



HLM Collaborative Meeting **HIGHLIGHTS** January 26, 2015, 2:00 PM- 4:15 PM Depelchin Children's Center

MEETING ATTENDEES

Aaron Herrera, Hunger Free Texans
Angela Rubio, Pasadena ISD
Anna Brewster, MDACC
Ann Smith-Barnes, Legacy, *HLM Chair*
Ar'Sheill Sinclair, TX State Alliance of YMCAs
Carra Moroni, HDHHS
Chris Browne, EHRA, *HLM Executive Committee*
David Crossley, Houston Tomorrow
Ellen Schwaller, Doctors for Change
Jasmine Opusunju, CAN DO Houston
Kathleen Cook, UT School of Public Health
Kelly Porter, H-GAC
Linda Civallero, MDACC
Lisa Mayes, Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Marina Coryat, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of TX
Martinetta Victorian, Texas AHEC East
Maryiam Saifuddin, Houston Food Bank
Megan Hoag, Texas Hunger Initiative
Michelle Caruso, HDHHS
Michelle Galindo, HCPHES
Pat Walsh, City of Houston Planning Department
Patricia Cummings, HCPHES

Alexander Reyna, Texas AHEC East
Robert Austin, R. J. Austin Consulting
Robert Morrow, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of TX
Stephen Callazo, Harris County Healthcare Alliance
TaShon Thomas, American Heart Association
Tiffany Thomas, Alief ISD

HLM Project Team

Abbhi Rajagopal, HCPHES
Albert Cheng, HCPHES
Katie Chennisi, HPCHEs
Kelly Reed, HCPHES
Linda Forsys, HCPHES
Jennifer Hadayia, HCPHES
Jenny Varghese, HCPHES
Kelsie Landis, HCPHES
Monica Triplett, Kateland Consulting Group, LLC
Olivia Ekeke, HCPHES
Patricia Perez, HCPHES
Rocaille Roberts, HCPHES
Shalon Jones, HCPHES
Tim Schauer, Cornerstone Government Affairs
Umair A. Shah, HCPHES

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome and Greetings

Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes, HLM Executive Committee Chair

Dr. Smith-Barnes welcomed members and provided a refresher on why policy is HLM's approach to curbing childhood obesity: "because making healthy choices is not yet the easy choice in Harris County and differences in access occur across communities." She gave a brief presentation on the importance of "leveling the playing field" in access to healthy lifestyles.

"Policies that are smart and improve the health of everyone will begin to level the playing field when it comes to accessing healthy lifestyles."

– Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes

Legislative and Policy Update

Tim Schauer,

Cornerstone Government Affairs

Mr. Schauer provided an overview of how HLM arrived at the EAT, PLAY, LEARN framework for policy change on childhood obesity. He emphasized that policy change is a cycle that includes implementation. He then provided an update on activities from the 84th Texas State Legislature to date, including four unfiled bills with relevance to HLM priorities:



- A. One bill will be a directive to the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to include hunger, healthy food, physical activity, and obesity in each of their strategic plans.
- B. One bill proposes to increase state high school graduation requirements for Physical Education (junior and high school) and health education (high school); and for the TEA to develop age-appropriate recess policy and outdoor play guidelines.
- C. One bill would adjust the current Recognition Program for Healthy Schools and Healthy Childcare to include health and fitness standards as well as create wellness guidelines for teachers and childcare providers.
- D. One bill would establish a Grocery Store Revolving Loan Fund.

Bill numbers for all four pieces of legislation should be available by February 6, 2015.

“Policy is not a destination; it’s a cycle.”
– Tim Schauer

Mr. Schauer also explained that the leadership of the 84th Session may also influence the ability to advance HLM’s priorities; therefore, he is reaching-out to potential Committee appointees as well as advisors and commissioners.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Chris Browne, Department Manager, Land Planning, EHRA

HLM Executive Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Browne explained that the goals of the panel are to: (1) provide an overview of various local legislative agendas and (2) discuss how these agendas influence local ordinances.

- A. **Jasmine Opusunju**, Executive Director, CAN DO Houston. Dr. Opusunju outlined CAN DO’s legislative priorities for 2015: (1) diverse strategies for incentivizing where local grocery stores are located including efforts to close the awareness gap in healthy eating, (2) incentivizing SNAP enrollment and access; (3) shared-use agreements through collaboration with School Health Advisory Councils (SHAC); and (4) implementation of the City of Houston’s Complete Streets Executive Order.
- B. **Ar’Sheill Sinclair**, State Advocacy Director, Texas State Alliance of YMCAs. Ms. Sinclair outlined the YMCAs legislative priorities for 2015, which are based on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant: (1) YMCAs should serve on each SHAC where a Y located in the community; and (2) National Institute for Out-of-School-Time and Partnership for Healthy America guidelines should be applied to the Y’s programs. They are also creating a Distinguished After-School Recognition program; supporting food

distribution; ensuring funding for out-of-school-time activities and early care and education; working to secure an additional \$5M for the Y's branded diabetes prevention program; and establishing a YMCA Legislative Caucus.

