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Public Health + Safety Meeting #8

January 11, 2022, 6:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Ahmad Sayles

ATTENDEES

- Todd Wyatt
- Kate McMahon
- Alexandria Willis
- David Mena
- Chloe Gurin-Sands
- John Bartlett
- Brianna Lawrence
- Wesley Epplin
- Elias Kassa
- Marlita White
- Sheri Cohen
- Victoria Barrett
- Romina Castillo
- Stephanie Dunn
- Sophie Chishty
- Alex Meixner
- Francine Dillard



MEETING GOAL

Review objectives and cross-pillar topics. Analyze metrics, craft policy and consider innovative policy directions.

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

Pillar members want to ensure everyone has healthy, safe, affordable, accessible, and non-segregated housing. Jon Bartlett delivers a presentation and leads a discussion on innovative policy directions. The presentation highlighted programs like Chicago Healthy Housing Inspection Program (CHHIP).

2

Pillar members are preparing to design data-informed policy suggestions.

3

Pillar members are using policy examples for group exercises. They analyze the policy through a health & racial equity impact assessment (HREIA) lens.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“We talked about pharmacy deserts and how after the riots there were local Walgreens and CVS pharmacies that closed down and did not return.”

Brianna Lawrence | Coalition on Urban Girls, President

“A consistent theme was about mistrust of authority figures, mistrust of police and disappointment with aldermanic relations.”

Stephanie Dunn | Star Farm Chicago, Founder

“One of the opportunities for public health and safety is the layers of data that we can apply. We can use public health data and transportation data and layer them.”

Victoria Barrett | Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Transportation Planner

“Low-cost housing shouldn’t be horrible housing or slum housing.”

John Bartlett | Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Executive Director

NOTES

- Brianna Lawrence, President of Coalition on Urban Girls, gives a community partner update. The key takeaways or themes from the meeting her organization held were pharmacy deserts, bus services/routes to wellness centers and block clubs.
- Stephanie Dunn, Founder of Star Farm Chicago, gives a community partner update. The key themes from the meeting her organization held were mistrust of authority figures, mistrust of police, disappointment with aldermanic relationships and community organizing. People who attended the meeting also celebrated their communities' resilience.
- Wesley Epplin reviews the objectives drafted by pillar members in the previous meeting. These objectives, which correspond to guiding questions, are:

Guiding Question 1: How can we ensure equitable and affordable healthcare services for all Chicagoans?

1. Ensure access to affordable high-quality physical and mental health services.
2. Increase accessibility, funding, and quality of community health resources.
3. Make physical and mental health care trauma-informed and culturally responsive.
4. Support Black and Brown Chicagoans' health career pursuits and successes.
5. Ensure every Chicagoan has affordable and high-quality health insurance coverage.

Guiding Question 2: How can we ensure equitable accessibility and safe freedom of movement with opportunities that promote optimal health & well-being for all Chicagoans?

1. Make walking, cycling, and other wheeled devices networks and infrastructure equitably accessible, safe, and high-quality.
2. Improve accessibility, safety, quality, and affordability of public transportation options.
3. Enhance accessibility, safety, and quality of public and private spaces.
4. Develop infrastructure and amenities that support the freedom of movement of all people with health, mobility, or vulnerability challenges.
5. Eliminate institutional and interpersonal discrimination, oppression, and violence to support safe, free movement.

Guiding Question 3: How can we reallocate City funds, space, and resources away from the criminal-legal system toward community-led public safety initiatives?

1. Increase access to harm reduction spaces, resources, equipment, and education.
2. Sustain flexible public funding for government and community health initiatives.
3. Establish a public health workforce to respond to behavioral, socio-economic, and violence problems instead of police.
4. Support community members with crisis response education and resources.
5. Sustain programs that support people involved with the criminal legal system.

Guiding Question 4: How can we allocate resources that address the root causes of health inequities to ensure equitable outcomes in all communities?

1. Sustainably fund City and community resources essential for health equity.
2. Engage community organizations to better meet people's unmet health needs.
3. Ensure everyone has healthy, safe, affordable, accessible, and non-segregated housing.
4. Ensure access to sufficient healthy, nutritious, and affordable foods.
5. Implement health equity in all policies for City policies and services.

