

Environmental exposures across urban and rural communities in the Deep South

CAB Meeting

June 28th 2018 3pm Central
Phone Call

Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mary Evans, Julia Gohlke, Ethel Johnson, Molly Richardson, Sheila Tyson, Connor Wu, and Ben Zaitchik

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda was adopted with no additions.

Announcements: Congrats again to Connor for his new position with Troy University. We look forward to collaborating as his new position allows.

Review of Draft Letter to Previous May 2018 Workshop Participants: Molly reviewed the posted draft letters, which thanks the May 2018 participants for their involvement in the workshops, reminds them of presented results from previous studies, and summarizes the results of the questionnaire. There are 2 letters, one for Wilcox County and one for Birmingham participants, which detail their priority topics—drinking water access and quality and abandoned houses/overgrown lots, respectively.

Short-Term Next Steps: Fall 2018/ Spring 2019: Three potential ideas were discussed by the group. We will discuss further with any new ideas and discuss which ideas we as a group want to proceed with.

1) **Traditional workshop.** We proposed a 2-hour workshop similar to we have previously done with community residents as participants having a combination of an activity, questionnaire, and presentation of previous results.

2) **A roundtable discussion with local leadership.** Community leaders present to and communicate the results and priorities of the group to relevant stakeholders: other community leaders, elected officials, Health Department, nonprofit organizations, etc. This is an effort to improve communication and transparency. It may be important to consider the timing of newly elected officials will take office in order to involve the most active leaders. Sending an informative memo and invitation ahead of time may be useful.

3) **Grant-writing retreat.** An intensive 1-2 days of grant writing was proposed at a retreat center. This would be a joint CAB meeting.

Potential dates for Fall events were the week of August 27th-31st. Other important dates to be aware of are the Community Engagement Institute on October 12th, the Black Belt Institute is either September 20th or 27th, and grant deadlines are November 5th, March 5th, and July 5th.

Long-Term Ideas: Common themes in both communities were programs for children, and infrastructure like roads, crime, safety, and community clean ups and dumping. Ethel and Sheila suggested that the group pick one main issue since there were so many problems suggested. The residents want progress on all of them. When considering a future grant, it is important that the focus is on health.

Two populations were discussed: children and pregnant women. There are challenges with feasibility of working with each population. Research with children pose difficulties with consent, transportation,

and parental involvement. Research with pregnant women may pose the challenge of drawing a large enough sample size and hard to recruit them to participate in studies. One idea was focusing on teen pregnancy, particularly in Wilcox County. Considering the suggested topic population, looking at preterm birth and low birth weight and its relationship with air pollution may be relevant. The Health Department may be a good avenue for recruitment in both locations and doctors' offices in Selma and Thomasville. Sheila mentioned several places for kids programs like Urban Ministry and Titusville Library. Sheryl may be a good resource for discussing opportunities with kids due to BAMA Kids. Ethel had experience with teaching handwashing practices and the Healthy Kids program through UAB (~20 years ago) on an antidiarrheal program.

The group will continue brainstorming and will follow-up over the phone soon.