD has initiated contact with other COA departments to include Human Resources Department, Budget, and Economic Development
- ❖ HHSD will request an extension on the second part of the resolution.

Background

- ❖ Stakeholder members
 - allgo
 - Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas
 - Immigrant Rights Organizers (members formerly of the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition)
 - Mama Sana/Vibrant Woman
 - City of Austin Health and Human Services Department staff
- ❖ Stakeholders meet May-August (6 plus meetings)
- ❖ Developed short term goals
- ❖ Developed Community engagement process

Stakeholder Meetings

During the stakeholder meetings the group agreed to initially focus on the following issue areas with specific program requirements.

❖ Issue Areas

- ❖ Chronic Disease for African American Community
 - ❖ (Diabetes, Cardiovascular disease, Sickle Cell Disease & HIV/ AIDS)
- ❖ Mental Health Access for Immigrant Communities
- ❖ Maternal and Infant Health for Communities of Color
- ❖ Sexual Health and Wellness (including HIV/ AIDS) for LGBTQ Communities of Color

❖ Programs requirements

- ❖ Community based interventions
- ❖ Culturally specific
- ❖ Non-traditional and innovative

Community Engagement Process

- ❖ Location
 - ❖ July 9th – Southeast Community Health and Wellness Center
 - ❖ July 18th – YMCA/City of Austin Rundberg
- ❖ Community members present
 - ❖ 63
 - ❖ 38
- ❖ Common themes for services
 - ❖ Community based
 - ❖ Culturally specific/relevant
 - ❖ Holistic approaches
 - ❖ Midwifery access
 - ❖ Peer supporters/educators
 - ❖ Accessibility issues (language, cultural, transportation and scheduling)

Community Engagement Process

Question 1

- I. What do you think about the four issue areas discussed?
 - ❖ Community members supported the four issue areas presented as high priorities
 - ❖ Many attendees shared personal experiences that reflected the priority areas

Question 2

- In your opinion, what other areas should be included?
- Crisis Intervention/Basic needs support
- Elderly
- Mental Health
- Network of Community Health Workers
- Social/Emotional Development
- Youth



Community Engagement Process

Question 3

- ❖ Are there health programs that you have participated in that you felt were effective?

Characteristics of the programs that were effective included; community based, peer supported, accountability component, and accessible services (phone, location, language)

Recommendations

❖ Program requirements

- ❖ Community based interventions
- ❖ Culturally specific
- ❖ Non-traditional, innovative
- ❖ Focuses on individual/ groups that are disproportionally impacted (People of Color, Elderly, Immigrants, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) and Youth.

❖ Issue Areas

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- ❖ Mental health Access for Immigrant Communities
- ❖ Maternal and Infant Health for Communities of Color
- ❖ Sexual Health and Wellness (including HIV/ AIDS) for LGTB Communities of Color

❖ Funding requested: \$1,050,000

Questions