

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 and Safety Meeting #6

November 2, 2021, 6:00 PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Aryssa Burton







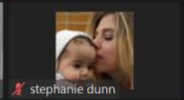

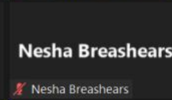







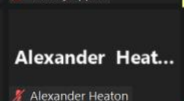

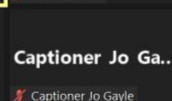

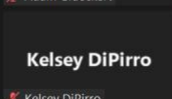
ATTENDEES

- Romina Castillo
- Wesley Epplin
- Adam Glueckert
- Alex Meixner
- Alexander Heaton
- Brianna Lawrence
- Jo Gayle (Captioner)
- Francine Dillard
- Jade Flagg
- Kate McMahon
- Katelyn Johnson
- Kelsey DiPirro
- Marlita White
- Myles Castro
- Nesha Breashears
- Sheri Cohen
- Sophie Chishty
- Stephanie Dunn
- Todd Wyatt
- Victoria Barrett
- Elias Kassa

Zoom Meeting

Recording

Live Transcription (Closed Captioning) has been enabled [Who can see this transcript?](#)

 Romina Castillo	 Aryssa B-Documenter (sh...)	 Sophie Chishty (she/her)	 Kate McMahon (she/her)	 Francine Dillard
 Victoria Barrett, CMAP sh...	 stephanie dunn	 Brianna Lawrence	 Nesha Breashears	 todd Wyatt
 Myles Castro	 Wesley Epplin	 Sheri Cohen (she/her/hers)	 Alex Meixner	 Marlita White
 Jade Flagg	 Alexander Heaton	 Adam Glueckert	 Captioner Jo Gayle	 Katelyn Johnson
 Kelsey DiPirro				

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

MEETING GOAL

Create up to 5 objectives per Guiding Question based on the brainstorming the whole team did in Meeting #5 and provide the opportunity for pillar research team members to get to know one another.

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 breakout groups need more time to adequately discuss all the idea categories made to help inform their objectives and outcomes. The guiding questions are very broad and touch on varied equitable needs for the Public Health & Safety pillar.

2

Many of the group's objectives included ideas surrounding supporting existing community-based organizations, raising awareness about their programs and building a stronger network around them. It seems like it might also be beneficial for the pillar to explore the barriers in place preventing CBOs from having established networks and resources.

3

A key theme from the meeting was addressing health inequities and social determinants of health, and doing so through an equitable decision-making process. Members discussed ways to truly achieve equity across the varied idea categories and also noted the importance of true community engagement.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"In my perfect world, at the end of this, if somebody asks a question and Commissioner Arwady is at a budget hearing and an alderman asks 'What are you doing for the top five drivers of life expectancy gap and health disparity in Chicago?' she could just list them out ...we've got x million we're spending on prevention, y million we're spending on disease management and those initiatives are coming through CDPH and DCFS."

Alex Meixner | American Heart Association | American Stroke Association, Regional VP of Advocacy

"I suppose if all of the objectives were achieved that were mentioned during the last meeting, then we would have hope for the city of Chicago by having the ability to use the equity provided by many of the things we want to implement."

Nesha Breashears | Thresholds, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Workforce Development

"This is an opportunity for all of us to really start refining and framing what the actions are. What do we want to see come out of the policies?" What do we need our city to do in order for everyone to truly achieve that equity and that feeling of safety and the feeling that they can actually progress and thrive in Chicago?"

Romina Castillo | Muse Community + Design, Senior Associate

"Nobody should be on the street, people are going to experience housing insecurity and transitory housing...but everyone should have a place to go."

