

Healthy Mendocino Project
POVERTY ACTION TEAM (PAT) MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2017, NCO

Present: Susan Baird, Healthy Mendocino; Julie Beardsley, HHSA; Tola Levison; Thais Mazur, Healthy Mendocino Project Manager; Angélica Millan, Legal Services of No.CA; Sheilah Rogers, WEST Co.; Rebecca Sears, HHSA. **Absent:** Rachel Ebel Elliott, HHSA; Waldi Helma, HHSA; Cynthia King, Catholic Charities; Lydia Lopez, FIRST5/ARRC/FRC; Jennifer O'Donnell, United Way; Stephanie Zazueta, FIRST5/ARC-FRC; Mary Ziegler, HHSA. **Guest presenter:** Diann Simmons, EDFC

1. PAT contributions to the CHIP — Thais Mazur, Project Manager

Thais described how all 5 Action Teams are setting goals, short- and long-term objectives, and measurable indicators to guide their work. She will compile these into a Community Health Improvement Plan. She suggested that a sub-group of the PAT schedule a 3-hour work session to draft 3 goals and sets of objectives in our action area, for review by the rest of the team.

These are due to her by September. She and Patrice recommend Orange County's CHIP as a good model of a process and plan (though perhaps more ambitious than we could achieve).

Here's the latest iteration:

http://www.ochealthiertogether.org/content/sites/ochca/oc_health_improvement_plan_2017-19.pdf

2. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)—Sheilah Rogers

The CEDS is a vehicle for identifying and prioritizing community economic growth projects, and having a CEDS is a precondition for some federal funding. Sonoma and Mendocino Counties are working together on a regional approach to their CEDS. It is organized around four themes or overarching goals that will guide funding decisions, if and when funds become available:

- Economic diversification (resilience)
- Human capital
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Inclusive economic development

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1tTXkmPSG2daVFma3RSaVppX2s/view>

Steve Dunncliff, who was with Planning and now works in the County CEO's Office, told Sheilah he thought it was "a necessary stretch" to fit family financial stabilization (our focus) into the CEDS. Specific objectives in that area include income security, access to services including childcare, and behavior changes such as saving money. Dunncliff encourages the PAT to "nest" our initiatives within the CEDS vision. Sheilah suggested doing this by using their language and

framing and communicating with the key people working on the CEDS. There isn't anyone in County government at present for us to talk to about the CEDS, but eventually we'll be able to get a speaker on it.

3. Economic Development and Financing Corporation (EDFC)—Diann Simmons

Jointly, EDFC and WEST Co. have been recognized by the Board of Supervisors as the County's economic development entity. Currently, EDFC's funding resources are limited; both it and WEST Co. need more resources to be able to expand their programs and services to address the bigger-picture needs of county economic development. EDFC's current focus is on small-business and micro-enterprise lending (up to \$50,000 currently, \$150,000 expected in the future). In order to increase lending funds, it is critical to build up permanent matching funds to qualify for federal dollars. EDFC has done one Direct Public Offering ("DPO"), likes this model, and is interested in innovative approaches being tried in other communities. Stable, higher compensation, county-wide employment is another EDFC goal.

Asked about the links between the PAT's focus on financial stabilization and EDFC's mission, Diann observed that once people are financially stable, they are potentially in a position to start very small businesses. Tola, who is informally surveying former WEST Co. clients about their sense of well-being now compared to 15 or 20 years ago, pointed out the need to "look at the family" and at the impact of financial stabilization over generations.

4. Data on poverty in Mendocino County—Julie Beardsley

Julie shared data on poverty in the County, taken from several sources (see attached). She quoted the late Senator Paul Wellstone: "We all do better when we all do better." She called particular attention to the need for stable housing and childcare as high-priority needs in Mendocino County, and other AT members agreed. Rebecca noted that HHSA's welfare to work program is working to rebuild supports such as these.

5. Action Team leadership

Julie volunteered to serve as PAT chair/facilitator for the next few months, pending approval by her supervisor. Angélica volunteered to take minutes.

NEXT POVERTY ACTION TEAM MEETING: Wednesday, July 12, 1-2:30 PM [note new time], NCO large conference room (Agenda: clarify 3 goals, with long- and short-term objectives; plan further information-gathering efforts.)

Minutes by Susan Baird