Community Action Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday March 16th 2018  Time: 9:00 am –2:00pm
Location: Mexican Consulate of Tucson 3915 E Broadway Blvd 85711

CAB Members Present: Andres Yubeta, John Blackburn, Rhonda Gonzales, Erica Smith, Martha Ochoa, Cassalyn David, Cynthia Espinoza, Lorena Verdugo, Maria Velasco, Michelle Sandoval-Rosario, Gail Emrick, Susan Kunz, Yanitza Soto.

UA: Abby Lohr, Maia Ingram, Scott Carvajal, Ramses Sepulveda

Meet and Greet- 9:00 am to 9:30 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks 9:30-9:45 am:
- Facilitated by CAB Co-Chairs Yanitza Soto and Maria Velasco.
- Introduction and affiliation of all members present.
- Welcoming from the Mexican Consulate Deputy and Lorena Verdugo from El rio.
- Introduction of new members, Rhonda Gonzales from the Community food bank; Andres Yubeta from El Rio.

Approval of Minutes
- Motion to approve minutes from December 2017 meeting by Maria Velasco and seconded by John Blackburn.
- Minutes Approved

CHW Voluntary Certification: Flor and Yanitza 9:45-10:00am
- Floribella Redondo was not available for this portion so the scheduled portion was discussed by Yanitza and Maia.
- The voluntary certification for CHW bill had just seen a vote the previous day in the Commerce and Public Safety committee, ultimately passing 7 votes to 0. A rocky start to the bill’s hearing appeared to create the possibility of postponing the hearing. However, a quick amendment to the bill particularly when it came to a misunderstanding concerning gifts made to the proposed board led to an ultimately unanimous yes vote.
- Action item; Find a kiosk in Tucson where members can sign up to sign in and participate when bills are being heard.
- Action item; Susan Kunz recommends as many of us as possible send thank you letters to representative Heather Carter for her support.

PRC Meeting Update & Upcoming NOFO: Scott Carvajal & Maria Velasco 9:30-9:45am
- Scott began by mentioning that the PRCs have continuously been cut throughout the years, the last cycle we went from 36 PRCs around the nation down to 26.
- What this means for us is that every time they do this the competition becomes bigger and bigger as those who have been cut will try and come back to gain funding.
• He suggests that with our upcoming research proposals we being from being innovative yet consistent in the work we have done in the past. This likely will mean building on an existing project.
• He mentions that the challenges he sees is finding something that is feasibly accomplishable and that includes our existing partnerships and initiatives.
• Maria Velasco reminds the CAB that this is an important part of the grant cycle where we should continue to stay inspired and motivated in sharing new ideas.
• APHA and PRC annual meeting updates from Maria; The meetings were reinvigorating and provided insight on what others were doing. Got a sense of the competition and also how our focus should stay with our strength which is the border region.

Research Update from John Blackburn and Abby Lohr 9:45am to 10:00am
• John began by mentioning that the project is moving in to phase 2; which means they are now looking at health status of participating patients.
• Phase 2 looks at the baseline, 3 months, and 6 month progress of patients based on survey responses.
• The questionnaire looks at the effects on health barriers through the lens of chronic disease.
• Abby Lohr spoke on the challenges we have faced in getting participants and how we may have been a little too optimistic in the numbers we were expecting; we will need to aim at a newer smaller yet useful number.
• Martha Ochoa and Cynthia Espinoza were the two present CHWs at this meeting who were asked to chime in with what they see and hear during their day to day activities.
• Cynthia began by mentioning that one of the major challenges in getting participants on-board is explaining to them the time commitment. Most people associate any sort of study with a long process with numerous times where they are contacted. It usually takes some brief de-escalation on her part to explain how small of a role it is to get progress surveys along the way.
• Usually following these explanations people are a bit more at ease and chose to participate.
• Martha went on to say that a major challenge is finding people who really need the help. Many participants just need one or two of the services, or they need services that are not provided.
• An example she gave was of people who were unemployed while being undocumented, or sick while also being undocumented.
• These scenarios posed new issues for these folks because it adds another layer of aid that sometimes does not have a clear answer.

Maia’s presentation on CHW Survey:
• This presentation was a brief CHW survey follow up on community needs.

• The counties represented in the survey results included: Maricopa, Pima, Yuma, Cochise, Gila, and Santa Cruz.

• There was equal representation of community based and clinical organization workers in the survey. Some were even in both categories.

• Community health priorities that arose in the survey included: substance abuse, cancer, diabetes, chronic pain, childhood obesity, access to services, mental health, and violence.
• Countries prioritizes these a bit different. In Santa Cruz County top priorities included Diabetes, Cancer, and Asthma; In Pima it was access to health services, cancer, and diabetes; In Yuma it was diabetes, and substance abuse; Cochise was diabetes and cancer

• Some identified social determinant needs were the following: Transportation, employment services, housing/utilities, access to healthy food, medical assistance, domestic violence services, behavioral health services.

Break for lunch: 11:30-12:30pm

Timeline Activity 12:30-2:00pm

The Community Action Board came together to create a timeline to serve those past, present, and future members. The idea came to fruition during the December meeting of 2017 where many started to recall past partnerships and the benefit it would be to have a timeline that would serve as some institutional memory.

Thus the CAB engaged in an activity to physically create a timeline of projects they were proud to be a part of, to know about, serve, or be involved/aware of in some capacity.

Below are pictures demonstrating the timeline:
Ramses Sepulveda is currently working on an interactive webpage that will house the timeline and allow for many to add hyperlinks as needed.