Stephanie Dunn | Star Farm Chicago, Executive Director

NOTES

Introduction, Consent + Reflective Prompt

- Facilitator Romina Castillo began the meeting at 6:04pm with consent from the participants to record the meeting in association with the City of Chicago's mission as well as the Local Voices Network's (LVN) mission, which Romina said is to, "foster conversations in community and in the media to improve our understanding of one another." The LVN will, "collect, retain and analyze the conversation in keeping with that mission." Romina also said that the meeting follows the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.
- Castillo introduced the Reflective Prompt which was, "Imagine your neighborhood if all of the objectives listed last session were implemented? What would it look like?" The meeting was split into breakout rooms to discuss the prompt.
- Once the breakout sessions were over, the group reconvened to discuss the prompt together. Nesha Breashears shared, "We agreed we would be able to solve so many of our systemic problems in our individual communities because we would have equity." Brianna Lawrence said the communities, "would be vibrant and happy and in many ways utopia and heaven-like because everyone has access and there are no barriers." Victoria Barrett said her group discussed that how their neighborhoods "would look like every other neighborhood and that the equity piece would work to balance out investment and safety and public health resources."

Refining Objectives Approach and Engagement Update

- Wesley Epplin described where they are in We Will Chicago's overall process. Since the last meeting, they've downloaded and compiled all the objectives submitted through Mentimeter; they've also organized them under themes and ideas, shared in a document to all the members. Each pillar has developed a set of 5 guiding questions and the goal today is to arrive at 2-5 refined objectives for each question. In later meetings they will develop policies that fulfill the objectives.
- Wesley then outlines the difference between objectives and policies. Epplin said, "on a high level objectives describe what we want to achieve and policies describe how we are going to achieve it. Objectives are outcomes we want to accomplish through We Will Chicago and define the specific, measurable actions the city must take to support and fulfill the guiding question we are trying to answer. Policies, on the other hand, are the how, the specific set of actions we can take to fulfill an objective."
- Romina Castillo shares engagement feedback from the artist-organizers, Alexandria Willis and Gloria Rivera, from Honey Pot Performance. Romina quotes an email from Gloria in response to what she's observed in her engagement work and how it aligns with drafted objectives, "Mental health, and its incorporation to all aspects of life, keeps coming up in every engagement conversation." The artist-organizers will also be interviewing two professionals about their thoughts on the idea of Defunding CPD, one is a psychotherapist and the other is a veteran CPD officer.
- Marlita White asks how the results from the engagement process with the artist-organizers will inform their evolving planning process. Romina says they want to integrate ideas that the artist-organizers bring in parallel with the planning process and wanted to highlight that there is a survey on the WWC website open to every Chicagoan. Romina says that hopefully before the next meeting they will have a more refined planner of how that feedback will inform moving forward.

Breakout Session to Identify and Refine Objectives

- Participants were assigned to breakout rooms to discuss drafted objectives for one of the pillar's 6 guiding questions. I was in room 4, which discussed Guiding Question 4: How can we allocate resources that address the root causes of health inequities to ensure equitable outcomes in all communities? Wesley Epplin served as the facilitator and Sheri Cohen was the scribe.
- Alexander Meixner said that an objective might be to "ensure resources are commensurate with the need identified by city data. The idea being if the city is looking at what are the actual health conditions driving inequity, driving the life expectancy gap, making sure the city is then spending and investing in staff and programs directed at the specific data backed programs."
- Wesley Epplin said one thing he'd been thinking about is, "to have a fully funded health equity and policy staff within the health department that could be on call as policies are being debated to provide a health equity analysis of those policies whether its food access or housing related or transportation related they're able to cross-departmentally give their public health expertise because there's enough capacity to do it."
- Sheri Cohen talked about the responsibility of hospitals and, "holding hospital systems accountable to their community health needs assessment and work in the community that should be addressing root causes of inequity."
- Stephanie Dunn said that an important factor of investment in communities is supporting community organizations that provide culturally relevant food resources and provide agency to recipients in the realm of food access/green spaces.

