



HLM Collaborative Meeting **HIGHLIGHTS**
April 24, 2015, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM
DePelchin Children's Center

MEETING ATTENDEES

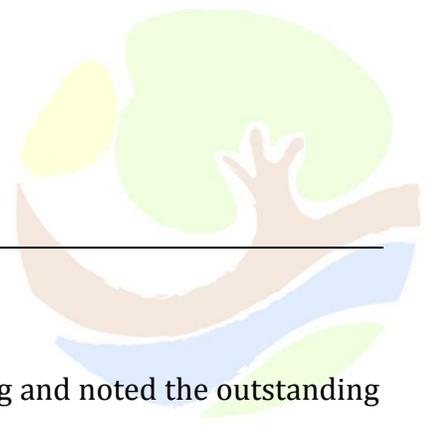
Albert Cheng, HCPHES
Alicia Lee, Greater Houston Partnership
Ann Barnes, Legacy Health Services, *HLM Chair*
Anna Brewster, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Anna Sedillo, City of Houston Planning &
*Development
Ashleigh Johnson
Brenda Cantero, UT School of Public Health
Catherine Butsch, Houston Parks Board
Chelsea Arkadie, Goose Creek CISD
Chelsea St. Louis, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Chris Browne, EHRA, *HLM Executive Committee*
DeAngela Hayes, Avenue CDC
Elizabeth Jeffers, Kids' Meals
Elizabeth LoCaste, Memorial Herman Community
*Benefit Corp
Ellen Schwaller, HCPHES
Elyse Heob, Shape Up Houston
Emily Wei, Shape Up Houston
Gracie Cavnar, Recipe for Success Foundation
Jay Crossley, Houston Tomorrow
Jennifer Hadayia, HCPHES
Jennifer Sanchez, U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Jenny Rowlands, Texas Children's Health Plan
Jometra Pinesette, American Heart Association
Katie Chennisi, HCPHES
Kevin McNally, HCPHES
Lan Bentsen, Shape Tomorrow
Lemel Jones, Target Hunger
Libby Kennedy, Urban Harvest
Linda Civallero, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Lisa Mayes, Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Lisa Kasianowitz, Houston Parks Board
Maryiam Saifuddin, Houston Food Bank
Megan Hoag, Texas Hunger Initiative
Michelle Galindo
Monica Triplett, Kateland Consulting Group
Patricia Tinoco, HCPHES
Rocaille Roberts, HCPHES
Sandra Wicoff, Urban Harvest
Shalon Jones, HCPHES
Shalonda Tucker, American Heart Association
Stephen Collazo, Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Tamara Bourda, CHI St. Luke's Health
Tim Schauer, Cornerstone Government Affairs
Tommy Garcia-Prats, Small Places LLC
Trisha Amboree, Shape Up Houston
Veronica Garza, Planned Parenthood
Victoria Gbenjo, UT School of Public Health
Wayne Holt, City of Pasadena
Wilma Wang, AAHC-Hope Clinic
Yen Ly, AAHC-Hope Clinic

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome

Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes, HLM Executive Committee Chair

Dr. Smith-Barnes welcomed members to the April 2015 Collaborative Meeting and noted the outstanding turn-out of attendees.



Left Photo: Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes & Meeting Attendees



Right Photo: Tim Schauer & Meeting Attendees

Legislative and Policy Update

Tim Schauer, Cornerstone Government Affairs

Mr. Schauer provided an overview of the current state of the 84th Texas State Legislative Session and HLM's role in advancing the EAT, PLAY, LEARN domains of the HLM Community Action Plan and its policy priority strategies, which kicked off with HLM's Legislative Briefing at the Capitol. He noted that the session is moving at a significantly slower pace than in prior sessions, so many bills have had less progress than would have been expected at this point in the session. He then reviewed the HLM Policy Actions handout as of April 24, 2015, highlighting the following:

- **Global Policy on Childhood Obesity.** This bill will not be moving forward primarily due to the fact that Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Sunset Bill did not progress and, therefore, TDSHS's structure will likely remain unchanged.
- **Physical Education (PE) Requirements.** This bill is awaiting a hearing.
- **Policy to Develop Guidelines to Educate/Incent Providers as Role Models.** This is a unique bill in the session that has been championed by HLM. It died in committee due to the perception that it would become a new mandate. We tried to address this confusion (with Legislators from outside our region), but were unsuccessful.

"I hear this all the time from people who work for non-profits and governmental entities: you can't get involved because of lobbying restrictions in your professional capacity. But, please know that you can always represent yourself on your own time. You're still an American." – Tim Schauer

- **Breastfeeding Protections.**

Some additional work has been focused on preventing legislation that would result in outcomes that are counter to HLM goals. One example is a bill to eliminate Fitnessgram. Mr. Schauer closed by noting that the session will end on June (followed by a 21-day veto period allowed by the Governor) and that, in the meantime, there will be Action Alerts on HLM priority legislation sent to members via email. Members are encouraged to respond by calling and emailing elected officials in response to the alerts.

