

Healthy Living Matters
Collaborative Meeting
April 21, 2014, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM



Meeting

Attendees

1. Diaa **Alqusairi** (Harris County Healthcare Alliance)
2. Robert **Austin**
3. Ann Smith **Barnes** (Harris Health System)
4. Chris **Browne** (Greater Houston Partnership)
5. Katie **Chennisi** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
6. Linda **Forys** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
7. Melanie **Gilmore** (Houston Department of Health & Human Services)
8. Beverly **Gor** (CAN DO Houston)
9. Jennifer **Hadayia** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
10. Tracy Ann **Jones** (Collaborative for Children)
11. Dennis T. **Kao** (University of Houston)
12. Stephen **Klineberg** (Kinder Institute)
13. Bridget **Kramer** (Greater East End)
14. Margaret **Lamar** (Children and Nature Network)
15. Carol **Lewis** (Texas Southern University)
16. Elizabeth **LoCaste** (Memorial Herman)
17. Clark **Martinson** (Energy Corridor)
18. Lisa **Mayes** (Harris County Healthcare Alliance)
19. Bakeyah **Nelson** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
20. Rita **Obey** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
21. Jasmine **Opusunju** (CAN DO Houston)
22. Steven **Parra** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
23. Giselle **Patterson** (YMCA)
24. Pat **Perez** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
25. Kelly **Porter** (Houston-Galveston Area Council)
26. Rocaille **Roberts** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
27. Angela **Rubio** (Pasadena ISD)
28. Robert **Sanborn** (Children at Risk)
29. Alisa **Sanders** (UT WIC)
30. Ellen **Schwaller** (Children at Risk)
31. Tim **Schauer** (Cornerstone Government Affairs)
32. Umair **Shah** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
33. Toral **Sindha** (Clinton Foundation)
34. Jenny **Varghese** (Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services)
35. Sandra **Wegmann** (Episcopal Health Foundation)
36. Bruce **Wilcoxon** (Conoco Phillips)

Welcome, Introductions and Reflection – Ann Barnes, Bruce Wilcoxon, Rocaille Roberts

- Dr. Ann Barnes and Bruce Wilcoxon opened with welcoming remarks, and a reflection of the HLM Summit held in January 2014. Dr. Barnes provided highlights of the Summit including 1) the unveiling of HLM’s Community Action Plan and commitments of stakeholders to healthy living (e.g. Fiesta in Kashmere Gardens and their food nutrition labeling pilot; Steven Ritz’s inspirational speech about the Green Bronx Machine in South Bronx, NY.
- Rocaille Roberts provided an overview of the broader HLM Collaborative’s two-year process—where we’ve been and where we’re headed. Ms. Roberts provided an overview of the assessment, policy scan and community engagement activities that led to the development of the Community Action Plan and shared the next steps for HLM. Ms. Roberts noted that the future work of HLM will focus on implementation, and the structure of the Collaborative will join the Steering Committee and Community Planning Team into one. The management structure will stay the same (HCPHES will manage HLM; HCHA will serve as fiscal agent).

HLM Partnerships

Partnership Network Analysis – Dennis Kao, University of Houston

- Dr. Dennis Kao provided an overview of the partnership network analysis research he is facilitating to evaluate HLM's role in promoting collaboration; identifying HLM's strengths and gaps and, identifying potential partners outside of HLM. Dr. Kao noted that the analysis will enable us to examine the connections between people and organizations as a result of HLM.

Partnerships at Work –Giselle Peterson, YMCA

- Ms. Gisele Patterson, YMCA Director of Health Innovation, provided an overview of the YMCA. Ms. Patterson discussed how YMCA's vision of healthy living has transitioned over time to one that is increasingly focused on policy while strengthening its existing programs that support healthy living. Ms. Patterson announced that the YMCA will be implementing CHLI assessments across the state to expand the work they began with HLM in Harris County. They also plan to match HLM seed grants to support community gardens (Y-based).

HLM Healthy Communities Grantees – Bakeyah Nelson, HCPHES

- Dr. Bakeyah Nelson shared updates on the organizations that received funds through the HLM Healthy Communities RFA released in August 2013. Funds are being used to implement recommendations for HLM priority communities outlined in the [Built and Food Environment report](#). Ms. Nelson noted that TX AHEC was funded to increase SNAP enrollment and facilitate healthy cooking classes in Kashmere Gardens; Pasadena ISD was funded to support wellness policy implementation by expanding their E3 program to 8 additional campuses throughout the district; Avenue CDC was funded to build a trail at Ketelsen ES SPARK Park to increase park use among resident in Near Northside; and Recipe for Success was funded to expand their Seed-to-Plate nutrition education program among students attending Berry ES (HISD) and provide healthy cooking classes for parents at Mathys ES (PISD). In addition, Dr. Nelson noted that each grantee is required to participate in advocacy and leadership training classes facilitated by CAN DO Houston as a requirement of funding. Dr. Nelson noted that each grantee will identify a policy focus area and develop a brief implementation plan for their policy. For instance, Avenue CDC plans to advocate for the prioritization and commitment of complete streets renovations in low-income communities in response to Mayor Parker's recent Executive Order on Complete Streets.

Youth Ambassadors – Bakeyah Nelson, HCPHES

- Dr. Nelson also noted that the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services submitted a grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services, where funds would support a more robust HLM youth ambassador effort to advance our policy priorities.