Report back

- Once the breakout sessions concluded, the group came back to report their objectives. Brianna Lawrence mentioned that her group would appreciate more time to intentionally craft their work. Romina Castillo said she would share the groups info with each other so each group could reach out to each other before the next meeting.
- Group 1 discussed Guiding Question 1 and 6, though they only had time to discuss the first question: How can we ensure equitable and affordable healthcare services for all Chicagoans?
 - Sophie Chishty said they had a lot of ideas for this question and an objective they came to was "try to increase funding and incentives for health facilities and programs for underserved communities."
 - Their other objective was to increase access to, funding of and awareness of community resources and potential policy ideas for how to do that.
- Group 3 discussed guiding questions 2 and 3 but only got to Guiding Question 3: How can we reallocate City funds, space, and resources away from the justice system toward community-led public safety initiatives?
 - Alexander Heaton stated their first objective, "Increase the use of mental health professionals for appropriate 9-1-1 calls and identify how to make what is in place function better."

- The second objective was to reduce the harms of consuming substances and their policy ideas were funding mobile mental health substance abuse services, establishment of safe consumption sites with NARCAN vendors, legalizing possession of drugs and making a directory of medically assisted treatment and recovery sites.
- The last main idea they had was changes in police power and funds. Heaton said the objective was to, “reallocate funding from the police into public health, economic development and infrastructure,” and the “how” ideas were to increase the evaluation of funds that go to all public safety interventions and making sure that the allocation of funds goes to public services instead of privatizing them.
- Group 4 discussed Guiding Question 4: How can we allocate resources that address the root causes of health inequities to ensure equitable outcomes in all communities?
 - Wesley said this was a big question with a lot of ideas and they discussed making sure resources met need based on data and being purposeful on drivers of life-expectancy gaps. They discussed fully funding public health equity staff, especially for health policy, increasing city corporate funding for public health that is flexible e to work across diseases and causes of health inequities. They also discussed more accountability from hospitals to their respective communities.
 - In the idea category for investment in communities, Wesley said an objective was, “developing a responsive and collaborative network of high-capacity CBOs [Community Based Organizations] to address social determinants of health.” They also want to invest in community organizations that provide relevant and culturally responsive resources such as food and green space and provide agency to community members.
 - Regarding housing, Wesley said they discussed that, “all Chicagoans should have healthy, safe, equitable and accessible housing and no one should be housing insecure.” In regards to food and nutrition they talked about supporting the food ecosystem, reducing food waste, supporting orgs that create agency and food, food hubs, urban farming, and microbusinesses.
 - Wesley said they also talked about broader citywide planning approaches and constructed the objective that, “City policies are developed through a health equity and all policies approach.” He said they didn’t get to ideas about financial/tax reforms, accountability nor data and monitoring tools.
- Group 5 had two questions and only got to Guiding Question 5: How can we achieve environmental justice through equitable decision-making from planners, developers, and communities?
 - Victoria Barrett said that their group’s first task was dissecting the question since it was loaded and one of their desired outcomes was, “to make sure environmental quality doesn’t negatively impact people across racial and class lines.” Barrett said they came to the objective of, “ensuring the burden of waste... is not concentrated on communities of color.”
 - Some of their policies for this objective were - potential legislation to ensure the objective including checks and balances beyond city council such as participatory budgeting process with true citizen engagement.

- Victoria said another objective they had was, “greening schools, and making sure schools have the highest environmental quality” with programs to improve air quality in schools, access to natural habitats/gardens, programs to reduce energy consumption in schools
- Some of the other objectives were safe access to affordable and healthy foods and trying to educate and raise awareness of pollution and the impacts of environmental threats.
- Lastly Victoria said another main and overriding topic was to, “ensure all existing and new buildings are uniformly sustainable and environmentally healthy with minimal impacts on the surrounding community.” Supportive policies include providing adequate resources to all buildings and high levels of community participation.

RESOURCES

Public Health and Safety We Will Chicago survey

[Survey asking Chicagoans the guiding questions for this pillar](#)

Local Voices Network

[Explanation of Cortico’s LVN platform](#)

Community Health Assessments & Health Improvement Plans

[Description of Community Health Assessments by the CDC](#)

Illinois NEXT Distro

[Naloxone Resources in IL](#)

NEXT STEPS

- In the next meeting they will create policies and further refine objectives.
 - Pillar members can go back and add ideas to both their own and also other group’s objectives before the next meeting
- The Advisory Committee report out on draft objectives, Tuesday, November 16