

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EQUITY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2020
2:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>District 8</i>
Staff Present:	Dr. Colleen Bridger, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Roderick Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Melody Woosley, <i>Director, Human Services Department</i> ; Jessica Dovalina, <i>Assistant Director, Human Services Department</i> ; Alejandra Lopez, <i>Interim Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Dr. Anita Kurian, <i>Assistant Director, Metro Health</i> ; Douglas R. Melnick, <i>Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability</i> ; Michael Sindon, <i>Assistant Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Rita Espinoza, <i>Chief Epidemiologist, Metro Health</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Mario Bravo, <i>CPS Energy Environmental Stakeholders Group</i> ; John Butchkosky, <i>Community Liaison, Texas Alliance for Human Needs</i> ; Sandra Montalbo

Call to order

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes for the December 13, 2019 Community Health and Equity Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the Minutes of the December 13, 2019 Community Health and Equity Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mario Bravo stated that City Council would be asked to vote on spending \$70 million to approve CPS Energy's Save for Tomorrow Energy Program (STEP) next week. He noted that over the past year and a half, CPS Energy Environmental Stakeholders Group (EESG) asked STEP for the opportunity to provide input for the updating of the ten year old STEP Program but STEP never afforded EESG such an opportunity despite repeated requests. Mr. Bravo stated that CPS Energy lacked accountability and transparency and requested that the City establish a governing body to oversee CPS Energy and allow for public participation for a publicly-owned utility.

Sandra Montalbo stated that the proposed \$70 million STEP Program would continue to feed our dependence on fossil fuels and was outdated. She added that CPS Energy was a municipally-owned utility company and as such could not make independent decisions when generating \$70 million programs to be

funded by taxpayers. She voiced concern of STEP initiatives to dovetail with the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan initiatives. She requested that CPS Energy present a report outlining STEP's objectives and noted that the public was entitled to this information.

2. A briefing by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District on the Communicable Disease Division and infectious disease reporting in Texas. [Colleen Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Jennifer Herriott, MPH, Interim Director, Health]

Dr. Kurian discussed the four main steps of the San Antonio Metro Health (SAMH) public health approach to infectious diseases: 1) Surveillance; 2) Risk Factor; 3) Intervention Evaluation; and 4) Implementation.

Dr. Kurian stated that SAMH relied primarily on three infectious disease surveillance systems to stop the spread of infectious diseases:

- Texas Notifiable Conditions (TNC) – An annual, state-specific list for Texas of 78 reportable conditions for which multiple reporting authorities were required by law to report any of the listed conditions within a designated timeframe. Any outbreak, exotic disease, or unusual group expression of disease that may be of public health concern were also to be reported expeditiously.
- Sentinel Surveillance Data – A voluntary network of doctors' offices and hospitals that provided data to SAMH on specified health events which was utilized primarily to track influenza during influenza season with Influenza reports issued every Friday from October through May.
- Syndromic Surveillance System: Chief complaint data from Outpatient and Emergency Departments was gleaned into a database categorized into five 5 big syndromes with well-established thresholds that would trigger an investigation of a particular syndrome before an actual infectious disease diagnosis was made.

Dr. Kurian noted that the Syndromic Surveillance System would be used to track any possible detections of the corona virus and that local hospitals were directed to ask patients of recent travel to China or Wuhan City.

Dr. Kurian outlined the two-way Disease Reporting Chain which originated from the public to physicians, to hospitals and labs, to SAMH, to the State Department of Health Services, and ultimately to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CCDC) and Prevention by way of secured electronic databases. She reported that there were 17,715 cases of 49 different communicable diseases reported in Bexar County for FY 2018, and the top reported cases were Chlamydia, 59% and Gonorrhea, 22% and HIV, respectively. She added that the first case of measles in 12 years was reported in Bexar County in March 2019 and it was acquired through international flight exposure.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan ask of the correlation of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and infant mortality rates due to lack of proper prenatal care. Dr. Kurian referenced the results of a study based on other state jurisdictions which determined that STDs were the number one cause of infant mortality. She added that SAMH's Healthy Beats Program tested expectant mothers for syphilis in their first and third trimester.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how the City would be prepared to handle an infectious disease outbreak such as the corona virus. Dr. Bridger stated that she attended daily conference bridges with a coalition of approximately 25-30 Federal, State and local hospitals, health partners, and organizations as part of the City's prepared response during this surveillance and monitoring phase. She reported that the coalitions exchanged the latest information about the corona virus, the need for heightened awareness, screenings, and stocking medical supplies. She noted that a summary report would be submitted to the City Council at the end of the week.

3. Briefing and possible action on the San Antonio Senior Services Assessment conducted by The University of North Texas, Department of Public Administration. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Jessica Dovalina presented the City's Senior Services Strategic Plan overview. She stated that there were 10 comprehensive senior centers located city-wide and 42 part-time nutrition sites which were operated by the Department of Human Services and community partners. She noted that the overall budget was \$13.7 million, of which \$2 million was grant-funded. She stated that a Senior Services Strategic Plan was established in FY 2011 and 90% of the 86 recommendations were fully implemented by FY 2018 with a focus in four key areas: 1) Optimal service delivery; 2) Food services; 3) Transportation; and 4) Location of centers. She noted that since FY 2011, senior participation increased from 9,000 to more than 24,000 active participants, and the number of senior centers increased from six to ten, with the opening of two more centers planned for District 4 and District 9 in FY 2022.

