

**AAHWRH FEASIBILITY STUDY STEERING
COMMITTEE 10/14/24 MEETING**

Presentation by Ceres Policy Research

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WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

- Today's objectives are to review the preliminary landscape analysis, discuss the survey distribution plan, and update on listening session planning.
- We will also request your feedback on the listening sessions and survey questions , plus suggest community events where we can engage the public.

PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS: KEY ISSUES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

- Based on secondary data, here are some key challenges facing African American communities in Contra Costa County. We based this inquiry on the KPI's established in the last meeting and cross-referenced it with existing ORESJ data from February 2022.

Target Populations Detailed Data With Citations

	Target Population	General Data (with Citation)	ORESJ Survey Insights
1	Families/Parents of K-12 Youth	Chronic disease rates affect school attendance, 23% report mental health conditions, Black students suspension rate (19.1% male, 12.5% female), Black infant mortality rates 2-4x higher (https://www.cdc.gov , https://www.chis.ucla.edu)	Harmed by racial violence (46% versus 39% of other respondents), economic violence (24% versus 19%), mental health (49% versus 28%), early education (20% versus 15%), juvenile justice (24% versus 19%)
2	African American Elders	Higher rates of heart disease and diabetes; limited mental health access (https://www.chis.ucla.edu)	29% intimate partner violence, 22% harmed by early education, 21% harmed by youth juvenile justice, 16% harmed by elections
3	Justice-Impacted Individuals	Recidivism rate for African Americans increased from 33.5% to 35.1% in 2017-18 (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation)	39% harmed by mental health services, 21% harmed by child welfare, 25% harmed by planning department, 47% harmed by police violence, 42% harmed by neighborhood violence, 46% harmed by racial violence, 33% harmed by homophobic and transphobic violence
4	African American Women During Child-Bearing Years	Black infant mortality rates 2-4x higher, 23% report mental health conditions (https://www.kqed.org)	31% harmed by health department, 39% harmed by mental health services, 45% harmed by social services, 50% harmed by police violence, 45% harmed by racial violence, 40% harmed by anti-immigrant violence
5	Unhoused Community Members	Homelessness increased by 18.5% in 2024, disproportionately affecting Black residents (https://contracostaherald.com/homelessness-in-contra-costa-increased)	43% harmed by health services, 58% harmed by police violence, 45% harmed by social services, 78% harmed by anti-immigrant violence
6	African American Males	African American males disproportionately affected by heart disease and diabetes, 23% report mental health conditions (https://www.chis.ucla.edu)	33% harmed by health services, 35% harmed by mental health, 37% harmed by education, 50% harmed by racial violence, 41% harmed by employment services, 41% harmed by police violence, 25% harmed by government violence
7	Mental Health and Substance Use Support	23% report mental health conditions, but only 14% report receiving treatment (https://www.chis.ucla.edu)	34% harmed by health services, 33% harmed by mental health, 52% harmed by police violence, 55% harmed by racial violence, 37% harmed by homophobic and transphobic violence

LISTENING SESSION PLANNING: STATUS UPDATE

- We have been working on organizing listening sessions in collaboration with community organizations. The purpose is to gather firsthand insights into community needs.
- Current progress includes finalizing dates, venues, and identifying stakeholders.

HOW LISTENING SESSIONS CAN SUPPORT TARGET POPULATIONS

- We want your insights on how these listening sessions can best support our identified target populations.
- The goal is to conduct these between November 7-20
- *How can the listening sessions be tailored to address the unique needs of families/parents, elders, justice-impacted individuals, etc.?*
- *What additional questions should we include to address the wellness challenges of these groups?*

ENGAGING THE STEERING COMMITTEE: ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- We invite committee members to actively contribute to the listening sessions by taking on any of the following roles:
 - **Outreach:** Help spread the word about the listening sessions by reaching out to your networks, organizations, or community groups to encourage participation.
 - **Facilitation:** Act as a session facilitator by guiding discussions, making sure that all voices are heard, and keeping the conversation on track.
 - **Note-taking:** Volunteer to document insights, questions, and concerns raised during the sessions, which will be invaluable for our final analysis.
 - **Logistics:** Assist with event setup, including securing venues, arranging virtual platforms, or ensuring that participants have necessary materials or resources.
 - **Follow-up and Engagement:** After sessions, help with follow-up tasks, such as sending summaries to participants, gathering additional feedback, or organizing the next steps.
 - **Feedback on Protocol:** Provide input on the revised listening session protocol, helping to refine questions and approaches to better meet the needs of target populations.

