

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EQUITY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2020 10:00AM
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> ; David McCary, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Camila Kunau, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Durime Elmazi-Fahim, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Tina J. Flores, <i>Acting City Clerk</i> ; Douglas Melnick, <i>Director, Office of Sustainability</i> ; Julia Murphy, <i>AICP Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer</i> ; Jennifer Herriott, <i>Assistant Director, Metro Health</i> ; Dr. Anita Kurian, <i>Assistant Director, Metro Health</i> ; Minerva DeFee, <i>Climate Program Manager, Office of Sustainability</i> ; Jonathon Malagon, <i>Equity Manager, Office of Equity</i> ; Sarah Williams, <i>Immunizations Outreach Supervisor, Metro Health</i>

Call to order

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

None.

Item No. 3 was addressed at this time.

3. **A briefing and presentation on Metro Health's immunization plan to include childhood vaccinations, flu vaccinations, and the preparation for COVID-19 vaccinations.** [Colleen Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health; Anita Kurian, MPH, DrPH, Assistant Director, Health]

Sarah Williams reported that 8,577 patients received 16,472 vaccines in FY 2019 at the Eastside Clinic and 1,043 patients received 1,192 vaccines at outreach clinics from March 2019 to March 2020. She stated that Metro Health conducted approximately 60-80 outreach events annually and conducted 20 flu-dedicated onsite clinics in FY 2019 and FY 2020. She added that for January and February 2020, only 6 outreach clinics were held due to COVID-19.

Ms. Williams reported that vaccine coverage rates among kindergartners in Bexar County averaged over 96.5% and slightly exceeded the State and National averages. She noted that the 2018-2019 Flu Season immunization rates for Adults aged 18-49 was 43.3%, and 70% for Adults aged 65+. She identified 18-49 year old Bexar County Adults as the targeted population.

Ms. Williams reported that Back-to-School Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year was adjusted due to COVID-19 restrictions and outreach clinics would not be reopened until August 17, 2020. She stated that flyers urging the public to stay up-to-date with their children's vaccinations through their Pediatricians were distributed through partnering agencies and at drive-thru school supply distributions. She noted that 35% of Texas Pediatricians reduced their hours in May, in accordance with the Texas Medical Association guidelines. She reported that Metro Health opened the Immunization Clinic at the Frank Garrett Center to provide school-ready vaccines for 4-5 year olds, 11-12 year olds, and 16-18 year olds.

Ms. Williams reported that vaccinations were down across the United States since a National Emergency was declared on March 13, 2020 which resulted in a drastic drop in preventative services. She emphasized that it was important for the public to understand that healthcare providers were available to provide routine immunization services on adjusted schedules and with COVID-19 precautions in place. She reported that Metro Health performed education outreach to the 156 Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) providers located in Bexar County.

Ms. Williams reported that the COVID-19 Community Response Coalition was partnered with shareholders and community partners to share education about the flu, and would distribute a Vaccines for Children Provider Survey to Health Care Providers in September 2020. She stated that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided supplemental funding for 7 full-time staff to form a Vaccine Strike Team that would hold community-based flu clinics. She added that the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant provided funding for 2 full-time community health workers to work with the Vaccine Strike Team to educate the community and help connect the community with flu clinic events. She reported that a large, drive-thru flu clinic was planned to kick-off the flu season in October 2020, and over 50 flu clinic events were scheduled in each quadrant of the City with pre-booked doses of 2,000 flu Vaccines for Children (VFC), 2,000 Adult Safety Net (ASN) vaccines, and 6,600 (plus 2,200 on back order) for Private-Pay vaccines and for individuals that did not qualify for VFC or ASN vaccines.

Ms. Williams reported that racial and ethnic minorities had disproportionately lower vaccination rates and were targets for flu immunization, and a COVID-19 vaccine, once available. She stated that with funding from a REACH Grant, outreach would be made to targeted populations and census tracts areas with high combined scores of racial and economic disparities identified by the Office of Equity.

