Healthy Sacramento Coalition
Policy Working Group Meeting
March 20, 2013
Meeting Summary

Meeting Outcomes
- Clarification of the process for determining what strategies will be included in the Implementation Plan
- Understanding and input into the Implementation Plan


Review and approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2013

The Feb. 13 meeting summary was approved unanimously without changes.

Review of the Policy Recommendations of the Healthy Sacramento Coalition

Many members of the Policy Working Group have noted that no all the policies endorsed by the group are presented to the coalition in the form in which the Working Group approved them. In addition, sometimes there are recommendations to the Coalition that were not necessarily endorsed by the Working Group. Robert Phillips agreed to give the group an explanation of the Community Transformation Grant program.

First, Robert let us know that despite the word “grant” in the name of this initiative, this is not a grant but rather a cooperative agreement between the CDC and its 61 grantees across the nation. This means that the CDC sees itself as a partner to the grantees and gives specific guidance about what strategies and policies the grantees need to work on. There are monthly (and sometimes twice monthly) calls with the CDC Project Officer. That person lets Robert know what will be acceptable to the CDC and negotiates what they would support. The CDC has specific language that it wants grantees to use and can be very directive regarding the strategies it will or will not allow to be included as an acceptable objective or outcome. Over the term of the agreement there have been six different project officers that Sierra Health Foundation staff has dealt with.

The CTG initiative is funded through the Public Health and Prevention Fund that is in the Affordable Care Act. This fund is a target for cuts in the budget negotiations currently underway in Washington DC. Of this billion dollar fund, the CDC has an across the board cut to make of...
8.4% to its Public Health and Prevention Fund supported programs, which totals $84 million in fiscal year 2013. Grantees have been informed that this amount may be reduced or eliminated completely, but no decision has been made yet. There will be a decision in “several weeks”. In the meantime, the CDC has postponed its deadline for submitting the Implementation Plan which was originally slated for April 19th, but has not yet announced a new deadline. Therefore, the Sierra Health Foundation has decided to continue with the timeline that was already in effect, as we don’t know how soon they will want the plans submitted once they make their decisions.

Discussion of Recommendations All
There were multiple questions about the cooperative agreement and the process. The CDC requires the CTG recipients to focus on the three areas that the Healthy Sacramento Coalition has focused on. Our policy focus must be on policy change, environmental change or widespread organizational change. For example, Chronic Disease Self Management programs do not reflect this population focus, which is what CTG is trying to achieve. Community and school gardens also do not achieve this widespread change in behavior for a large segment of the population. Members of the group voiced their understanding of the process, which has changed throughout the months of the grant. We will include the other two focus areas in the implementation plan.

There were questions about the data that we are going to use to show progress and whether it is granular enough to show that we are a making a difference. Robert answered that we will be able to make indirect correlations and can show progress in other ways, such as successful policy changes.

There was discussion about the budget cuts and the hostility that some legislators have toward prevention programs. It was agreed that members of the coalition could, as individual organizations, contact our legislative representatives, especially Doris Matsui and Ami Bera and ask them to protect the Public Health and Prevention fund from being cut. Also we could contact Senator Harkin who has been the champion of this fund to let him know that we support him. Those who wish to take action can find language that could be used in their communication at the Trust for America’s Health website:
http://www.healthyamericans.org/newsroom/releases/?releaseid=282 or here
http://www.healthyamericans.org/policy/public-health-funding/


If we plan to communicate with our legislators, the time to do it is right now.

Description of the Implementation Plan Process Robert Phillips
Robert explained that we do not have to give the CDC a complete Implementation Plan, but rather an implementation framework. We must describe what we will be doing to reduce
health disparities with measurable policy, system or environmental change that affects healthy behavior. We will be using the Advocacy Progress Planner internally to follow the impact of what we are doing. It can be found here: http://planning.continuousprogress.org/

The Implementation Plan Framework will be developed in the next few weeks by a group selected by the Sierra Health Foundation. Behr Communications and the Prevention Institute are consultants who will write the plan; Glenna Trochet and Olivia Kasirye have been invited to participate in the creation of this plan.

Coalition members can have input to the plan through the Steering Committee, working group meetings and at the April Coalition meeting (the March meeting has been cancelled). The framework will be written first and the funding will be negotiated afterwards with the CDC. Right now the expectation is that each grantee can ask for up to $1 per capita, which in Sacramento translates to $1.4 million, and perhaps a little additional funding. At least 50% of what is awarded has to go out to community organizations. With sequestration the amount of money available may change. Members endorsed reserving some funding for staff to support the coalition’s activities.

Discussion of the Implementation Plan

All

The group reviewed the current policy recommendations. It was suggested that we implement policies that are already close to success, such as tobacco-free multifamily housing. That way we can have early successes. It was also suggested that the recommendation for an ordinance requiring tobacco-free multifamily housing be included in the implementation plan. Also, there was a recommendation that we include the change in the requirements for a permit for a farm stand in the Healthy Eating Active Living Focus area. Carolyn Martin recommended that the HSC begin quickly to do outreach to the Sacramento City Council so that council members are aware of the coalition’s work. This way they won’t feel blindsided when members start being active in advocacy.

Members of the workgroup were encouraged to send their recommendations for consideration by the group working on the implementation framework to Glenna Trochet at trochetg@gmail.com or to Robert Phillips directly at rphillips@sierrahealth.org

Other suggestions were that we work with programs already underway such as the Food Literacy program and build on the Parks Prescription which is already being implemented through the medical society. In addition, we can start doing outreach to Parks and Recreation district staff to understand what they would need to open up community centers and parks. Already city staff is asking non-profit organizations to open community centers using the non-profit organization’s funds. There was some discussion of the new revenue that the city of Sacramento will be getting and how that money will be spent: another opportunity for individual advocacy. Non-profits can use some of their funding for advocacy for legislation, but not to support a specific candidate for office.

Yvonne Rodriguez described the five surveys that the SNAP grant will be doing in 12 zip codes and requested volunteers for these surveys, which will result in very good data about the neighborhoods in which they will be working.

The Healthy Sacramento Coalition is made possible by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
There will be a revision to the Policy Scan to include additional policies suggested by the group. At the next meeting we will review the work done on the Implementation Plan Framework up to that date and give input on it.

**Meeting Evaluation**  Kelly Bennett-Wofford Policy Workgroup Co-Chair  
**Positive**  
We now have a clear understanding of where we are  
Perfect Presentation by Robert P.  
Information sent out ahead is clear/easy to read  
Increased understanding of CDC requirements  
Glennah’s facilitation  
Core group attended this meeting  
RSVPs don’t matter  
Parking information ahead of time  
Kelly’s Evaluation  

**Change**  
Zip codes need to be listed at the meeting  
What if no funding? (SHF?)  

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 2:30 pm