

THE POLICY BRIEF

A newsletter issued by the Health in All Policies (HiAP) team in Pinellas County

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PROGRAM REVIEW

St. Petersburg's HiAP Working Group Meeting



On June 19th, the City of St. Petersburg's HiAP working group held its quarterly meeting at the Leisure Services Complex. The working group meeting was facilitated by Cassidy Mutnansky, Health Planner for the City of St. Petersburg. The event was attended by 29 City of St.

Petersburg employees representing over 15 city departments. The working group reviewed the city's HiAP Strategic Plan and received an introductory training on HiAP decision-support tools (e.g. health impact assessments, health lens analysis, health planning matrices and checklists, and health notes).

Following the meeting, select working group departments have begun cataloguing upcoming plans, programs, policies, and projects (PPPPs). The selected departments will work with the health planner to select a few PPPPs to pilot HiAP decision-support tools and incorporate health equity considerations into their decision-making processes.

Pinellas Park's HiAP Working Group Meeting

On June 28th, the City of Pinellas Park's HiAP working group held its inaugural meeting at Park Station. The working group meeting was facilitated by Daphne Green, Health Planner for the City of Pinellas Park. The meeting was attended by 21 Pinellas Park employees representing 15 city departments. At the meeting, the working group reviewed the foundational principles of public health and health equity, and the HiAP decision-support tools (e.g. health impact assessment, health lens analysis, health planning matrices and checklist, health notes, etc.) were introduced. The working group also analyzed the city's demographic and associated health disparity data, discussed the city's health equity issues, and identified the city's initial phase one social determinant of health focus areas to address: the built environment, transportation, and housing and neighborhoods.



Introduction to Community Planning

On July 12th, the Health in All Policies team in Pinellas County hosted an "Introduction to Community Planning" presentation for health services representatives at Pinellas Park's City Auditorium. Opening remarks were delivered by Heath Kirby, the Health in All Policies program manager at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, and the presentation was facilitated by Ben Ziskal, Assistant Community Development Administrator and Director of Planning & Development Services for the City of Pinellas Park. Health in All Policies operates at the intersection of public health and community planning, and the presentation was designed to introduce health services representatives to the foundational principles of community planning, from economic development to transportation. The event was attended by 51 public, private, and non-profit sector representatives.



PARTNER BIOGRAPHY

Caitlin Murphy



Caitlin Murphy is the health planner for the Pinellas County Planning Department.

Caitlin was born and raised in Hobe Sound, FL. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology degree from the University of Florida.

Afterwards, Caitlin attended Florida State University and earned a Master of Public Health degree and a Master of Science in Urban Planning degree.

As a native Floridian, Caitlin is passionate about improving health outcomes in her home state. Previously, she worked in health education and epidemiology at the Florida Department of Health in Leon County and in environmental planning with the U.S. Forest Service. Most recently, she served as the data and research manager at a regional health planning agency in Jacksonville, Florida. As a data and research manager, Caitlin led community health assessment and planning activities in coordination with public and private stakeholders. She also helped communities identify, prioritize, and address health issues using data and best practices.

Caitlin is an expert in a variety of health assessment methodologies, having conducted numerous health impact assessments, environmental health assessments, and community health assessments across a variety of Florida communities.



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Susan Ajoc



Susan Ajoc is the Community Services Director for the City of St. Petersburg.

On the intersection of community, neighborhoods, and health, per Susan, "Neighborhoods are the fabric of a community. In St. Petersburg, there are 106 neighborhood and 20 business associations that create the quilt of our city. The City of St. Petersburg's Community Services Department's mission is to be responsive to resident and

neighborhood issues by coordinating city services to implement improvement projects and facilitate residents' active participation, voicing concerns, and establishing priorities for neighborhood improvement. Healthy neighborhoods thrive when the various components of a community meet the needs of its residents and stakeholders.

The Community Services Department works directly with neighborhood associations and empowers them to determine their priorities. We provide resources, including matching grants, to neighborhood associations which helps them develop natural and built environments that enhance public safety and improve interpersonal connections between neighbors.