Councilmember Treviño stated that all sectors of the City should have access to an immunization clinic such as the Immunization Clinic located at the Frank Garrett Multi-Service Center on the West side. He requested a map of all available immunization clinics by zip code.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked how outreach and immunizations services were provided for homebound Seniors. She asked how vaccine hesitancy and flu myths could be overcome. She asked if Metro Health worked with School Districts to ensure children received vaccines. Dr. Bridger reported that the City partnered with the Mobile Integrated Healthcare program (MIH) to access homebound seniors. She added that drive-thru flu clinics would be held and local pharmacies and grocery stores also offered flu shots. Dr. Kurian stated that Metro Health and the Vaccine Strike Team worked with health education workers to address vaccine

hesitancy and dispel common myths about the flu shot. She added that Metro Health maintained a close partnership with School Districts and community partners that provided mobile immunizations clinics at schools on a regular basis.

Councilmember Viagran requested a map of all vaccination clinics events held throughout the community. She requested pop-up immunization clinics to be held at Senior Centers. She requested that the Committee and staff review the City Budget to allocate funding for the expanded use of MIH during flu season and vaccination clinics. She requested targeted outreach to vulnerable communities.

Councilmember Gonzales requested an update from Metro Health on its planning, prevention, and marketing outreach for the awareness of diabetes, obesity and heart disease throughout the community. She noted that diabetes and heart disease were common underlying conditions of COVID-19 patients.

Chairwoman Sandoval asked if School Districts tracked the vaccination status of students that were learning during COVID-19. She asked when immunization data would be available for the current year. She asked of Metro Health partnerships for flu vaccination efforts and the target for flu vaccinations. She asked for an explanation on the importance of flu vaccinations as a preventative measure during COVID-19. She requested data by zip code regarding outreach for flu vaccination efforts. Ms. Williams replied that School Districts monitored student immunization records on a regular basis per State law requiring all students to be up-to-date on their immunizations, even virtual learners. She stated that the CDC published immunization data at the end of each year. Ms. Williams added that Metro Health partnered with multiple organizations for flu vaccination drives throughout the community. Dr. Kurian stated that the goal was to have at least 70% of the community immunized against the flu and Metro Health targeted the 18-49 year old Adult group. Dr. Kurian stated it was critical for people to obtain their flu shot as soon as the vaccine was available as a severe respiratory season was anticipated with the flu and COVID-19 circulating through the community. She added that high numbers of medical visits and hospitalizations due to the flu could be prevented and would reduce and eliminate unnecessary strain on the health care community during the COVID-19 response.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested follow up data regarding targeted meningitis vaccination efforts for college students.

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

2. **A briefing and presentation on the recommended candidates for the SA Climate Ready Technical and Community Advisory Committee, and the SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory Committee.** [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Dr. Bridger provided the current status on COVID-19 cases in Bexar County: 45,811 cases, 189 new cases, 767 confirmed deaths, 40,896 recovered cases, and 3,220 active cases. She reported that following a significant decline in cases, a rebound, or sudden increase in COVID-19 cases, was detected on August 9, 2020; thereafter, Bexar County COVID-19 cases resumed a downward trajectory. She stated that the CDC reported of the same rebound occurrences

throughout the nation. She reported that weekly positive COVID-19 testings for Bexar County fell below 10% for the first time since the July 2020 spike. She stated that there were 3 free testing sites available: Cuellar Community Center, Ramirez Community Center, and Freeman Coliseum. She added that there were over 50 additional COVID-19 testing locations throughout the community. She stated that a combined total of 637 free COVID-19 tests were taken from all 3 free testing sites yesterday, which indicated that the number of individuals currently seeking testing was quite low.

Dr. Bridger reported that current hospitalizations were trending downward for the past three weeks, with a reported 473 current hospitalizations, 207 individuals in ICU, and 139 individuals on ventilators, with 60.6% of ventilators available and 17.2% of beds available.

