

**African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub (AAHWRH) Steering Committee**  
Record of Action for Monday, October 14, 2024

**Attendance:**

Steering Committee Members:

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

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

Public Attendees:

- In-person: N/A
- Online: Kerby Lynch; Tonia Lediju; Randi Dean; Ryan Drake Lee; Shantell Owens; Rhonda James; Liliana Gonzalez; Stephanie Taddeo; Traci Henderson

**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, took a roll call attendance, and welcomed those in attendance. Staff reviewed the meeting agenda.*

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

**Public Comment:**

*None.*

*Taylor Sims made the motion to receive and approve the Record of Action. Mark McGowan seconded the motion.*

*Conducted roll call vote to receive. 8 members voted yes (all present at time of vote). Item passed.*

**3. RECEIVE update from the ad hoc listening sessions and survey logistics workgroup and DISCUSS the planning and next steps for the feasibility study listening sessions that will take place in November 2024.**

*Dr. Kerby Lynch, of Ceres Policy Research, provided updates on the outreach, engagement, and planning for the feasibility study listening sessions and survey dissemination. (See attached PPT slide deck.)*

#### *Listening Session Highlights:*

- *Will conduct survey focused on wellness within Black communities, access to services, and vision around how the Hub will allow access to needed supports.*
- *Relied on Key Performance Indicators and feedback from Steering Committee, additional general research, ORESJ survey data (which reflected % of Black-identifying residents).*
- *7 target populations (families/parents of K-12 youth; elders; unhoused; males; justice-impacted; women of child-bearing years; mental-health and SUD impacted)*
- *5-7 (possibly more) Listening Sessions (Nov 7-20) tailored to meet unique needs of the 7 identified populations*
  - *A shift away from focusing on areas/regions*
- *Looking to Steering Committee to partner and support the process in following ways:*
  - *inform the questions*
  - *outreach and spreading to networks*
  - *support with hosting and/or co-facilitation*
  - *notetakers*
- *Have reached out and connected with 16+ community organizations to talk about outreach, co-hosting, etc.*
  - *See attached slide deck for list of organizations*
  - *Also partnering with NAMI/40 Voices to conduct 2 listening sessions*
    - *Nov 2 at Los Medanos College*
    - *TBD in West County*
- *Will also hold District-specific Community Salons (i.e. larger listening sessions) in Jan/Feb to discuss initial findings.*

#### *Community Survey Highlights:*

- *Goal is to reach 1000-1500 respondents*
  - *will distribute through Google Form and have prepared a QR code*
  - *will also have hard copies available, please request; will also provide stamps and envelopes*
- *Would like Steering Committee approval to release this week (10/16); would close on 11/20.*
- *Looking for support from the Survey Committee to disseminate and spread the word*

#### *Research around site selection and feasibility*

- *Already underway, looking at different sites that have been recommended*
- *As mentioned at last meeting, looking at real estate, availability, cost analysis, transportation/access, proximity to impacted communities, capacity*
- *Asking for more suggestions*

*Questions from Steering Committee:*

*Mark McGowan: Can these listening sessions occur any where in County, as long as focused on priority sessions.*

*Phil Arnold: Have we considered reaching out to those in custody, and potentially their families? Also, loneliness among elders is unhealthy...; veterans also have unaddressed needs*

- *Staff: We can reach out to our County partners at the Sheriff's Office and Probation Dept for access to detention centers, and Healt Right 360, Reentry Success Center, and Rubicon; EHSD programs who serve Black elders; and the Veterans Affairs Dept.*
- *Ceres can reach out to Senior Centers*

**Public comment:**

*Liliana Gonzalez: Would like to offer feedback from First 5 of CC around early childhood prevention and early school years.*

- *Ceres Policy Research: Yes, let's talk on this.*

*Stephanie Taddeo: Suggests we reach out to ACE Contra Costa*

*Shantell Owens: Just clarifying that the outreach and engagement will be for Black-led organizations, that we are soliciting their feedback, and that ultimately that Black-led organizations will be funded to provide the services; Other groups cannot tell us what we need.*

- *Ceres: Yes, while also looking to other organizations who serve Black communities for their particular insights as it applies to Black communities; being clear when talking with service providers that the interest is to understand how best to engage, serve, and meet the needs of Black communities.*

*Steering Committee agreed to combine this item with next item and will make a motion to accept or deny altogether.*

**4. REVIEW and PROVIDE feedback on the feasibility study survey draft, and DISCUSS the launch, timeline and logistics of the survey.**

*Dr. Kerby Lynch, of Ceres Policy Research shared a draft of the community survey for review and feedback from the Steering Committee. Walked through each question and asked for feedback.*

*Suggested edits/additions:*

- *Edited the introduction to clarify the goal of establishing multiple sites over time.*
- *Heard mixed reactions around length (some said it felt long, others said it felt right).*
- *Walked through the survey questions and invited feedback from Steering Committee:*
  - *Age categories need to add "65-75 years old," "75-85 years old," and "85+"*
  - *Racial and Ethnic categories are nuanced and represent the diversity of Black communities, as well as diversity of other groups*

- Gender Identity also represents the diversity of gender within the Black community
- For income level, add “No-Income”
- Under “Gov’t Assistance” question, include examples (i.e. EBT, CalWorks, Section 8, etc)
- Under “Lived Experience” can we ask for relationship or positionality of a person (i.e. daughter, uncle, grandmother, etc)?
- Can we capture “parents/caregivers caring for children who are under age of 5 and/or in pre-school”?
- Ask if someone is a caregiver for an elder, or a disabled child?
- Regarding shifting to “I or a family member” some feel it feels lengthy and may deter folks from completing.
  - Potentially remove “I or a family member” from each question since it is articulated in the overarching question?

*Steering Committee comments:*

*Mark McGowan: I would like a question that speaks directly to a desire or need for services that support economic development. Would also like a PDF version of the flier.*

*Rohanna Moore: Could you ensure consistency across the fliers and survey?*

*Taylor Sims: Would like JPEG or picture form to post on social media.*

*Zelon Harrison: This will be an issue for those of us who do not identify as African American, it feels not inclusive. I identify as Black, and will also include “descendants of slavery”. Would like to add a question to the survey that asks the question of what the community would prefer.*

*Desirae Herron: This raises question if whether we have the autonomy to change from African American to Black given the BOS direction when this project was approved.*

- *Staff: we will ask Equity Committee this question.*

*Ashley Green: I would like to ensure that we do not go over 25 questions.*

*Next Steps –*

- *Community Outreach and Engagement*
  - *Have developed flier to help disseminate community survey*
  - *First 1000 respondents will receive \$15 gift card*
- *Listening Sessions*
  - *Steering Committee members have until Nov 6 to provide feedback on Listening Session questions*

**Public Comment:**

*None.*

*Taylor Sims made the motion to accept the updates Ceres Policy Research, as well as approve the Survey (along with edits discussed today which will be shared with the group by 10/15) for release on 10/16, and agreed to provide feedback on listening sessions questions and complete a form with volunteer tasks/activities before 11/ 6, with proposed next steps regarding the listening sessions and survey implementation; also made the motion to accept the changes/edits to the community survey and to move forward with next steps as agreed. Mark McGowan seconded the motion.*

*Conducted roll call vote to approve item. 9 (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 November 18, 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**

*Taylor Sims made motion to adjourn. Jacqueline Smith seconded the motion.*

*Conducted roll call vote to adjourn. 9 voted yes (all present at time of vote).*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.*