

African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub (AAHWRH) Steering Committee
Record of Action for Monday, September 9, 2024

Attendance:

Steering Committee Members:

- In-person (CAO Building, Martinez): Vanessa Blum; Jacqueline Smith; Patt Young; Ashley Green; Taylor Sims
- In-person (Black Parent Resource Center, Richmond): Zelon Harrison; Sheryl Lane
- Online: N/A
- Absent: Mark McGowan; Desirae Herron; Phil Arnold; Chinue Fields; Alfonzo Edwards; Rohanna Moore

County Staff:

- In-person: Kendra Carr and Peter Kim, Co-Directors, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ)
- Online: Jill Ray, BoS District 2 Representative; Alejandra Sanchez, BoS District 4 Representative; Jamie Schechter, Homeless Services Chief, H3, Health Department.

Public Attendees:

- In-person: N/A
- Online: Kerby Lynch; Ryan Drake Lee; Randi Dean; Liliana Gonzalez; Natasha; Stephanie Taddeo; 510-706-7722

1. Roll Call and Introductions

(Staff announced that meeting would begin once a quorum of members were in attendance.)

Staff convened meeting at 5:38 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were completed. Staff reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. RECEIVE and APPROVE Record of Action for August 12, 2024 meeting of the Steering Committee for the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub Feasibility Study, with any necessary corrections.

Public Comment:

None.

Vanessa Blum made the motion to receive and approve the Record of Action. Ashley Green seconded the motion.

Conducted roll call vote to receive. 6 members voted yes and 1 member abstained (all present at time of vote). Item passed.

3. REVIEW and DISCUSS the selected key performance indicators for African American wellness in Contra Costa County and desired long-term outcomes

Staff shared the process by which the Steering Committee submitted via an online Google Forms their top 10 priorities.

Staff shared Google doc, summarized the findings. See attached document.

Committee members discussed:

Vanessa Blum: Some priorities can be combined, such as #2 and #7; and #3 and #4. Also suggested that within the priority areas, other needs can be addressed and combined as it makes sense and applies.

Ashley Green: Combine #8 affordable permanent housing and job stability and food disparity.

Patt Young: Infant mortality rates are the ultimate indicator

Sheryl Lane: Suggested the next step is to include indicators for each of the outcomes

Zelon Harrison: Would like to add violence and trauma that Black communities experience from police and/or law enforcement. This is something that has come up repeatedly in past meetings from public comment. Should address explicitly the harm, pain, and trauma experienced due to police violence, esp in relation to recent events in Antioch.

Public comment:

None.

Taylor Sims made the motion to accept the summary of priority performance indicators and categories of need as discussed by the Steering Committee, and to share with Ceres Policy Research. Patt Young seconded the motion.

Conducted roll call vote to approve item. 7 (all present at time of vote) voted yes. Item passed.

4. REVIEW the scope of work and timeline for the feasibility study, RECEIVE presentation from Ceres Policy Research about health and wellness disparities in the African American community in Contra Costa County, and DISCUSS the community engagement goals for September – October 2024

Staff introduced Ceres Policy Research Team represented by Dr. Kerby Lynch, Ryan Drake Lee, and Randi Dean. Dr. Lynch shared a presentation of their work plan and timeline (see attached PowerPoint slide deck).

Highlights:

Ceres Policy Research approach is framed by and steeped within a Black-centered, African tradition-informed lens.

Reimagining wellness for African American communities in CCC includes well-being and positive health of the whole person – mind, body, spirit, community – beyond just physical health. Wellness is not just an individual experience but tied to families and communities. The focus must be community-centered, community-informed, and community-led.

5-7 Listening Sessions (Sept-Nov 2024) –

- *Want to partner with Steering Committee and CBO's*
- *Question posed to Steering Committee: Should we outreach and organize efforts targeting each of the Supervisorial Districts? Or, target populations?*
 - *Members suggest we focus on target populations and communities rather than Supervisorial Districts for listening sessions; the community salons in Jan/Feb should be by District.*

Community Survey (Oct-Nov 2024) –

- *Aiming for 1000-1500 respondents; first 1000 will receive gift card incentive.*
- *Distributing digitally (email, blasts, networks) and in-person (events, community spaces, existing meetings)*
- *Question posed to Steering Committee: Should we develop survey based on existing info, or after listening sessions?*
 - *Members suggest we do not wait for listening sessions, but to send survey out at same time*

Shared findings from ORESJ survey results as an example of the kinds of data and the numbers and populations reached via community surveys.

- *See slide deck for findings shared*

Next Steps –

- *Site Selection – looking at real estate, availability, cost analysis, transportation/access, proximity to impacted communities, capacity*
- *Community Outreach and Engagement*
- *Ad Hoc committees –*
 - *Sept/mid-Oct: listening sessions/survey dissemination (Taylor Sims, Zelon Harrison (K-12), Patt Young (seniors), Sheryl Lane (maternal health))*
 - *Oct/Nov: meaning-making and data analysis (Vanessa Blum, Ashley Green)*
 - *Jan/Feb: Community meetings by Supervisorial District to share findings and solicit feedback; with Steering Committee, co-create and co-present final recommendations*

Questions from Steering Committee:

Vanessa Blum: Can we have target populations in geographic regions?

Ashley Green: Can you create a flyer w/ a QR code and brief summary to pass out at local spots, churches, in schools, County agencies?

- *Ceres Policy Research: Yes. And we should also be strategic to both leverage existing spaces/groups/events, while also keeping in mind the conflicts of other events and activities (e.g. elections, holidays, etc)*

Staff: Can we have break out rooms with target populations at the district convenings? Will Ceres provide training and materials to partners who want to convene their own gatherings/conversations?

- *Ceres Policy Research agreed to both.*

Patt Young and Taylor Sims: How can we organize and coordinate our efforts to avoid redundancies and be strategic around outreach?

- *Ceres Policy Research will coordinate efforts with ad hoc planning committee including tracking committee members efforts, outreach activities, timeline, etc.*

Kerby Lynch: Proposed that they draft the survey for Committee feedback and approval at 10/14 meeting.

Public Comment:

None.

Ashley Green made the motion to accept the report and move forward with next steps as agreed. Vanessa Blum seconded the motion.

Conducted roll call vote to approve item. 7 (all present at time of vote) voted yes. Item passed.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. DETERMINE the date, time, and location of future meetings

The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 14, 2024 from 5:30-7:00PM.

The meeting will take place at County Administration Building at 1026 Escobar Street, 2nd Floor, Martinez, CA 94553. Additional locations to be confirmed when agenda is posted.

7. Adjourn

Vanessa Blum made motion to adjourn. Taylor Sims seconded the motion.

Conducted roll call vote to adjourn. 7 voted yes (all present at time of vote).

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.