

This meeting summary was produced by City Bureau Documenters, in accordance with our editorial independence policy, with financial support from the city of Chicago. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email City Bureau at documenters@citybureau.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.

Public Health + Safety Meeting #12

April 26, 2022, 06:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Sonal Soni

ATTENDEES

- Romina Castillo
- Stephanie Dunn
- Brianna Lawrence
- Chloe Gurin-Sands
- Alexandria Willis
- Todd Wyatt
- Kate McMahon
- Katelyn Johnson
- Victoria Barrett
- Nesha Breashears
- Marlita White
- Sophie Chishty
- Sheri Cohen
- David Mena
- Francine Dillard
- Wesley Epplin



MEETING GOAL

The primary focus of this meeting is to further refine the pillar policies 3-5 along with corresponding objectives.. After receiving public feedback, some of the pillar's objectives have been given to different groups, and the Public Health and Safety pillar received new goals, objectives, and policies to incorporate.

WHERE WE ARE



Step 1

We Are*Setting the Stage*

Step 2

We Have and Need*Develop A Policy Toolkit*

Step 3

We Will*Set Policy Framework*

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

The pillar received new goals, policies, and objectives to incorporate into the pillar's framework. Similarly, based on public feedback, some of the pillar's pre-existing goals were given to different We Will Chicago groups.

2

Members talked in-depth about sexual and gender-based violence in the city and how best to incorporate this topic into the pillar's objectives.

3

Members primarily spoke about how to best serve formerly incarcerated Chicagoans across the city by supporting pre-existing programs and funding new, successful ones.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“Knowing that as we land on whatever our policy framework is in our pillar’s next meetings, then there will be a whole other opportunity for review for more folks, and so it’ll be interesting to see how that unfolds. ”

Kate McMahon | Chicago Public Health, Public Health Worker

“We have to be more inclusive of intentional policies and infrastructure that support the safe movement of girls/women. Gender-based violence has to be represented in this plan.”

Brianna Lawrence | Coalition on Urban Girls Chicago, Executive Director

“...the City has been helping our team to reorganize some of the ideas and move some of our goals and objectives to other pillars and also try to integrate new content into our pillar.”

Romina Castillo | Muse Community and Design, Senior Associate

“Racial justice should be within the whole system, not solely community engagement.”

Sheri Cohen | Chicago Department of Public Health, Senior Health Planning Analyst

“I’m curious where in this plan we are going to address recommendations associated with equitable enforcement policies and the way policing should happen... [For example] the use of traffic stops to racially profile [should] being addressed.”

Victoria Barrett | Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Transportation Planner

NOTES

Advisory Committee Updates

- There have been multiple changes in the pillar content. The city noticed information or content that was missing in other pillars, so some information has shifted across pillars. Today's meeting focuses on the pillar as it stands right now and provides an overview of all of the changes that have been made.
- Kate McMahon presents Advisory Committee updates. The Advisory Committee met the first week of April to provide pillar feedback. McMahon says there are three key comments the committee suggests.
 - The first was how the plan makes sense of where there are similar priorities and different pillar areas. The second is a sense of what is next in the We Will Chicago process as this phase comes to a close and some discussion around what is community engagement going to look like in the next phase. Lastly, asked how even more Chicagoans have an opportunity to weigh in and participate in further refinement.
- There were also critical questions about how to continue to use and integrate tools like a Health and Race Equity Impact Assessment in subsequent phases of We Will planning.
- Artists worked with every pillar throughout the second phase of the We Will process. These artists put a report together which includes engagement results from community partners.

We Will Chicago Plan Outline

- Wesley Eppin presents updates and the next steps of the We Will Chicago Framework plan. The framework plan, which includes the document's core, aims, and objectives, provides the basis for future policy, program, and procedure creation and implementation. A plan document is currently being drafted, and pillar members will have the opportunity to examine the draft at the next pillar meeting.
- An introductory section of the plan will detail the pre-planning process as well as the work done to form the pillar teams. It will include a history of Chicago planning as well as a historical reckoning part to identify and remedy the plan's historical inequalities.
- The document next explains each of the eight pillars, including the recently added Civic and Community Engagement pillar.
- Each pillar will begin with an overview of the context and driving challenges, as well as some of the most relevant data and metrics from previous meetings. The plan will next present the aims and objectives for each pillar.
- Finally, there will be a resources and reference section with a glossary, a list of collaborations, and information on how to access the previous plans mentioned. The next pillar meeting will also go over the details of the framework outline.
- The guiding questions posed and agreed upon in previous pillar sessions form the cornerstone of this approach. These questions were turned into declarative statements, which are now the current goals of the pillar. Those goals are further described in the objectives that pillar members assisted in developing. Because the vast majority of

Chicagoans will read and comment on the aims and objectives beginning in June 2022, they have been revised for clarity while keeping the meaning.