Serving as the liaison between neighborhoods and the city, the Community Services Department encourages interaction between residents, neighborhood associations, and the city. The Community Services Department maintains a list of neighborhood associations that city departments and outside agencies can use to engage residents and solicit input on a variety of social determinants of health, such as transportation, economic development, public safety, public works, and community context. We know active participation in community organizations and activities is associated with lower mortality rates and better physical and mental health.

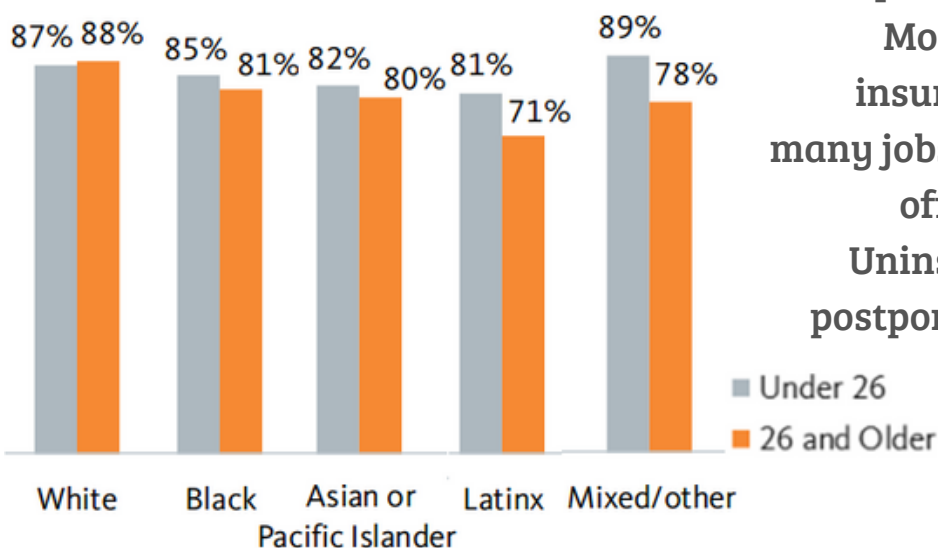
Two of our newest initiatives include the Meadowlawn Ecological Center and Garden and St. Pete PAWS pet-friendly city; both provide opportunities for physical activity and stress reduction. The Meadowlawn Community Garden is a re-purposed ball field with raised garden beds for individuals with a variety of abilities. St. Pete PAWS is a collaboration between the city, five animal welfare groups, and numerous businesses. Providing access to both people and their dogs offers abundant economic, social, and health benefits. St. Pete PAWS was recently recognized at the US Conference of Mayors as a pet-friendly large city and also received the honor of being the first Better Cities for Pets official pet-friendly certification.

The City of St. Petersburg’s Community Services Department has a long history of encouraging social engagement and health through a variety of opportunities – associations, volunteer, youth workforce, financial inclusion, community gardens, and St. Pete PAWS. President Harry S. Truman once said, “All will concede that in order to have good neighbors, we must also be good neighbors. That applies in every field of human endeavor.” Good neighbors make for healthier neighborhoods.”

HEALTH FACT OF THE MONTH

Health Insurance

Health Insurance Coverage Rates by Race/Ethnicity & Age, 2016



Health insurance coverage rates for Pinellas County residents vary between 71-89%, depending upon race/ethnicity and age.

Most non-senior adults obtain health insurance through their employer, but many jobs (especially low wage jobs) do not offer employer-sponsored coverage.

Uninsured adults are far more likely to postpone healthcare or forego it entirely.

In 2016, 17.2% of Pinellas County adults reported not seeking needed medical care due to cost.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Health in All Policies

Shankardass, K. et al. 2014. Strengthening the Implementation of Health in All Policies: a Methodology for Realist Explanatory Case Studies. *Health Policy and Planning*. Volume 30, Issue 4, May 2015, Pages 462–473.

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Air Pollution & Transportation

Cepeda, M. et al. 2017. Levels of Ambient Air Pollution According to Mode of Transport: a Systematic Review. *The Lancet*. Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2017, Pages 23-34.

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