Dr. Bridger reported that the State clarified that local governments could not dictate the reopening or closing of schools, but could provide guidance. She added that Metro Health provided guidance through a School Reopening Indicator with red, yellow, and green colored zones to indicate low, moderate, and high risk levels, respectively. She reported that the current yellow status indicated that some limited in-person instruction was recommended. She noted that most School Districts would delay in-person class until after Labor Day weekend, with many School Districts opening on a remote learning basis only.

Dr. Bridger provided age comparison data: Highest COVID-19 case rate: 20-29 year olds; Highest hospitalization rate: 50-59 year olds; and Highest deceased rate: 70-79 year olds. She added that in June 2020, data for age ranges 18-40 were combined and represented only 2% of total deaths from COVID-19; however, the combined data now represented 5.7% of total deaths for 18-40 year old age range which indicated an increase in younger people being hospitalized and dying from COVID-19.

Dr. Bridger provided race/ethnicity data for Bexar County:

Total COVID-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity over time	Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Race/Ethnicity over time	Total COVID-19 Deceased by Race/Ethnicity over time
Hispanic/Latino: 76%	Hispanic/Latino: 69.6%	Hispanic/Latino: 68%
Non-Hispanic White: 15.8%	Non-Hispanic White: 20.5%	Non-Hispanic White: 24.1%
Non-Hispanic Black: 4.8%	Non-Hispanic Black: 7.0%	Non-Hispanic Black: 5.6%
Asian: 1.4%	Asian: 1.5%	Asian: 1.6%
Other: 2%	Other: 1.5%	Other: 1.6%

Dr. Bridger reported that Hispanics/Latinos were disproportionately represented in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. She stated that Metro Health placed a targeted focus on Hispanics/Latinos to promote mask and social distancing practices, handwashing, and staying away from others if they did not feel well in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to their families.

Dr. Bridger reported that a total of 267 staff were working on the COVID-19 response which included 89 temporary staff hired through CARES Act funding, and 41 furloughed deployed staff from the Convention Center, the Department of Arts, and Hotel and Occupancy Tax (HOT) funded departments. She noted that the current seven-day rolling average of 138 cases was a

large reduction in cases compared to the 2,000 cases reported daily during the July 2020 peak. She stated that the downward trend in COVID-19 cases allowed for some Metro Health staff to transition back into regular duties, community health and prevention teams, and to assist in the hurricane response. She added that Metro Health had a \$2 million contract with the UT Health School of Public Health for 100 active case investigators to take the lead on an average caseload of 10-12 cases daily, with a capacity to expand up to 200 case investigators. She noted that in the event of another spike, Metro Health could provide another 153 of its own staff that were already trained in case investigations.

Dr. Bridger reported that the Sg2 Model Predictor was incredibly accurate and indicated that the number of COVID-19 cases would continue to decline, so long as the community continued to wear masks, practice physical distancing, washed hands regularly, and stayed home when sick.

Councilmember Treviño expressed concern for the anticipated spike in evictions during COVID-19 and the preparedness for a possible third COVID-19 spike. He asked if Metro Health and community partners were promoting the importance of reducing unsheltered homelessness during COVID-19 and requested that such efforts be increased. He asked if free testing sites allowed for asymptomatic contact persons to be tested. Dr. Bridger that Metro Health had created the phrase, “Housing is Health” in its consistent, continued messaging that housing was a social determinant of health. She confirmed that Metro Health would continue to promote the importance of sheltering in place for health. Dr. Kurian confirmed that free testing sites allowed asymptomatic contacts to be tested for COVID-19.

Councilmember Viagran recommended that the contract with UT Health include outreach to technical schools and medical technology training providers to train and hire local residents as case investigators within communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 which included Council Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5. She referenced an Action Report prepared by Southwest General Hospital regarding its COVID-19 response during the July 2020 spike and requested that the Committee discuss available Action Reports from hospital systems. She asked what was the best way for the public to report COVID-19 violations. Dr. Bridger stated that the easiest way for the public to report COVID-19 violations was to call 3-1-1.