	Logistics	Core Questions
1	Personal Wellness Definition	How do you define wellness for yourself and your community, including mind, body, spirit, and environment? What does it mean for you to feel well?
2	Culturally Competent Care	What does culturally competent care look like for you? What practices would make you feel that the care provided is respectful and effective for your wellness needs?
3	Culturally Relevant Services	What services or healing practices do you feel are missing for the Black community in Contra Costa County? How important is it for these services to reflect your cultural values and traditions?
4	Barriers to Access	What are the main barriers preventing Black community members from accessing wellness resources (e.g., transportation, awareness, affordability)?
5	Spaces and Events for Healing	Can you describe any spaces or events that have helped you or others heal from trauma or injustice? How can we create similar spaces at the Wellness Hub?
6	Services at the Wellness Hub	What specific services and wellness practices (e.g., mental health care, alternative medicine, financial support) would you like to see offered at the Wellness Hub? Who should be prioritized in receiving these services?
7	Community Healing	How important is collective healing for your community's wellness? What role should the Wellness Hub play in cultivating a space for community healing and connection?
8	Creating Safe and Welcoming Spaces	What should the Wellness Hub do to ensure people feel safe, respected, and welcome when they come for services?
9	Vision for the Future	What does a healthy, thriving African American community in Contra Costa County look like to you? What key outcomes would you like to see from the Wellness Hub in the next five years?

COMMUNITY SURVEY DISTRIBUTION: STRATEGY AND OUTREACH

- We are in the process of finalizing a community survey to capture the needs and experiences of African Americans in the county.
- The distribution plan involves partnering with local organizations and attending community events to encourage broad participation.
- The survey is tentatively expected to launch on October 16th and close November 20th
- *What community events should we attend to distribute the survey?
Which organizations can help us amplify outreach?*



African American Community Wellness and Resource Hub: Shaping Our Future Together

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this important survey. We are gathering feedback from the African American community in Contra Costa County on the development of a new African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub. This hub aims to provide culturally responsive wellness services, community support, and resources that meet the specific needs of our community. While the Hub may have a central location, we are exploring options for multiple locations or services that can be accessed throughout the county, making it more accessible to all residents.

Your voice is essential! By completing this survey, you will help shape critical decisions on the services offered, the location of the hub, and how it can best serve the African American community. Your input will directly influence the planning process and ensure that the hub truly reflects the community's needs and priorities.

The survey is confidential and will take 15-20 minutes to complete. Your responses will contribute to the hub's long-term success and sustainability. As a thank-you for your time, the first 1,000 respondents with valid email addresses will receive a \$15 digital Visa gift card.



KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- We are working with the following organizations to support our outreach and distribution efforts. In the process of setting up meetings and we are open to additions.
- Sessions In the Planning Process Already:
 - Contra Costa Senior Legal Services
 - STAND!
 - NAACP (Richmond Brand)
 - Bridge Builders
 - Reimagine Antioch
 - Lift Up Contra Costa
 - Contra Costa Family Justice Center
 - First 5 Contra Costa
 - Fierce Advocates
 - Black Parent Resource Center
 - Rubicon
 - Contra Costa Crises Center
 - YWFC
 - Choice in Aging
 - Genesis Church

	Target Group	Organizations
1	Families/Parents of K-12 Youth	First 5 Contra Costa, Black Parent Resource Center, Ready Set Kids/Parent Café
2	African American Elders	Choice in Aging, Contra Costa Senior Legal Services, NAACP West County/Richmond & East County, Genesis Church
3	Justice-Impacted Individuals	Safe Return, Reentry Success Center, Rubicon, Family Justice Center, YWFC
4	African American Women During Child-Bearing Years	Black Infant Health, CoCo Doulas, Health Right 360, BWOPA Contra Costa
5	Unhoused Community Members	GRIP (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program), Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau, Lift Up Contra Costa, Monument Impact
6	African American Males	100 Black Men Mt. Diablo, Kappa Alpha Psi, Office of Neighborhood Safety, Bridge Builders
7	Mental Health and Substance Use Support for African Americans	Health Right 360, NAMI Contra Costa, Contra Costa Crises Center, STAND for Families Free of Violence, RYSE

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize the Survey
 - Review the final draft of the survey and provide any last-minute feedback by October 15th, 5:00pm
- Outreach and Partner Engagement
 - Each member should commit to reaching out to at least two organizations by October 20 and reporting back on progress. These organizations could be those already listed, or additional partners the committee identifies.
- Scheduling Listening Sessions
 - Finalize dates, venues, and facilitators for the listening sessions by October 25.
- Feedback Integration for listening session plans
 - You can send feedback or additional questions per target population via email by November 6 for the listening session
- Continued feasibility research on site selection and service models
 - After the completion of the Survey and Listening Sessions, we will create another working group to discuss options to best meet community needs. Please provide any research resources or criteria for evaluating site feasibility that you would like for us to consider by the next meeting.