

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EQUITY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 16, 2020 2:00PM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Robert Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>District 6</i>
Staff Present:	Dr. Colleen Bridger, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Tina Flores, <i>Acting City Clerk</i> ; Fire Chief Charles N. Hood; Dawn Emerick, <i>EdD, Director, Metro Health</i> ; Mario Martinez, <i>Assistant Director, Metro Health</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Julie Sandoval, <i>Public Health Administrator, Metro Health</i>

Call to order

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes for the June 3, 2020 Community Health and Equity Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2020 Community Health and Equity Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. A briefing by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, the San Antonio Fire Department, and Government & Public Affairs on the Health Transition Team's Implementation Plan [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs; Charles N. Hood, San Antonio Fire Chief; Dawn Emerick, EdD, Director, Health]

Dr. Dawn Emerick reported that the COVID-19 testing accounted for approximately \$30 million of the \$39 million Health Transition Team (HTT) Implementation Budget. She highlighted primary components of the Budget: Case Investigation: \$2,369,361; Contract Tracing: \$2,369,361; Project Management: \$1,035,977; and Research: \$1,000,000. She stated that the Temporary Staffing Budget of \$5.6 million covered 89 positions, with Case Investigation Support as the primary component. She noted that COVID-19 testing accounted for \$29.5 million of the Budget. She stated that the City had contacted with CPL Lab to perform approximately 1,250 tests daily at the cost of \$100 each. She added that the COVID-19 Testing Budget included funding for walk-up testing sites, the Freeman Coliseum Testing site, and the purchase of medical supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). She reported that Education, Media Relations, and Data

Management accounted for \$1.4 million; Communitywide presentations and outreach: \$114,631; Media Relations: \$549,688; and Data Management: \$771,079.

Dr. Emerick reported that a Community Resource telephone hotline was established with a budget of \$472,874 supported by 17 contracted temporary positions that would transition to the 3-1-1 Department effective July 15, 2020. She stated that a Provider Hotline was established with a budget of \$57,882 and provided nurses and highly-skilled medical personnel to assist Providers with epidemiology-related questions. She added that a Provider Hotline was established with a budget of \$175,560 to provide support to the Metro Health Medical Director regarding communications, epidemiology resources and verification of COVID-19 antibody testing.

Dr. Emerick reported that the HTT Implementation Budget allocated \$1 million for COVID-19 research: COVID-19 Community-Partnered Participatory Research: \$300,000; Evaluation of existing COVID-19 interventions: \$300,000; Population Epidemiology Research: \$300,000; and Health Collaborative Engagement: \$100,000. She stated that the Congregate Settings Budget of \$916,806 was a critical component allocated for universal testing in congregate settings to track results, provide recommendations, review infection control practices, and conduct 14-day follow ups to ensure individuals had recovered.

Fire Chief Hood reported that Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) was designed to provide care and prevent the overuse of EMS and hospital emergency systems. He noted that MIH units were on the frontline of COVID-19 testing assessment across the City. He stated that SAFD was granted \$5 million for the staffing of MIH Testing and Assessment Missions at congregate settings, walk-up sites, mobile testing sites, drive-through testing sites, and included staffing costs for an Assistant Medical Director and an Infection Control Nurse.

Fire Chief Hood reported that the HTT Implementation Budget allocated SAFD with a budget for equipment and PPE: Vehicles and equipment for testing and assessment missions: \$2,159,000, to include mobile decontamination units and mobile information technology units; EMS Equipment for First Responder Units: \$4,598,881, to include advanced life support equipment, lead monitors, video laryngoscopes, and ultrasounds on first responder vehicles; and Medical PPE: \$1,854,770.

Councilmember Treviño requested further information on temporary staffing fee data and noted that staffing agencies charged a markup fee of 40%. He referenced City Departments that had undergone major furloughs and recommended the redeploying of those employees into community healthcare outreach positions. Dr. Emerick reported that HTT worked with HR to redeploy furloughed employees when possible and noted that some positions required a highly specialized skill sets. She stated that she would provide further itemized data.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if text messaging was included in the City's COVID-19 response system. She asked if Congregate Setting Reports were provided to the State Ombudsman. She requested more information on the \$617,269 COVID-19 Immunization Grant. Jeff Coyle

confirmed that a COVID-19 Text Alert system was established and its database subscription had grown astronomically. He stated that the text alert system would continue to provide COVID-19 updates through the duration of the pandemic; thereafter, the Text Alert System would be continued to provide broader City communications. Dr. Emerick added that a Doc Alert System was also established for medical providers to receive updates from Metro Health. Dr. Emerick reported that the daily recording of COVID-19 data to the Dashboard was consolidated from several sources and she would verify what data, if any, was forwarded to the State Ombudsman. Julie Sandoval reported that the Immunization Grant would fund an additional supply of influenza vaccines to reduce the burden on the healthcare system during the upcoming flu season. She added that the grant would also fund the staffing of two Vaccine Strike Teams from June 20, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested status on City employees furloughed through the Hotel and Occupancy Tax (HOT) system. She requested that Dr. Colleen Bridger and/or Dr. Emerick present a feasibility study of a community health worker certification program to the Economic and Workforce Development Council Committee. Dr. Bridger confirmed that City employees furloughed through the HOT remained furloughed. She noted that library staff redeployed to the 3-1-1 Department were returning to their library positions because libraries were reopening. She added that she would verify with HR if any HOT employees were eligible for any temporary community healthcare outreach positions. Dr. Bridger replied that she would discuss the feasibility of a community health worker certification program with staff.