Charrette Framework Exercise

*Moderator: Chris Browne, Department Manager, Land Planning, EHRA
HLM Executive Committee Co-Chair*

Mr. Browne explained that the goals of this exercise are to: (1) provide a high-level overview of the Bayou Greenways project, which contributes to active living, which is one of HLM’s policy goals to curb childhood obesity and (2) create a framework for ongoing assessment of built environment impacts that can be utilized by HLM, stakeholders and in communities. It will begin with a panel presentation and then include a group exercise.

A. **Catherine Butsch.** *Houston Parks Board.* Bayou Greenways 2020 aims to add parkways alongside all current bayous (a total of 4,000 new acres and 150 new miles of greenways, funded through bonds and private funds). A commissioned study estimated ROI related to physical and mental health, environmental health, and economic health. These benefits include: preservation of natural beauty, opportunities for physical activities, access to nature, alternative commuting, and flood alleviation. The project will also create a more equitable distribution of greenspace throughout Harris County, stated Ms. Butsch, it will “bring parkland into neighborhoods that are historically underserved.” At the end of the project, 60% of the Houston population will live within 1.5 miles of a greenway.

“Bayou Greenways 2020 will bring parkland into neighborhoods that are historically underserved.”
– Catherine Butsch



Left Photo: Catherine Butsch & Meeting Attendees



Right Photo: Jay Crossley & Meeting Attendees

B. **Jay Crossley**. *Houston Tomorrow*. Mr. Crossley described Complete Streets, which is: context sensitive (i.e., design that takes into account the safety and comfort of all users), a philosophy of designing, funding, and supporting streets to optimize the utility of the public right of way for the most people possible, and a multimodal form of transportation. A part of Complete Streets is the concept of Neighborhood Greenways, which connects residential neighborhood streets to the Bayou Greenways. Houston Tomorrow is proposing pilots at the Super Neighborhood unit-level to re-designed streets with low car usage that would connect to the bayou greenways using the city of Portland as a model, which includes water sustainable elements and signage.

“We shouldn’t be afraid of streets for walking and biking. We all want to get to the same destinations. That’s why Complete Streets is so important.”
 – Jay Crossley

C. **Ellen Schwaller & Kevin McNally**. *HCPHES*. Ms. Schwaller described HCPHES’s new Built Environment and Health Impact Assessment Unit (BE-HIA). She explained that an HIA is a structured scientific process for assessing the impact of policy on health. Mr. McNally described an example of a community where the new Unit will be conducting an HIA: East Aldine. Lastly, Ms. Schwaller outlined a list of sectors and organizations that should be engaged during the East Aldine HIA, including municipal and county government, community-based organizations,

environmental advocacy groups, schools, coalitions, hospitals/clinics, and residents.



Above Photo: Ellen Schwaller, Kevin McNally & Meeting Attendees

Mr. Browne “set the stage” for the exercise, providing four considerations: (1) acknowledge the health benefits of nearby recreation, (2) ensure ideas translate via neighborhood circumstances, (3) ensure ideas can be repeatable across Harris County, and (4) be creative. He then led a high-level brainstorm on stakeholders in four areas:

1. **Government, Business, and Professional Stakeholders:**

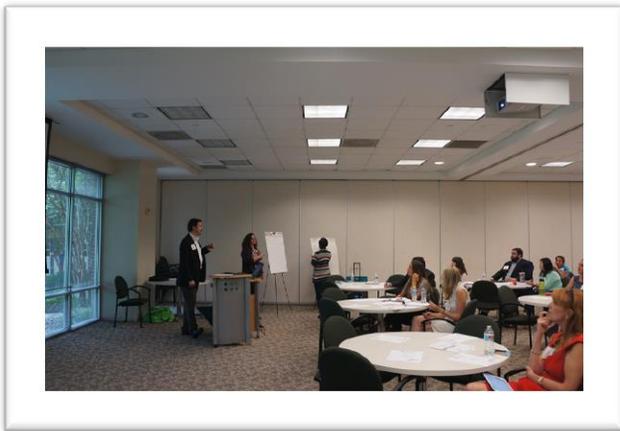
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| American Planning Association | CenterPoint Energy | Complete Streets Coalition |
| Houston Business Coalitions | Reliant Energy | MUD |
| Greater Houston Partnership | Union Pacific | Bayou Preservation Groups |
| Super Neighborhoods | Texas Department of Transportation | School Districts |
| Council Members | Texas Parks & Wildlife | Star Tex Developers |
| Harris Health System | County Commissioners | National Parks Service |
| Management Districts | Chambers of Commerce | TIRZ |
| Clear Channel | Houston-Galveston Area Council | City of Houston Parks & Recreation |
| Civic Groups | Texas Medical Center | |
| Marketing/Media Groups | METRO | |



