

Blue is new

African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub (AAHWRH) Steering Committee

Record of Action for Monday, January 13, 2025

Attendance:

Steering Committee Members:

- In-person (CAO Building, Martinez): **Vanessa Blum; Patt Young; Jacqueline Smith**
- In-person (Black Parent Resource Center, Richmond): **Sheryl Lane**
- In-person (Urban Tilth, Richmond): **Chinue Fields**
- In-person (Genesis Church, Antioch): **Ashley Green**
- Online: **Taylor Sims, Desirae Herron; Zelon Harrison (unable to vote)**
- Absent: **Alfonzo Edwards, Phil Arnold; Mark McGowan; 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; Tiffany Bell, Senior Health Education Specialist, Public Health, CC Health Services; Rhonda Smith, Office of the Director, Health Department.**

Public Attendees:

- In-person: **Kerby Lynch (Ceres Policy Research)**
- Online: **Ryan Drake Lee (Ceres Policy Research); Randi Dean (Ceres Policy Research); Traci Henderson, Devin Murphy; Carolyn Bradford; Kimi Barnes; Rena Moore; DeeAnna Granata; Liliana Gonzalez; Alisha Semplar; Le'Victoria Thomas; ; Jeniece Franklin; Michelle Hayes; Ricardo Baires; Stephanie Taddeo; Shantell Owens; Teki Flow; Tumani Drew; Leslie May**

1. Roll Call and Introductions

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

Staff convened meeting at 5:42 PM, took a roll call attendance, and welcomed those in attendance. With 6 members in attendance, unable to achieve quorum. Staff reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. RECEIVE and APPROVE Record of Action for December 9, 2024 meeting of the Steering Committee for the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub Feasibility Study, with any necessary corrections.

Public Comment:

N/A

Unable to vote due to lack of quorum.

3. **RECEIVE update on the African American Wellness Hub implementation phases, site considerations and engagement strategies, and DISCUSS the planning and next steps for the feasibility study.**

Dr. Kerby Lynch of Ceres Policy Research, offered an updated summary of their analysis on potential site location and offered a preliminary recommendation of best site options based on site availability and identified funding. (See attached PPT slide deck for details). Also invited conversation and questions from the Steering Committee.

Encouraged people to email her with questions or suggestions: klynch@cerespolicyresearch.com by January 20.

Highlights from the presentation are below:

Ceres presented update to Equity Committee last month.

Typically, similar efforts start with an identified location; we started with community intention and needs, and then researching potential sites.

Black people comprise 8% of CCC. Showed racial disparities in home ownership, college degree attainment, lack of vehicle access, living in disadvantaged communities.

Seeking affirmation or concerns from the Steering Committee on the proposal of a phased approach, with a goal of achieving consensus.

Phased Wellness Hub Model

- *Phase 1: Immediate Access (year 1)*
 - *Objectives:*
 - *Deploy temporary service locations (faith-based venues, libraries, pop-ups)*
 - *Remove barriers such as transportation and cost*
 - *Key Strategies:*
 - *Mobile units for mental health, maternal care, and food distribution*
 - *Pop-up events in underserved neighborhoods*
 - *Outcomes:*
 - *Increased engagement*
 - *Improved health access metrics*
- *Phase 2: Transition to Permanent Hub (year 2)*
 - *Development Goals:*
 - *Secure site in East County; Potential site is 1650 Cavello Road (current EHSD facility); potentially available in 2028; 24,000 sq ft, existing computer lab, parking lot, security*
 - *Continue and grow mobile services that expand programs for maternal health, youth mentorship and economic empowerment*

- *Community Engagement:*
 - *Trauma-informed spaces*
 - *Regular feedback loops*
- *Expected Outcomes:*
 - *Economic stability and extended service hours*
 - *Increased visibility*
- *Phase 3: Full Operationalization (year 3)*
 - *Establish fully operational hub with full range of comprehensive and holistic support services*
- *Comprehensive Services:*
 - *Behavioral and physical health clinics*
 - *Economic empowerment programs*
 - *Cultural wellness initiatives*
- *Sustainability Goals:*
 - *Develop satellite hubs in high-need areas*
 - *Secure scalable funding streams*

Majority of survey respondents indicated a desire for a decentralized location. This model reflects the interests and needs of over 4000 respondents. It will be important to have a model that is scalable to expand service provision to other parts of CCC.