Chairwoman Sandoval referenced maps of the City where outreach was completed and questioned why outreach was greater along major thoroughfares than in residential areas. She requested that staff provide a summary report for any significant changes to the approved HTT Implementation Budget. Mr. Martinez reported that COVID-19 Dashboard reflected businesses, apartment complexes and medical clinics. He added that the outreach to 73,000 residences was completed through Door Direct which was contracted to distribute door hangers. Dr. Bridger proposed that a monthly budget report would be prepared and distributed.

Jeff Coyle reported that the purpose of the HTT Comprehensive Communications Plan was to guide the communications strategies and community outreach for the City, Metro Health, and SAFD in response to COVID-19 and the reopening of the community and economy in San Antonio and Bexar County. He referenced principles from the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease and Prevention Field Epidemiology Manual that informed staff of recommended best communication practices for outreach to the general public and targeted audiences.

Mr. Coyle reported that all HTT communications were intended to reach all residents and all businesses. He stated that extra efforts were made to reach target audiences through the HTT Communication Plan. He added that residential census tract equity scores of 10 identified vulnerable populations of African American communities, migrants, non-English speakers, lower

income communities, homeless individuals, those without medical literacy or literacy in general, disabled individuals, and LGBTQ. He noted that small businesses and health care providers were also included in the HTT plan.

Mr. Coyle reported that all HTT communications focused on three main points: COVID-19 awareness, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 hygiene and social distancing best practices. He stated that weekly updates on COVID-19 Dashboard data and COVID-19 Working Group findings would be posted to various social media. He added that the COVID-19 hotline teams would be provided with the latest updates to provide residents with a better understanding of efforts to stop and slow the virus.

Mr. Coyle reported that a multi-faceted branded marketing campaign would be launched to promote the increased availability of COVID-19 testing sites and testing capacity, and to encourage the public to get tested. He stated that staff would launch a survey of health care providers to better refine and determine what provider information was needed on an ongoing basis. He added that outreach to small businesses would focus on providing additional COVID-19 support and information and local businesses that used best safe practices would be highlighted in social media posts. He emphasized that the reporting of epidemiological outcomes and increased spikes was the most important objective. He noted that the HTT Communication Plan was flexible enough to adjust and adapt proper messaging to ensure outreach was extended throughout the community.

Item 4 was addressed at this time.

- 4. An overview of the Equity Atlas and Matrix created in collaboration with the Office of Equity, ITSD and Planning, and used by all Departments to apply an equity lens in a variety of decision-making processes; briefing on the equity and engagement strategy for the COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Plan [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Zan Gibbs, MPH, Chief Equity Officer, Dawn Emerick, EdD, Director, Health]**

Zan Gibbs reported that the ARC GIS Interactive Map website was posted on the Office of Equity website and contained a six-layered series of the City's demographic data gleaned from U.S. Census data: Race, income, combined score (race and income), language, education and redlining. She stated that the objective of the Office of Equity was to add new data layers and new tabs with relevant data to advance equity in the policies, programs and service delivery within City Departments, and to support COVID-19 recovery efforts and needs going forward. Ms. Gibbs explained that each of the six tabs displayed data using a quintile methodology where each of the six population categories was displayed in 20% increments. She added that the scores that ranged from 2 to 10 were a combined score of the race and income tabs. She explained that the higher the number and the higher concentration of color represented the higher percentage of residents within that census tract who identified as persons of color and were from low income households.

She added that overlay options included viewing data by zip code, Council District, or within the boundaries of the City of San Antonio.

Ms. Gibbs reported that the third tab was the Combined Score tab which identified the most marginalized residents by race and income and included those who identify as LGBTQ, disabled individuals, and female identified persons which were also low income residents and/or persons of color. She stated that by clicking on a specific census tract, the viewer would be provided with further detailed information such as educational attainment, top languages spoken, and combined score.

Ms. Gibbs reported that a new additional tab included a standalone historical Redlining Map. She stated that the disparate Redline Map was established in the 1930s by a federally sponsored mortgage refinancing program to indicate the “best” locations for mortgage lending through a color code system and a graded code system, with “A” graded areas considered the best locations and “D” graded areas labeled as “hazardous” for lending. She added that the Redlining Map was included in the Equity Matrix to serve as an informative overlay of past disparities and some of the disparate outcomes that influenced present-day census tracts.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if staff engaged with local, small community newspapers to extend HTT Communications and COVID-19 messaging to the public. She requested that hotline cards for COVID-19 and domestic violence be made available for Seniors in their monthly medical prescription and supply refills, in rideshares, and in restaurants. Mr. Coyle stated that COVID-19 informational advertisements were placed in small circulation newspapers. He added that the hiring of a marketing firm to create a campaign through a proposed mix of media would focus on such outlets and the Equity Matrix data provided by the Office of Equity would tactically identify target audiences. He stated that he would follow up regarding COVID-19 and domestic violence messaging through pharmacies and rideshare organizations.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to hire a marketing firm was lengthy and COVID-19 messaging needed to be timely distributed. She asked if there was a more abbreviated hiring process and if a marketing firm led by a minority could be selected. Dr. Bridger stated that review of an RFP could be accomplished outside of a committee format and only the final contract for payment needed City Council approval.

3. A briefing by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District providing updates on the COVID-19 Community Response Coalition [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Dawn Emerick, EdD, Director, Health]

Chairwoman Sandoval stated that a written update addressing Item 3 would be provided to the Committee due to time constraints.

Future Agenda Items

- HTT Implementation Plan Update
- Public participation during COVID-19
- Evaluation of best policing practices to promote race and gender equity and the review of mental health de-escalation measures

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

***Tina Flores
Acting City Clerk***