

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Gopal Rajegowda, Subcommittee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, took attendance for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

May Meeting Minutes

No comments were made about the May meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

June 12th Action Summit Outcomes

Kayla Elson shared the outcomes of the Action Summit and subcommittee members shared their initial reaction and ideas for moving forward. Devin Pierce, Subcommittee Member, underlined how impressed he was with the strategies that were suggested by the community. He also inquired about exploring the ideas of community gardens or bringing more grocery stores in more neighborhoods. Naomi Ruth Cobb, Subcommittee Member, implored the other subcommittee members to consider creative ideas such as an initiative she implemented in Broward County where she worked with local grocery stores to replace unhealthy foods with more fruits and vegetables. She also had nutritionists come to the grocery stores to do food prep and share information about growing food and eating healthily with the community.

Gopal Rajegowda stated that the subcommittee members should explore experimental strategies and not put limits on their recommendations. The subcommittee members agreed it would be a good idea to partner with the big grocery stores as well as the local grocery and corner stores. They also discussed establishing a community grocery store that is owned and operated by the community. Devin Pierce suggested incorporating more fresh food stands or farmers' markets in underserved areas as well as building more community swimming pools. He also shared that there are not enough people who will consistently volunteer to execute some of their recommendation ideas so it would be best to work on strategies that would offer employment opportunities. Subcommittee members will also receive a list of other potential community partners that can help with the implementation of recommendations.

Lastly, Tiffany David shared that the three City Commissioners expressed the desire to include some of the subcommittee's recommendations into the next budget cycle, FY2022.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

Health Survey Preliminary Results

Kayla Elson presented the preliminary results of the Health Survey. George Soria, Subcommittee Co-Chair, inquired about how the subcommittee can get more responses. Devin Pierce suggested that barbershops would be great resources for sharing health information with the community. Tiffany David called attention to the lack of trust in healthcare as an issue that may affect resident's willingness to complete the survey. Further, there is currently a lot of research and data that exists about the health care disparities in West Palm Beach, so Tiffany David asked the subcommittee members to think about ways they can use the information that is already available. Tiffany will collect and share the data from surveys that other community organizations have conducted.

Discussion

Subcommittee members discussed the timeline for when the Mayor and City Commission would like to start hearing initial recommendations. George Soria also suggested that subcommittee members go into the community by attending community events and visiting high foot traffic areas to learn more about how they would like to be supported.

Public Comment

Kayla Elson opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments made.

Next Steps

Subcommittee members will continue to promote the health survey.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by George Soria at 6:46 PM. The next Health subcommittee meeting will be held on July 13th, 2021, from 5:30-7:00 PM on Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Gopal Rajegowda, Subcommittee Co-Chair
George Soria, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Naomi Ruth Cobb, Subcommittee Member
Devin Pierce, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office
Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Milena Almetica, Justice & Sustainability Associates



WEST PALM BEACH
City Administration

Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

Absent:

Mary Ligon, Subcommittee Member

Jennifer Jean Bell, Subcommittee Member

Jerry Deng, Subcommittee Member