

**Healthcare Equity Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Community Voting Members Present:**

Emily Bridges  
Dr. Liz Diaz-Querol  
Kimberly Kelley  
Juliza Ramirez  
Hugo Tapia  
Juana Zaragoza

**Administrative Voting Members Present:**

Barry Zimmerman – Chair  
Dr. Theresa Cho  
Dr. Loretta Denering  
Rigoberto Vargas  
Kristina Swaim

**Voting Members Absent:**

Audrey Ford  
Kimberly Cofield

**Administrative Voting Members Absent:**

Dr. Sevet Johnson  
Dr. John Fankhauser

**Guests:**

Phin Xaypangna  
Kate English

**Staff Present:**

Selfa Saucedo  
Cynthia Salas

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Zimmerman

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2022 MINUTES** Moved by K. Kelley, seconded by R. Vargas. Approved.

**4. ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR AGENDIZED ITEMS & ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**5. OVERVIEW OF THE HEALTH CARE AGENCY: Public Health** (Rigo Vargas, presentation attached)

Community Health Needs Assessment will be finalized and available on the Health Matters in Ventura County Data Dashboard in 4-6 weeks. [www.healthmattersinvc.org](http://www.healthmattersinvc.org)

Health Equity Index: Can identify greatest need by zip code.

The Real Cost Measure employs additional factors not included in federal definition of poverty.

Ventura County ranked 9<sup>th</sup> healthiest county (12<sup>th</sup> last year) in the state.

**6. MEMBER COMMENTS**

Look at healthiest county ratings to find best practices for promoting healthcare. “Blue Zone Communities” have healthy initiatives we can model.

Survey responses included some housing information, although reporting related to homelessness or housing insecure status for youth may be limited.

Examine metrics and demographics of caregivers to understand caregiver bias. Have medical providers had bias training?

Mr. Vargas will look to see how disability status indicators are or can be included in the report.

Design future surveys to learn how biases affect outcomes.

Partner with educational institutions to address bias, develop cultural humility in the workforce.

How does this report/data inform policy and action?

- Public Health makes reports available to policymakers and stakeholders to highlight need. For example, a vaping trend among youth was identified, and the Board of Supervisors subsequently acted to ban flavored tobacco.
- Health data impacts program design. Hypertension, diabetes, mental health are the biggest issues. Ambulatory Care targets populations where these diseases are prevalent, and focuses efforts to address gaps in care (i.e., provide home blood pressure cuffs).
- Behavioral Health uses data to develop programs, prioritize projects and secure funding.

## **7. MEMBER EXPERIENCE**

What are community members' experiences with healthcare?

- Disparate treatment at ER based on status/race
- Having to go to ER to get primary care/urgent cancer/pain care
- Disparate treatment based on social capital (who you know)
- Mistrust of medical systems, government and info, as well as cost, prompts many to travel to Mexico for care
- Language access: community members choose Clinicas because of language
- Need for programs that address healthcare literacy – meet community where they are
- Proactive/compassionate care and delivery for people with disabilities, whether visible or not and especially where intersecting with other historically disadvantaged communities
- Health literacy, for providers too
- Lack of communication or contradictory communication, i.e., seriousness of condition versus actions of staff
- Especially difficult for speakers of indigenous and other languages besides English/Spanish
- Prevention: Cost causes people to skip care or wait until crisis
- Disadvantaged people in affluent communities need access too
- Health navigation – reports of experiencing racism in the doctor's office
- Cultural responsiveness and humility training needs to be ongoing; outreach to jurisdictions on this is needed, not just outreach to community members
- Older adults: Existing services cannot be accessed because of waitlists, lack of resources
- Craft a Patient Bill of Rights for Ventura County
- Compassion fatigue—address well-being of staff
- Continuum of care from agency to agency. Need for ease of referrals, better navigation,

integrated systems

**Staff Feedback**

- Capitalize on other connection points with community, build on a one-stop model
- Canvassing is a beneficial tool

**8. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)**

- a. What do we want/need to focus on?
- b. Next meeting July 19, 2022. Please let us know if you are able to attend
- c. Phin Xaypangna will provide an update to Board of Supervisors on July 26 at 2:30 pm. Invitation to join for 15 min presentation (can also participate virtually)
- d. Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group – focus on law enforcement, racial justice. Go to <https://www.ventura.org/psreag/>

**9. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.