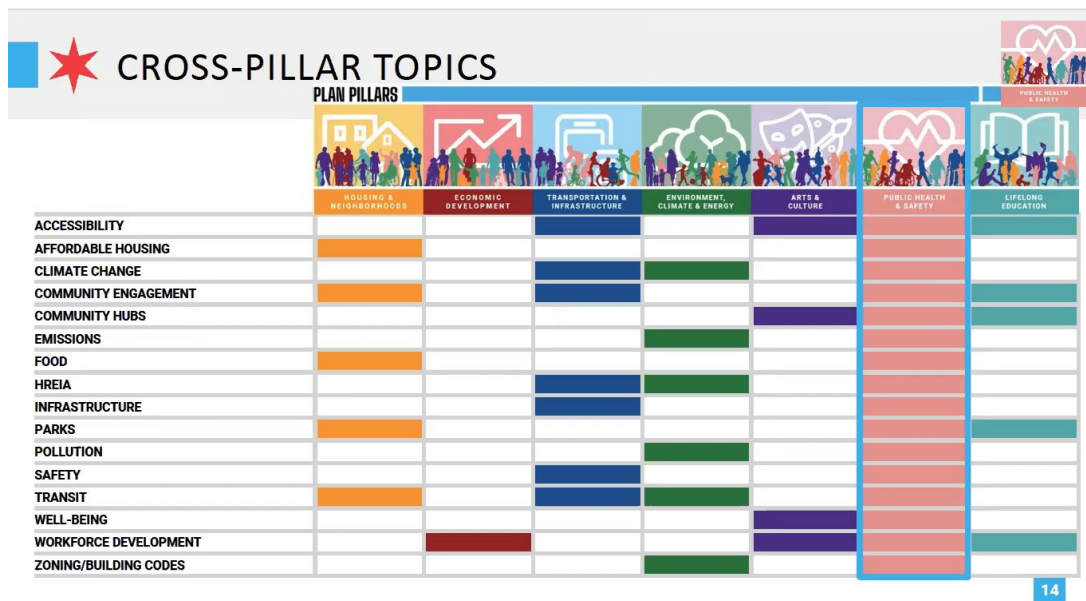
Guiding Question 5: How can we achieve environmental justice through equitable decision-making from planners, developers, and communities?

1. Mitigate health inequities from toxic waste, soil, air, and water in communities of color.
2. Educate people about environmental health threats in homes and communities.
3. Improve building regulations to meet high environmental and health standards.
4. Make Chicago climate change resilient.

Guiding Question 6: How can we institutionalize a racial justice approach in all decision-making for legislative change with an emphasis on accountability from officials?

1. Integrate health and racial equity impact assessments into policymaking and planning.
2. Increase transparency in all public decision-making processes.
3. Educate City officials and staff about equity and racial justice.
4. Prioritize democracy.
5. Institutionalize a public truth, reconciliation, and reparations process.

- Epplin gives a metrics update: Their goals are to, first develop metrics related to their pillar that reflects Chicago as it is today from which they can develop data-informed policy suggestions and create a baseline for evaluating policy outcomes. Epplin says the research team will develop performance metrics after compiling initial data. The research team is using a Meti poll to identify which metrics pillar members are most interested in. They will then research these metrics.
- Marlita White asks for clarification on how to interpret the chart Epplin presents, showing overlap between pillars and topic areas. Facilitator Romina Castillo adds that pillar leaders are trying to define how overlap between pillars will be navigated and accounted for.



- Castillo introduces the Menti exercise/poll. The poll ranks metric suggestions that relate to the pillar’s guiding questions. Castillo asks for more ideas from pillar members, who express they would like more opportunity to talk through metrics.
- John Bartlett presents on an innovative policy direction that relates to the pillar’s housing objectives focused on addressing substandard housing. The Chicago Healthy Homes

Inspection Program (CHHIP)) is a proactive approach to housing conditions as a public health response.

- Castillo introduces the next exercise—using an example policy to practice applying the Health and Race Equity Impact Assessment (HREIA) framework. Pillar members talk through questions to assess the sample policy.
- Kate McMahon suggests the group check out the data found in Chicago Health Atlas for metrics.

RESOURCES

CUG

[Coalition on Urban Girls](#)

Star Farm Chicago

[Star Farm](#)

Chicago Health Data

[Health Metrics](#)

Chicago Healthy Homes Inspection Program

[CHHIP](#)

NEXT STEPS

- Meeting #9 will likely focus on outlining a policy framework and crafting policies.
- Meeting #9 will feature pillar members identifying performance metrics.