

AAQOL Commission Health Workgroup

Members:

Commissioner Kavita Radhakrishnan (Lead)
Commissioner Vince Cobalis
Commissioner Catherina Conte
Commissioner Molly Wang

Scope of Workgroup: To address health and wellness needs of underserved Asian American communities residing in the city of Austin

Date of Meeting: September 11 , 2018

Location of Meeting: Dell Medical School Center for Place-Based Initiatives (CPBI) Office

In Attendance:

Commissioner Kavita Radhakrishnan
Commissioner Molly Wang
Community Member Hailey Easley (AARC Non-profit)
Community Member Dr.Ming Tang (APH Refugee Clinic)
Community Member Veena Viswanathan (APH)
Community Member Nitakuwa Barrett (CPBI)
Community Member Christina Jarvis (CPBI)

Topics Discussed:

We discussed CPBI's "Call for ideas program" which sought ideas from the community to improve quality of life and other metrics to make a place optimally livable. A community strategy panel comprised of 9 individuals to advise on initiatives and projects and were representative of population groups in Austin that experienced health disparities. Criteria for selection of idea included a rubric for self-determination which measures how much the idea implementation would impact the ones proposing the ideas themselves. Idea can identify health opportunities in which Health definition includes physical, social and emotional wellbeing. Expectation – Projects could jump-start in 1 – 2 years
Challenges for selection of ideas included potential risk for gentrification.

The top 5 ideas selected were provided support to plan and implement the idea, or connected to resources that can enable the idea fruition. Some were provided start-up funds to kick-start the idea with the expectation that the idea would generate resources in the long-term to sustain itself. Not all ideas needed money to kick-start.

An example of an idea that is considered positive opposite was

- 1) Intergenerational gardening – in which youth groups work with seniors to build and maintain gardens in the backyards of seniors

- 2) Another example: From Challenger a paper representing interests of the Homeless provided List of grievances related to maintaining health among homeless. This evolved into partnership with DMS Psych department and into a course about understanding homelessness
- 3) Police Activities League – Idea to provide sports activities for kids from low-income families. Soccer inclusion – kids provide \$1 to participate in actual league – needed support to expand that into Dove Springs group which was facilitated by CPBI. Currently 500 kids enrolled in program.
CPBI – purchased pop-up soccer field for sustainability of idea
- 4) Blairwoods Nature Reserve – Travis Autobahn Center – Activate urban greenspace by reaching out to community and starting an after-school there. Family nature days – free

Team members at CPBI were hired as learning and evaluation manager to measure success of idea implementation. Projects are supported / funded for 1 year. Sustainability is worked on from the beginning. First proof of concept is demonstrated, then explore ways to make it long-term. The ones not selected - are also supported by making connections across campus to help support ideas, if idea originators would like to be connected to others on campus.

How to submit proposals – People can approach them on ideas

How and where are CBPI advertising – Libraries, attending relevant meetings
Advertised on Capmetro, online Spanish paper, Challenger (homeless) paper, Asian American papers. But most idea originators approached them through word-of-mouth referrals.

Next call for ideas - Early 2019

Need translators so CPBI can become more inclusive – possible idea of recruiting student translators from UT's College of Liberal Arts

Finally require idea generators to be co-drivers of the idea

Hailey Easley also mentioned RWJ grant's 35K funding for a project in the community. Projev would begin Sep 2020

Next Meeting: October 9, 2018

Potential Agenda

Discuss strategy for health workgroup.

Brainstorm ideas for projects for Hailey Easley's 35K RWJ grant