Councilmember Gonzales noted the low number of physicians in private practice and the high rate of uninsured individuals in several low-income communities on the South side and other areas. She requested that this Committee, or the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee, further discuss incentives to encourage private practitioners to establish offices within Council District 5 and other Districts. Dr. Bridger stated that the COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Plan provided a concerted effort for investment in high equity-scoring areas.

Chairwoman Sandoval asked for the status of turnaround times for COVID-19 testing results. She asked how case investigations were tracked for quality. She voiced concern that case investigators with the Texas Trace System were not familiar with the City’s local population and recognized the need for a tailored approach in Council Districts 3, 4, and 5. She requested outreach to UT Health to provide further outreach support. She asked for Action Report data related to case investigation metrics during the July 2020 spike. Dr. Bridger stated that turnaround time for COVID-19 testing results was now 24-48 hours, with testing capacity now at 7,500 per day. She reported that the transition to the Texas Health Trace System allowed for an

improved, standardized process. She noted that same challenges faced by case investigators nationwide was the lack of cooperation thorough unanswered phone calls. She stated that metrics tracked how many contacts were made within the first 24 hours and if all form fields were properly completed in the system by case investigators. She stated she would confer with staff on the preparation of a Midway Report for an anticipated 18-month COVID-19 pandemic. She added that she would share the results of an upcoming process improvement exercise once completed.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested a briefing on the outreach by Health and Education Teams deployed to targeted communities disproportionately represented in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. She asked of the COVID-19 reporting process for possible school outbreaks. Dr. Bridger stated that Metro Health was in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to implement a set of standardized policies and procedures for congregate school settings. She added that the number of congregate case investigators would be supplemented as needed by other teams in the event of school spikes.

Item 1 was addressed at this time.

1. A briefing and presentation on preparations for a possible third wave of COVID-19 cases and review of the current status, staffing, and readiness for a potential third spike. [Colleen Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

Douglas Melnick reported that climate change was not improving and was a public health crisis that had inequities associated with it. He stated that the implementation of the City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) could help with recovery from COVID-19.

Mr. Melnick reported that on June 22, 2017, City Council passed a resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement and directed City Staff to develop a plan to help San Antonio meet the objectives of the agreement; thereafter, City Council adopted CAAP on October 17, 2019. He stated that the CAAP called for the establishment of a Technical & Community Advisory Committee (TCAC) and a Climate Equity Advisory Committee (CEAC). He noted that a process for selection and committee structure was approved by City Council on December 12, 2019.

Mr. Melnick reported that the TCAC provided expertise, diverse perspectives, and input regarding CAAP implementation; represented the community to identify opportunities and barriers with strategies and ensured that discussions were centered on equity; gathered and reviewed the latest scientific information on climate change, climate equity, and climate justice; delivered annual reports to City Council; and promoted and engaged the community. He presented a list of recommended candidates to the TCAC, as follows:

DeeDee Belmares
Ashley Bird
James E. Cooper, Jr.
Estella Cota-Trevino
Matt Cox

Dr. Neil Debbage
Ashley Harris
Stephen Lucke
Dr. Kelly Lyons
Francisco Manon

Richard McDonald
Dr. Jimmy Perkins
John Plescica
Rosalinda Sanquiche
Richard Weber

Mr. Melnick reported that the CEAC served to provide input on implementation to ensure an equity-centered approach; provide diverse stakeholder opinions, with a specific focus on marginalized communities; ensured climate equity considerations were brought forth in all actions and priorities; identified, tracked, and reported climate equity metrics; delivered annual reports to City Council; and promoted and engaged the community on CAAP equity-related priorities and objectives. He presented a list of recommended candidates to the CEAC, as follows:

Aaron Arguello	Diana Lopez-Perez
Adelita Cantu	Eloisa Portillo-Morales
Anacua Garcia	Joshua Scott
Jesus Garcia-Gonzalez	Dr. Joe Simpson
Harjot Kaur	Tristan Tovar

Mr. Melnick reported that the TCAC consisted of 15 at-large members, 5 organizational members, and the Chair and Co-Chair of the CEAC Committee. He stated that the CEAC consisted of 10 representatives from community-based organizations and other key stakeholders representing the interests of low-income populations, communities of color, marginalized populations, and the Chair and Co-Chair of the CEAC Committee. He added that the Members would serve two-year terms, for a maximum of two consecutive terms and both Committees would elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair to serve one-year terms. He made the recommendation for the Committee to add two additional TCAC seats, one for an Oil & Gas or Energy Representative, and one for an Automotive Representative. He noted that adding the two seats would require an amendment to the Ordinance passed in December 2019.

Mr. Melnick cited member expectations: Attend 2-hour long quarterly meetings; attend the annual joint CAAP Advisory Committee Retreat; participate in CoSA Office of Equity facilitated training; prepare for quarterly meetings; alert the Office of Sustainability of conflicts to participation; assist with community and stakeholder engagement; and work towards successful outcomes.

Mr. Melnick reported that applications for both committees were released in English and Spanish on January 21, 2020 and promotion was made through social media, email blasts, targeted correspondence, City Council Offices collaboration and news media outlets. He stated that 77 applications were received for CEAC and 109 applications were received for TCAC. He reported that an equity analysis was conducted thorough the entire review, interview and selection processes. He added that next steps would be to forward the Committee's recommendation of nominees to full City Council for approval in September 2020; thereafter, selected candidates would attend a series of racial equity training and orientation and the first Advisory Committee Meeting would take place in October 2020 or November 2020.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested information on the demographics of the candidates. She asked if any of the candidates represented the Oil & Gas Industry. Mr. Melnick reported that TCAC candidates consisted of 10 women and 10 men, 1 African American, 5 Hispanic/Latinx, 12 White/Non-Hispanic and 2 Other/Multi-Racial. He reported that CEAC candidates consisted of 5 women and 5 men, 1 American Indian and/or Alaskan Native, 1 African American, 6 Hispanic/Latinx, and 1 White/Non-Hispanic. Mr. Melnick stated that 1 candidate was from a public interest group from the Oil & Gas Industry and two applications were received from Valero Energy Representatives.

Councilmember Viagran requested a pie chart graphic of the 109 TCAC applications by industry, academic status, technical profession, or community base. She asked if any applications were received from small engineering firms, women-owned small businesses, or women builders. She voiced concern that there were no candidates that resided in District 3. Mr. Melnick stated he would provide further data on the 109 TCAC applications. He noted that some small engineering firms and women business owners did apply, but failed to appear for their interviews. He noted that many applicants had scheduling difficulties due to COVID-19.

Councilmember Treviño moved to approve and forward the recommendation of the full slate of candidates to City Council for approval, as follows:

TCAC Candidates:

DeeDee Belmares
Ashley Bird
James E. Cooper, Jr.
Estella Cota-Trevino
Matt Cox

Dr. Neil Debbage
Ashley Harris
Stephen Lucke
Dr. Kelly Lyons
Francisco Manon

Richard McDonald
Dr. Jimmy Perkins
John Plescica
Rosalinda Sanquiche
Richard Weber

CEAC Candidates:

Aaron Arguello
Adelita Cantu
Anacua Garcia
Jesus Garcia-Gonzalez
Harjot Kaur

Diana Lopez-Perez
Eloisa Portillo-Morales
Joshua Scott
Dr. Joe Simpson
Tristan Tovar

Councilmember Treviño further moved to include the addition of two TCAC seats, one for an Oil & Gas or Energy Representative, and one for an Automotive Representative; with an Amendment as to committee structure to be made to the Ordinance passed in December 2019. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Future Agenda Items

None.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina J. Flores
Acting City Clerk*