Commit to Action – Anne Barnes, Rocaille Roberts

Collaborative members were encouraged to think about ways they can commit to action now that we are in the implementation phase. Ms. Roberts indicated that the HLM budget will allow us to continue our work, at least through May 2015 (the end of the 84th Texas Legislature). Examples of commitment in response to the HLM community action plan and/or HLM assessment reports:

HLM-Pasadena - Katie Chennisi

Ms. Chennisi shared updates on the HLM-Pasadena project. HCPHES received a grant through CDC/UCLA to advance HLM goals in the city of Pasadena. Some project initiatives include: 1) establishing a multi-sector community task force; 2) working with area corner stores and restaurants to encourage the sale of healthier foods/beverages; 3) providing bike racks to area schools and parks; 4) supporting the local School Health Advisory Council in their parent engagement efforts; and 5) building community capacity for planning for physical activity within the built environment. The community kick off meeting is scheduled for April 25th.

Breastfeeding - Jennifer Hadayia

Ms. Hadayia is working on strategy E3 (Support development and adoption of local laws to promote breastfeeding in Harris County, including recognizing designated breastfeeding-friendly hospitals, legally protecting breastfeeding mothers from harassment in public and while at work, and ensuring mothers are guaranteed a *Mothers’ Bill of Rights*). She provided an overview of the work she is doing to support breastfeeding where women 1) deliver, 2) work, and 3) live.

Early Childhood Sector – Katie Chennisi

Ms. Chennisi then spoke about the work being done to influence and support the early childhood sector (inclusive of child care, Head Start/Early Head Start, and public school, and the agencies that support each of these). Tasks include 1) influencing training requirements for early childhood professionals; 2) influencing existing quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS’s) and 3) influencing the minimum standards that are expected of early childhood environments and professionals. Action plans are being developed for each of these.

Additionally, Dr. Umair Shah highlighted new organizational units that are being developed within HCPHES that could advance the work of HLM – a Chronic Disease unit, a Built Environment unit and an Innovation and Engagement Unit.

Breakout Exercise. Rita Obey & Jennifer Hadayia

- Attendees were divided into 2 break out groups: Media Advocacy/Communications and Policy Support/Advocacy, where the groups discussed the following:

Media Advocacy/Communications	Policy Support/Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, Blogs, YikYak, etc.) - Written Communication (Brochures, Flyers, Newsletters, Postcards, Press Kits, Billboards, Letters, Op-ed pieces, White Papers, Fact Sheets, etc.) - Electronic Communication (E-Newsletters, Websites, Digital Reports, Constant Contact, Email, etc.) - Identification of groups with missions aligned to HLM and the HLM policy priorities - Opportunities for collaboration in communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scan of policy priorities amongst the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Institutional o Community o Legislative o Individual - Discussion of HLM-Policy recommendations that may require legislative activity - Identification of groups with legislative agendas that match the HLM policy recommendations - Opportunities to maximize legislative efforts across Collaborative members

Information gathered will help determine next steps in the areas of policy advocacy and media advocacy to support implementation of the HLM community action plan.

Projects for Fund Development – Ann Barnes, Rocaille Roberts

- HCPHES, in collaboration with the HLM Executive Committee will engage in various fund development activities to identify financial resources that will fund implementation efforts. Collaborative members are encouraged to share project ideas that could be considered as part of a future “portfolio of projects.” A proposal template will be released by the end of the week.

Strengthening Our Network – Bruce Wilcoxon

- A brief discussion on ways to strengthen the HLM network highlighted two members’ decisions to join their school district’s School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) as parents; one member highlighting HLM in presentations for various audiences and another indicated he was running for a board position for his Homeowners Association. It was noted that “medical representation” for the Collaborative was lacking.

Member and Other Updates

- ***Stephen Klineberg, Kinder Institute/Rice University***
 - Presented highlights of the newly launched report “What Accounts for Health Disparities,” which includes a section on Environments, Neighborhoods and Health (very relevant to HLM). Copies of the report were distributed.
- ***Chris Browne, Greater Houston Partnership***
 - Presented information on the Get Out Here Houston website and soon-to-be app, which is a clearinghouse for outdoor activities/venues in the greater Houston area. Web address for more information is www.getoutherehouston.org.
- ***Melanie Gilmore, Houston Department of Health & Human Services***
 - Presented information on the city’s Sunday Streets Initiative, where streets are closed to vehicles and open only to those who are walking, biking or engaging in other forms of active transportation. Next dates are May 4th and June 1st from 11 AM – 3 PM (for more information: www.gohealthyhouston.org/sundaystreets)
 - Also presented information on the new Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network Center (DAWN) at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center. DAWN offers free services to those with diabetes or pre-diabetes, such as nutrition education, and fitness programs, etc. For more information, visit www.houstontx.gov/health/community/dawn
- ***Jasmine Opusunju, CAN DO Houston***

Working in partnership with City of Houston and HCPHES on a Healthy Corner Store pilot project. More details at www.candohouston.org; Next partnership meeting will be at the United Way on April 24th (8:30 AM – 10 AM)
- The Collaborative is moving to a quarterly meeting schedule, so the next meeting will be in August 2014. Most work happens between meetings, so be on the look-out for future correspondence!