

THE POLICY BRIEF

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

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Photo courtesy of City of St. Petersburg



PROGRAM REVIEW

Pinellas County Health in All Policies Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 19-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS HAVE UPON THE HEALTH AND EQUITY OF ITS CITIZENS AND ADOPTING A “HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES” APPROACH TO COUNTY DECISION-MAKING, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION, TO ENSURE THAT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS ARE EVALUATED BASED ON HEALTH AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL METRICS

On August 6, Pinellas County Commissioners unanimously approved resolution number 19-53 which adopted a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to county decision-making through the consideration of health, equity, and social determinants of health in the development and implementation of policies, plans, projects, programs, budgets, and the delivery of services.

In the resolution, the commissioners acknowledged the growing burden of chronic illnesses on county residents and mentioned the criticality of health and well-being for a prosperous and sustainable community. Per the resolution, policies implemented by the county outside of the traditional health sector (e.g. land use, economic development, criminal justice, etc.) significantly affect health outcomes, health inequities, and the social determinants of health. The county acknowledged interdepartmental and inter-agency collaboration can help achieve equitable health outcomes, and, by adopting a HiAP approach, the county recognized all departments have a role to play in achieving the highest level of health for all county residents.

Pinellas Park Health Impact Assessment Workshop



On September 17, the Pinellas Park health impact assessment (HIA) team met at Park Station to review the progress made on the city's Brownfield Program HIA. HIAs are a systematic approach used to evaluate the potential health effects of a policy, plan, program, or project before

implementation using a six-step process: screening, scoping, assessment, recommendations, reporting, and monitoring. A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

The September 17 workshop focused on the HIA's assessment section, and team members advised on the flow of information, GIS mapping components, and data presentation. Also, the team identified data indicators that could be integrated into the monitoring and evaluation section of the HIA to track program success. The four main health impact categories under investigation in Pinellas Park's Brownfield Program HIA are public exposure, economic development and upward mobility, community context, and built environment.

PARTNER BIOGRAPHY

Ben Ziskal



Ben Ziskal is the Planning and Development Services Director for the City of Pinellas Park. Born and raised in Michigan, Ben holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development degree from Ball State University, as well as a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from Florida Atlantic University.

He has 15 years of experience in the urban urban planning and economic development professions, including 13 years in the State of Florida. Prior to moving to the Tampa Bay area, Ben worked for the City of Margate in Broward County for 12 years, serving as an Associate Planner, the City Planner, and Director of Economic Development. Ben is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), as well as a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) by the International Economic Development Council. He moved to Florida in 2003, when he enlisted with the US Air Force Reserve. He served as a Logistics Plans Craftsman at Homestead Air Reserve Base for six years. During his tenure, Ben deployed to CFSOCC Camp As Saliyah, Qatar in 2008, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. He was honorably discharged as a Technical Sergeant in 2009. Ben lives in Manatee County with his wife, Stephanie, and their two young sons; two year old Zachary, and 10 month old Cameron.



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Laura Canary



Laura Canary is the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Manager at the City of Pinellas Park. She initiates and develops programs and projects to further the CRA's objectives for revitalizing infrastructure in the CRA area. Laura's most significant responsibility is improving and expanding the economic base of the Redevelopment District through business and community

development efforts, including the recruitment of value-added redevelopment projects. Such projects generally seek to diminish blight, preserve local business, increase street connectivity and safety, and enhance sense of place. These coordinated efforts strengthen communities by improving quality of life and opportunities to happily age in place.

On the interrelation of community redevelopment, community health, and the Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework, Laura says, "Public health is a primary consideration for everything that we do in the CRA. While it's usually quite easy to see the correlation between redevelopment initiatives and public health, that isn't always the case. HiAP provides a collaborative and comprehensive approach for evaluating the potential public health impacts of redevelopment programs and projects. The HiAP framework promotes healthy communities by addressing the social determinants of health. Everything we do as the CRA is linked to multiple determinants, like housing and neighborhoods, public safety, water and sanitation, natural environment, built environment, transportation, economic development, and community context. For us, identifying how these factors are potentially impacted is key to prioritizing CRA programs and projects."

Laura continues, "redevelopment projects may have a positive impact on one determinant while negatively impacting another. For example, a business expansion in the Redevelopment District may create 250 new jobs but may also entail purchasing and demolishing an adjacent 15-unit apartment building to make way for a new office building. While the displacement of tenants would be a major concern, the CRA must evaluate the project based on the overall value-added or benefit.

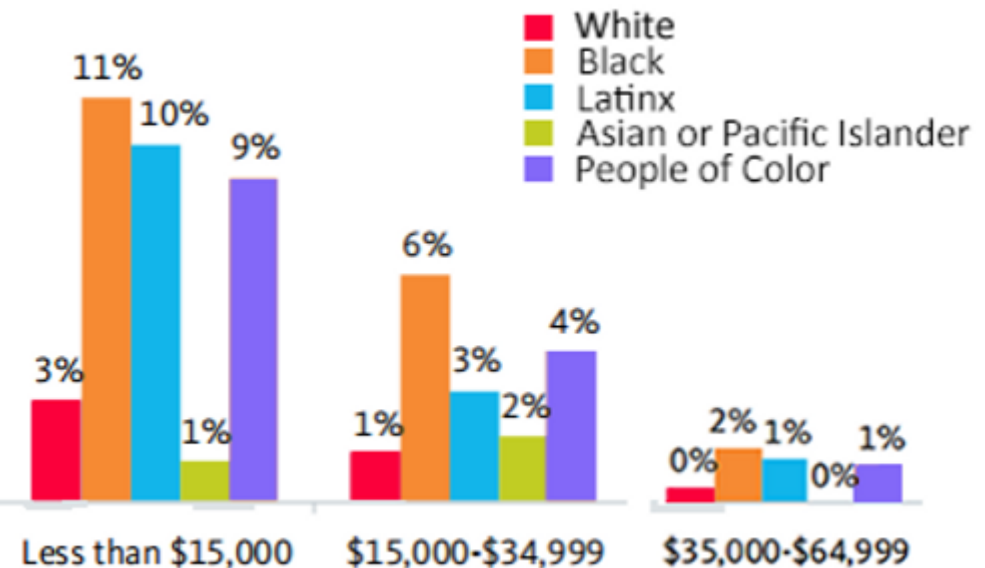
When redevelopment projects have substantial competing health factors at play, it's of utmost importance for the CRA to go back to the basics and our original purpose by concentrating on the project's general ability to help eliminate slum and blight in the community. The HiAP framework proves to be a valuable tool for existing and future redevelopment efforts."

PINELLAS HEALTH FACT

Access to Transportation

In Pinellas County, 9% of residents do not own a vehicle. Households in poverty are less likely to own a vehicle and, thus, lack opportunities for economic mobility by being limited to a shorter radius of travel than higher income households. They also have a higher usage rate of less costly travel modes like public transit, biking, or walking.

Households in poverty are disproportionately affected by fewer affordable, accessible, and/or efficient transportation options.



LITERATURE REVIEW

Green Spaces and Mental Health

Gascon, M. et al. (2015). Mental Health Benefits of Long-Term Exposure to Residential Green and Blue Spaces: A Systematic Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 12(4), 4354-4379.
Retrieved from: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/12/4/4354/htm>



Education and Health

Hahn, R. and Truman, B. (2015). Education Improves Public Health and Promotes Health Equity. *International Journal of Health Services*, 45(4), 657-678.
Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4691207/>

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