Healthy Sacramento Coalition Meeting  
September 18, 2019  
Meeting Notes

The Vision of the Healthy Sacramento Coalition (HSC) is to eliminate Inequities in Sacramento through Advocacy and Convening of Resources. With a mission to eliminate racialized health inequities in Sacramento through movements that advance policy and system change resulting in neighborhood impact.

Meeting Objectives
- Deeper understanding of why Census 2020 and voting are important
- Awareness around Sacramento region’s criminal justice issues and solutions

Welcome and Overview
Lynn Berkley-Baskin, SacNAACP Education Chair/Jewish Community Relations Outreach Chair, provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda and led introductions.

Census 2020 Education and Hard-to-Count Populations
Judy Robinson, 2020 Census Manager, Sacramento, and Gabby Trejo, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SacACT), gave an in-depth presentation on Census 2020 and why a complete count is important for census data. The group engaged in a small-group activity on how they or their organization can contribute to the Census work. See the presentation and handout materials.

- The goal of the California and Sacramento Complete Count is to ensure that everyone is counted and counted only once. Accurate data collected in 2020 is important because the data will be used for the next 10 years.
- Some challenges to Census 2020 are: first digital census self-count, federal funding, priorities and practices, and the diverse population – hard to count, un-counted (children), and low responding.
- Starting March 12, 2020, through March 20, 2020, every family or individual will be sent a reminder postcard to complete the Census. Starting in May, enumerators will go to the places that have limited to no responses for the Census to inform and assist the population on completing the Census form.
- It is important to use appropriate messengers within the community to inform people of the Census. Use trusted voices and messengers such as teachers, grandparents, elders, community leaders, pastors, etc.
- For Census 2020, there will be questionnaire centers where kiosks are available to complete the digital count. Additionally, informed individuals are available to assist residents in completing the Census.
- On the map that illustrates the hard-to-count communities for the Census, it is evident these communities overlap communities that experience health disparities and/or economic distress.
- Sacramento County is translating the Census documents into 13 languages, and on the Census web site, there are 52 languages available.

Sacramento’s Emerging Justice Movements and Voting
Claudia Bonsignore, President, League of Women Voters and Marge Patzer, League of Women Voters, spoke about the importance of voting and how equity plays a role in trying to get every voice counted and heard. Courtney Hanson, Decarcerate Sacramento & Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), spoke about the expansion of the jail systems and how this is linked to health equity and human rights concerns. Nia MooreWeathers, Youth Forward representing Justice to Jobs Coalition, shared information on current expungement efforts with the HSC. See handout materials for the various speakers.
• League of Women Voters was formed in 1919 from one of the suffrage parties trying to pass the 19th Amendment. The name was kept for historical significance.
  o The voter turnout for individuals under 30 is relatively low. How do we encourage young adults and individuals to register and vote?
  o People need to be informed about their voting rights. The ACLU provides cards that outline who is eligible to vote (even if you have criminal history or felony record).
  o If voting in the primaries, individuals (especially younger generation) needs to be associated with a party. Selecting “No Party” will exclude you from voting for certain candidates.
  o In 2018, Sacramento sent out mail-in ballots for everyone who was registered to vote. Precincts no longer exist and individuals can vote anywhere within their state. There are also early drop-off voting centers in order to increase voting turnout. Conditional ballots allow for same-day voting for those who are late in registering to vote.
• Decarcerate Sacramento is a new coalition that was founded in early 2019.
  o Sacramento is attempting to expand its jail system despite Sacramento’s main jail facing class action lawsuits. The lawsuits are to prevent human rights violations. The jails are inadequate facilities, especially for individuals who are not able-bodied or who have a mental health illness.
  o One of the recommendations was to reduce the population in the jail systems for Sacramento. More than 60% of the population in jail has been diagnosed with a mental illness. The jail system is not an appropriate place for the health and mental well-being of these individuals.
  o Decarcerate Sacramento recommends Sacramento County cancel the expansion plan, focus on the lawsuit, decrease the jail population and move toward a grassroots movement. The legacy of Sacramento cannot be an inhumane jail system.
• Justice to Jobs Coalition is also a new coalition that is gaining traction in 2019.
  o Expungement is the process of clearing someone’s felony records. Everyone has a right to have their criminal record cleared (especially for minor felonies).
  o Recreational marijuana was legalized in January 2019. What happens to the people who were arrested due to use of recreational marijuana before legalization?
    ▪ In San Francisco, District Attorney Gaston cleared the records for individuals who had a Prop. 64 misdemeanor. Sacramento County should strive to do the same as well.
  o Justice to Jobs Coalition aims to establish a functional expungement landscape with service providers communicating and people’s records being cleared or recategorized.

Healthy Sacramento Coalition Reflection and Moving Forward Discussion
Connie Chan Robinson, Executive Director, Center for Collaborative Planning and Arthur Hernandez, MSN-FNP/RN, CommuniCare led the group through a Healthy Sacramento Coalition reflection and discussed the direction of HSC moving forward.
• Most attendees at today’s meeting were new to the coalition and this is their first meeting.
• Attendees came because they wanted to be informed about Sacramento, network and engage with the community. Most wanted to see how other community partners’ work can support their own organization’s work and vice versa. There is a strong interest in health and racial equity and neighborhood impact.
• For Sacramento to become more equitable, empathy is important. There needs to be localized treatment centers and an office of racial and health equity at the local level. Sacramento needs to come together to develop and create access and safe spaces (especially for children).
• Healthy Sacramento Coalition is moving toward a convener space. Suggestion for theme of next year’s meeting can be related to Black History Month and looking through the lens of racial and social equity.

Next Steps, Appreciation and Evaluation of Meeting
Lynne Berkley-Baskin closed the meeting and reminded everyone to complete the evaluation.

Next Coalition Meeting Date – February 2020