- The framework plan, as well as the aims and objectives, will be revised based on the public input received in June. The framework plan's actionable components will be presented to the Chicago Planning Commission for adoption in January 2023.
- In addition to this document, there is a separate document that focuses on the policies produced by the pillar team, which team members will go over again today. The public will have access to a web version that is fully accessible and mobile compatible, which will provide policy ideas in the context of the various pillars. It will allow for participation and input, which will help to shape future implementation.
- All of the detailed notes on implementation, strategy, program ideas, and themes from earlier conversations, as well as the pillar Google docs, will be combined into a single document and made available as a PDF on the We Will Chicago website. The city will launch a full-scale multimedia engagement initiative in the summer of 2022 to seek comments on the goals, objectives, and policy recommendations.

Goals Refinement

- Romina Castillo presents the updated goals and changes thus far. Because multiple goals were revised and shifted to other pillars, the pillar now has five updated goals.
 - Goal 1 has been revised from “equitable and affordable healthcare services,” and now reflects all pillar edits and content development.
 - Goal 2, “equitable access and safe freedom of movement,” has been moved to the Transportation pillar.
 - Goal 3, “increase public safety in Black and Latinx communities,” has been revised to “strengthen trauma-informed public health to respond to mental health crisis issues,” and replaces the pillar’s second goal.
 - Goal 4, “address root causes of health inequities,” has been revised to “public health and emergency capacity” and replaces the pillar’s third goal.
 - The pillar’s revised goal 4 reads, “Chicago is a city where everyone can thrive without fear of violence.”
 - Goal 5, “use environmental justice to promote health equity,” has been moved to the Environmental, Climate, and Energy pillar. The pillar’s revised goal 5 reads, “Create infrastructure and spaces that are safe, beautiful, and accessible.”
 - Goal 6, “Implement racial justice approach” has been moved to the new community engagement pillar.
- Now that the pillar’s goals have been updated, members will further revise the associated objectives and policies. Goals 4 and 5 are the newest additions to the pillar, but they include content from previous discussions.
- Pillar members discuss making the language surrounding the goals more uniform, especially in the names and titles of the pillar goals.

Policy Refinement

- Wesley Epplin presents the policy refinement portion of the meeting. Members will work on revising objectives and policies in goals 2 through 5.
- Team members discuss what the process of accountability for pillar members should look like regarding recommendations that are being sent to other pillars.
- Wesley shares the “Policy Toolkit” PDF on the screen to give members a better idea of what pillar policies should look like.
- Members reviewed Goals 2 and 3, but much discussion centered on Goal 4 , which focuses on a working city where individuals can thrive without fear of violence. Pillar members specifically focused on public responses instead of relying on traditional public safety agencies.
- Pillar members discuss how to assess the evidence that identifies a program’s progress. Evaluation support helps develop evidence to make programs scalable and fundable, and they create the capacity for Chicago to have more evidence-supported programming. Participants talk about finding a way to ensure the programs and policies the pillar implements are tied to an evaluation partner or researchers to measure progress.
- Members discuss objective 4.5 Policy E, “Strengthen Chicago’s leadership as a welcoming city and provide continuously improved protections for undocumented immigrants.”
 - Participants agree that the overarching objective can be more specific to identifying undocumented immigrants, including those that were previously incarcerated. Members also suggested moving this policy to a different section.
- Objective 4.5 Policy A deals with services provided to people returning from prison or jail. Participants talk about compensating those who are caregivers, specifically family members, who provide healthcare to their loved ones. Often, they are doing it out of necessity and aren’t compensated.
- Pillar members discuss objectives and policies under goal 5: “Make infrastructure, physical spaces, and services safe, beautiful, and accessible to the aspirations and cultures of communities.”
 - Objective 5.2 was given to the Public Health and Safety pillar by the Housing and Neighborhoods pillar: “Provide and facilitate the ownership and activation of vacant lots and buildings by block residents and local businesses.”
- Members discuss safety concerns for using public transit, especially late at night. Members highlighted sexual and gender-based violence that marginalized Chicagoans face. The police may not be equipped to deal with those situations, so it’s integral to address this in the pillar’s policies. Members also suggest implementing educational initiatives regarding this topic.
- Members conclude the policy refinement portion and discuss upcoming steps for the pillar.

RESOURCES

CTA Second Chance Program

[The CTA's Second Chance program helps Chicagoans re-enter the workforce by providing vital employment skills and career prospects.](#)

Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement (C3)

[The Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement \(C3\) is a network of researchers, community stakeholders, policymakers, and others who share a common vision for a healthier Chicago.](#)

Welcoming City Supportive Resources

[The Welcoming City Ordinance codified local policies to help ensure undocumented residents are not prosecuted solely due to their immigration status.](#)

NEXT STEPS

- Pillar members will receive an updated copy of the goals, objectives, and policies, giving them the opportunity to provide any final comments or feedback for the future pillar report. Pillar members have until May 6 to provide feedback.
- The pillar will generate a draft report by June 2022. These reports will offer policy framework recommendations as well as identify performance indicators.