Ms. Dovalina stated that in March 2019, City Council approved an agreement with the University of North Texas to conduct a Strategic Plan update as part of the City's commitment to being recognized as an Age Friendly City. The study found that an estimated 243,000 Older Adults, aged 60 or older, made up 17% of the San Antonio population, with 95% living within a 5 mile radius of a City Senior Center. She noted that 10% of the City's older adults were program participants, 79% of which attended a comprehensive center and the remainder attended a nutrition site.

Ms. Dovalina stated the updated plan focused on: 1) Evolving demand for senior services; 2) Location decision for future senior centers; and 3) Age friendly policy integration City-wide. She stated that 1,500 surveys reported that 94% of participants visited a senior center for at least 2 hours daily to participate in the meal program, exercise programs and games. She cited the following key recommendations identified in the report:

- Re-brand Senior Centers
- Enhance equity-based programming decisions
- Expand social and financial services support
- Extend operational hours
- Expand service eligibility to adults aged 50-59
- Increase senior services management support expand medical services that enhance cognitive and physical health

Ms. Dovalina discussed recommendations for future senior center locations based on present and future projected senior populations, location feasibility, demand, and surrounding amenities. She added that the Age Friendly Policy was to be implemented city-wide and integrated across all City departments. She presented a timeline of next steps with the final implementation plans scheduled for April 2021.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan voiced concern for the lack of dependable transportation and equitable amenities available to seniors in District 2.

Councilmember Treviño requested an exploration of funds and resources to implement a pilot program that offered flexible transportation alternatives such as Lyft. He requested the review of opportunities for innovative and multi-purposed shared facilities for seniors and youth. Ms. Dovalina stated that the Department of Human Resources and Parks & Recreation Departments were exploring ways to enhance intergenerational programming.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a copy of literature reviews referenced by the study. She requested metrics for the FY 2011 Senior Services Strategic Plan. Ms. Dovalina stated she would provide the information. Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended heightened promotion of VIA Metropolitan Transit for senior transportation services. Ms. Dovalina stated that staff would explore alternate transportation services for seniors. She added that staff had encountered some resistance regarding Uber and Lyft services with safety concerns cited.

Councilmember Peláez requested that Reverend Ann Heimke, Liaison of the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative Group, be invited to update the Committee on senior issues. Ms. Dovalina stated she would extend the invitation.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested that staff coordinate joint collaborative efforts with each Council District and hold community meetings to discuss senior service needs. Ms. Dovalina stated she would coordinate the meetings.

4. A briefing on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Act, the proposed City PACE Program, and the proposed Interlocal Agreement with the Alamo Area Council of Governments for program administration. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Alejandra Lopez, Director, Economic Development Department]

Michael Sindon stated that the proposed City PACE Program was established by the Texas Legislature in 2013 and was designed to establish an innovative financing tool that would allow owners of commercial, industrial, and large multi-family residential properties access to low-cost, long-term loans to conduct energy efficiency and water conservation improvements to real property. He explained that the City would adopt an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) to act as third party administrators of the Program. He noted that since 2013, over 35 Texas cities and counties participated in 26 PACE Projects totaling approximately \$101.5 million in investments.

Mr. Sindon stated that the PACE Act would encourage property owners to undergo retrofitting of older buildings that may have been previously delayed by providing 100% upfront funding over a 20+ year repayment term. He added that before a loan could be completed and construction began, the savings would first be validated by an independent third-party reviewer to ensure the building improvements were cash flow positive. He stated that PACE loans would be paid and secured by a property assessment, through voluntary consent of the property owner. He added that the PACE Act would allow for transfer of obligation automatically upon sale. He noted that senior lien status of PACE assessments reduced the risk of non-payment, which made financing attractive to long-term and risk-averse lenders. He outlined the PACE Program steps for the building owner, the lender, and the City.

Mr. Sindon stated that the adoption of a PACE Program would benefit all stakeholders involved in the City's energy and clean air goals, reduce electricity demands, and improve conservation efforts in the region. He noted that the PACE Program aligned with the City's other adopted plans such as the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan, San Antonio's Climate Action and Adaption Plan and the American Cities Climate Challenge Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 20, 2019.

Mr. Sindon provided a timeline of the actions required by City Council to establish PACE with the possible adoption of a resolution by March 5, 2020. Mr. Sindon reviewed the ILA criteria. He stated that upon establishment of a City PACE Program, marketing efforts would be deployed city-wide with specific outreach made with local minority, women, or veteran property owners, as well as the non-profit community.

Councilmember Peláez moved to recommend and forward a Resolution of Intent to adopt a City PACE Program to the City Council for consideration. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Agenda Items

CPS Energy's Save for Tomorrow Energy Program (STEP)
The San Antonio Faith Based Initiative

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.



Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Nancy Cano
Office of the City Clerk