Questions/comments from Steering Committee:

Vanessa Blum: What options are available when it comes to a County-owned property in terms of lease arrangement, staffing, contracting?

- *Dr Lynch: possible that County structures a master lease arrangement with a community-based service provider, can contract with service providers, can have County depts and/or private and public health providers deliver services, etc.*

Chinue Fields: Who is ultimately responsible and accountable for moving this project forward?

- *Dr. Lynch: County will be the facility owner, master tenant, property manager, and executive director.*
- *Ryan Drake-Lee: ORESJ can potentially be the dept charged with responsibilities of property manager, or another County dept; an Executive Director would need to be hired, or potentially a service provider is contracted to oversee operations and implementation.*

Sheryl Lane: Can we look at a community-owned land trust model?

- *Ryan Drake-Lee: We are starting first with facilities that are owned by County and it will be up to decisionmakers on what future ownership structure will look like.*

Vanessa Blum: What kind of fund development or revenue generation model will be put in place to sustain this beyond the \$7.5M?

- *Ryan Drake-Lee: There could be rent-generated and/or health insurance reimbursements; would also recommend that County allocate part of its annual baseline funding; exploring interest from UCSF, Kaiser, community clinic organizations (Life Long, La Clinica), public health corporations, and philanthropy.*

Zelon Harrison: Would like to remind the group of the importance to continue to look at the broader need across the County beyond east county.

District Community Town Halls (or Community Cafes) will take place:

District 1 – CoBiz, Richmond, 2/5, 6-8 PM

*District 2 – *Family Justice Center, Danville, 2/3, 6-8 PM*

District 3 – Virtual, 2/11, 6-730 PM; Delta Bay Church, Antioch, 2/12, 6-8 PM

District 4 – Community Youth Center, Concord, 2/6, 6-8 PM

*District 5 – Genesis Church, Antioch, 2/13, 7-830 PM; *First Baptist Church, Pittsburg, 3/12, 6-8 PM*

**(logistics details added after this steering committee meeting occurred)*

Goal is raise awareness, solicit feedback on the proposal, nurture interest and involvement

Looking at examples/models: Harlem Children’s Zone; Sunnysdale Hope SF, Berkeley African American Wellness Resource Hub

4. Public Comment

Devin Murphy (Pinole Councilmember and former Mayor): Presentation was inspiring, reviewing the economic model and appreciate the fast pace in which this is moving; local govt in CA have investment trust models (public investment trusts, special purpose trusts, community facilities district trusts), which is scalable and can potentially grow the initial investment.

Jill Ray: date and time for District 2 community café came through during holidays; Supervisor Anderson is concerned about a virtual meeting in middle of the day (1:00 PM), and wants to increase potential for more participation.

- *Dr. Lynch: scheduler is who gave me the date and time, and said Sup was not taking evening meetings. District 2 is definitely a priority as many respondents indicated needs and violence experienced. I will call you to coordinate.*

Leslie May: The hub will be located in a single location in East County, yes? And then we will talk about opening up other hubs in other areas of the County? And when will the hub be open? I’ve also heard from people in certain areas like Alamo and Danville that they don’t have mental health issues so why would the County devote any resources outside of East County and Richmond?

- *Dr. Lynch: Yes, the first initial hub is proposed to be in Antioch. We will suggest that the County look at other County-owned spaces throughout the County to offer services. The recommended facility for first hub will be available for move-in in 2028, but the County*

can consider interim, temporary facilities until then. Regarding needs, our survey respondents have expressed needs in each and all districts, though granted it looks different from district to district.

Unable to vote due to lack of quorum.

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

The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 10, 2025 from 5:30-7:00 PM.

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.

6. Adjourn

Staff adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.