2. Community and Neighborhood Stakeholders:

Pastoral/Minister Groups
 School Groups
 Community Development Corporations
 Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO)
 YMCA
 Scout Troops
 Community/Business Groups
 Neighborhood Centers Inc.
 Houston Housing Authority
 Harris County Housing Authority
 Houston Community Development Department

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (and other groups targeting Hispanic populations)
 AARP
 Grass Roots Groups
 Universities
 Food Pantries
 Multi-Purpose Centers
 Boys & Girls Clubs
 Local Clinics
 Police Departments
 Houston Area Urban League



Both Photos: Charrette Framework Exercise with Meeting Attendees

3. Design Components:

Urban Farms
 Exercise Stations
 Schools
 Museums
 Grocery Stores
 Public Restrooms
 Restaurants
 Event Centers
 Bike Share
 Trail Mix Trail
 Bike Repair Station
 Public Seating / Esplanades

Pocket Parks
 Bus Stops
 Swings
 Playgrounds
 Trees / Landscaping
 Noise Reduction
 Crosswalks
 Shopping Opportunities
 Sidewalks
 Safety
 Public Art
 Speed Bumps

Water
 Car Share
 Dog Parks
 Shade
 Charging Stations
 Community Gardens
 Farmers Markets
 Coffee Shops
 Cooling Stations
 Traffic Calming Measures
 Flood Control



4. **Individuals Components:**

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Bike Racks | Pollinators | Wild Life |
| Public Art | Native Plants | Interpretive Signage |
| Maps | Kayaks | Pedestrian Signage |
| Trail Signage | Historical Learning Stations | ADA Ramps |
| Mile Markers | Guided Audio Tours | Benches |
| Wi-Fi | Trees | Picnic Tables |
| Shade Structures | Water Fountains | Exercise Stations |
| Lighting | Emergency Call Boxes | Rock Walls |

5. **Where?** Near Northside, Sunnyside, Sims Bayou

HLM Partners in Action

• *Catherine Chennisi, Public Health Analyst, HCPHES*

Ms. Chennisi described the HLM-Pasadena Community Task Force (CTF), which is a local version of the full HLM Collaborative targeted to the priority community of Pasadena as outlined in the HLM Community Action Plan (CAP). The CTF currently has 23 members who prioritized three CAP policies:

1. *Incentivize public lands for community gardens and Farmers Markets*
2. *Implement a safe neighborhoods policy; and*
3. *Support a community health literacy strategy*

From the CTF, she explained, another collaboration was developed in January 2015 in response to a funding opportunity called the Harris County BUILD Health Challenge to address the conditions that contribute to food insecurity in north Pasadena. Harris County’s BUILD Health Challenge Partnership was one of only 16 selected for Round 2 of the national funding opportunity out of over 300 nationwide. Grantees will be notified by the end of May.



Above Photo: Catherine Chennisi & Meeting Attendees

• *Wayne Holt, City of Pasadena*

“No other place in the U.S. has launched this type of venture as a collaboration between county, municipal, education, and commercial partners.”
 – Wayne Holt

Mr. Holt described the economic development needs in north Pasadena and how a vertical farming campus will be an economic development opportunity there. He reiterated how the CTF adopted this project as part of the BUILD Health Challenge grant application. He explained the current status of the project including a signed Letter of Intent between the city of Pasadena and Indoor Harvest Corp to repurpose two city facilities (a non-functioning

community services building and fire station) into a CSA that will include a workforce development and nutrition education component.



Left Photo: Wayne Holt & Meeting Attendees



Right Photo: HLM Meeting Attendees

HLM Update and Challenge

Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes, HLM Executive Committee Chair

Dr. Smith-Barnes closed the meeting with an update on other Collaborative efforts including additional funding requests, including the BUILD Health Challenge (notice expected May 2015) and the Houston Endowment to which a three-year \$2.5 million grant request was submitted (notice expected September 2015). She noted that the Executive Committee continues to meet to discuss overall Collaborative sustainability. The next full HLM Collaborative meet will occur in late-July.

Dr. Smith-Barnes then referenced the challenge she issued to members: “to promote health in their sphere of influence”. Her small action was to offer fruit at work instead of candy and now others at her office are also bringing fruit. She invited others in attendance to share their changes:

One member distributed healthy recipes to their staff and Board members during Healthy Nutrition Month.

Over 10,000 Houstonians participated in the national VegOut Challenge to eat 30 different vegetables in 30 days.

One member joined their local School Health Advisory Council.

ShapeUpHouston worked with Al's Formalwear to “Rethink Your Drink.” They also added water to their drink budget, and it exceeded the soda and coffee budget.

Houston Street Market just launched a community garden on the Navigation Esplanade.