C. **Patrick Walsh**. *Director, City of Houston. Planning and Development.* Mr. Walsh provided an overview of the following legislative activities and local planning:



a. City Legislative Agenda. Opposing unfunded mandates and maintaining

local control remain top priorities for the City of Houston. Specific to HLM, the city supported HB200 in the 2013 session that relieves utility company liability for recreational use of their easements. For 2015, city priorities include full restoration of funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account that funds the Local Parks Grants Program.

b. Complete Streets Plan. Mayor Annise Parker issued an Executive Order in 2013 to include a Complete Streets philosophy in all city street reconstruction programs, which states that: (1) street design should consider all users and (2) be context sensitive. A goal is to balance resources for redeveloping current infrastructure with making future improvements.

c. Bike Plan. The City of Houston's first Bike Plan since 1994 will be released this year.

d. General Plan. The City of Houston's first-ever General Plan (outlining goals for all city plans) is in the public comment phase. Part of the Plan's vision is: "We promote healthy and resilient communities." One of its goal is: "A city that enables healthy, active lifestyles." There is the possibility that all City planning (via the General Plan) could incorporate additional health impact strategies such as Health Impact Assessments for all new capital improvement projects. A barrier is that the plan must remain "high level" in order to pass.

Mr. Browne asked the panelists what challenges and needs they foresee for effectively advancing their legislative and planning priorities in 2015. Needs identified were:

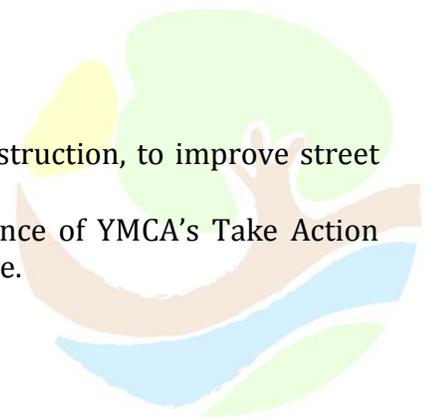
"Childhood obesity isn't necessarily on the top of the radar for legislators."
 – Dr. Jasmine Opusunju

- First-hand story-telling on the issue of childhood obesity alongside statistics.
- Better use of social media.
- Correcting misperceptions of the issues (e.g., "Cupcake Amnesty")
- Returning a sense of urgency around child obesity.

Mr. Browne asked the panelists what they would like to ask HLM members to do to help advance legislative and planning priorities in 2015. Asks identified were:

- Convey the value of biking and Complete Streets for the broad community to Houston City Council.

- Challenge ReBuild Houston, a dedicated fund for long-term street reconstruction, to improve street conditions in order to advance biking and walking.
- Engage community members, including by joining the Texas State Alliance of YMCA's Take Action initiative in order to help mobilize constituents behind pertinent legislative.



Dr. Barnes summarized key themes from the panel:

- *Organizations* can adopt policies
- Programs can *inform* policies
- Policies can *undo* barriers
- Junior legislators need education (starting with the HLM Legislative Briefing on February 6th)

HLM Overview

- *Dr. Umair Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director, HCPHES*
Dr. Shah welcomed and thanked Collaborative members. He described the important work of HLM using the “visual” of inter-generational healthy lifestyle learning in all places where people live, learn, work, play, and worship and praised inter-agency collaboration. He issued a challenge to all present to create “the best pro-health legislative agenda for Texas possible this year.”



- *Rocaille Roberts, HLM Director*
Mrs. Roberts provided an update on HLM activities overall with a focus on recent efforts for funding sustainability, noting that HLM was not selected by CDC/REACH for funding. The timeline for the Houston Endowment application was pushed back. For future planning, she noted that HLM will need: (1) to develop joint work-plans across member organizations and (2) demonstrate additional leveraging of resources. As a community, HLM will also need to be aware of other new local collaborative efforts applying to similar funding sources.

HLM Partners in Action

HLM members made the following announcements:

- Hunger Free Texans. Their first statewide Keeping Our Communities Healthy annual conference, will take place April 12 – 14, 2015 at NRG Convention Center.
- H-GAC. H-GAC submitted an application for the APHA/APA funding opportunity to support healthy planning. The application specifically addresses Safe Routes to Schools in the City of Pasadena and a contingent City of Houston neighborhood.
- Doctors for Change. A workshop on the “Intersection of Health and Early Childhood Education” will take place February 26, 2015.



- Houston Tomorrow. City of Houston General Plan Public Comment Meetings will be held on January 26, 2015 and January 28, 2015. A Complete Streets progress report presentation will take place on January 28, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Upper Kirby Building.
- Harris County Healthcare Alliance. The launch event for the 2015 State of Health in Houston/Harris County is on February 18, 2015 at 1:30 PM at the Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston. Visit HCHA website to register: www.healthcarealliance.org

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas. The *Healthy Kids, Healthy Families* RFA opens mid-March. Visit: www.bcbstx.com.
- BUILD Health Challenge. BUILD is a collaborative funding opportunity to support local health disparities policy and systems changes that improve root causes (e.g., economics, education, access). The Harris County BUILD Collaborative submitted an implementation grant to create a sustainable Healthy Food System in North Pasadena. The collaborators are: Houston Food Bank, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and HCPHS, plus several others including HLM members. Round 2 selectees will be notified on February 12, 2015.
- City of Houston. Sunday Streets will continue in 2015 with six more events (three in spring, three in fall). Visit: www.gohealthyhouston.com.

Acknowledgments and Housekeeping

The following announcements were made:

- Acknowledgement of the HLM Fiscal Agent, Harris County Healthcare Alliance.
- The next full HLM Collaborative meeting will take place in April 2015.

Dr. Smith-Barnes closed the meeting with a call to individual action.

“I challenge you to do something that promotes health in your sphere of influence.”

– Dr. Ann Barnes
