

Environmental exposures across urban and rural communities in the Deep South

Birmingham Community Advisory Board

March 12th, 2015

10:00-11:30 PM

Harriman Park Recreation Center (4347 W.L. Shuttlesworth Drive, Birmingham, AL)

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Keisha Brown (Harriman Park VP), Mary Evans (UAB), Julia Gohlke (UAB), Matt Lacke (JCDH), Sheila Tyson (FoWE)

Observers in attendance: Jeffrey Hall (UAB SOPH)

Discussions:

The structure and function of the CAB: After short introductions, members revisited the 5-4-2013 meeting minutes and confirmed the overall role of the CAB, the decision-making process, reporting, membership and officers as stated.

Meeting schedule: Members decided it would be best to plan monthly meetings in the short-term until we establish more specific framework and plans. Two upcoming meetings were scheduled occurring on Apr. 9th at 10 am at Harriman Park Recreation Center and May 21st at 10 am, location TBD.

Additional membership: Currently membership is at 6, and membership is limited to nine, with balance between: 1) researchers, 2) Birmingham community-based organizations/community members, and 3) governmental or non-governmental issue-based organization representation. Sheila Tyson suggested inviting a medical doctor or nurse for an additional member in the 1st category. Nurses that were present at our previous focus groups and Stephanie Ford from Princeton were mentioned as potential candidates. Dale Dawkins was also mentioned as a possibility. Sheila Tyson agreed to follow-up with Stephanie Ford to determine if she would have an interest in joining the advisory board. Another suggestion was made for expertise in soil and air sampling, potentially from EPA, although the closest EPA office is in Atlanta. Local EPA contractors hired for soil testing and/or removal in Birmingham was also suggested as an option to explore. Matt Lacke and Julia Gohlke agreed to look into possibilities for additional expertise in this area.

Discussion of at-risk populations and locations in Birmingham that would be useful to visit: Previous survey work that has been conducted was discussed that could help to establish health priorities. The focus group work we had done previously established abandoned housing and air pollution as top environmental priorities, but that work didn't focus on establishing health priorities. The 2012

neighborhood leadership survey conducted by One Great Community may have useful information for discussion. Mary Evans will ask Susie Davies about data she collected related to Healthy Passages. It would be great to have neighborhood level information. Diabetes as a prevalent chronic diseases and potential at-risk population for heat-related illness was mentioned. Keisha Brown suggested that pamphlets with pictures and clear descriptions of common chronic diseases would be useful and she could distribute those through churches to provide information to community members. Sheila Tyson suggested a visit to senior housing in Gate City and Smithfield would be useful since air conditioning isn't available in many of the homes. Sheila Tyson also mentioned the New Pilgrim Wellness Center and apartment renovations in Titusville.

Discussion of personal and collective goals: Four questions were presented to the group for discussion: How do you envision your participation on this board? What contributions do you want to provide to this team, your agency, and this community? What do you need and expect-from UAB (or other resources) – in order to accomplish that? Is there any particular information, experience, or training that you need or would like to have in order to help (you, us) accomplish (your/our) goals? Discussion focused primarily on answers to the first two questions. Sheila Tyson stated that honesty, hard work, dedication to the issues and being a member of City Council are all a part of the contributions she would like to make to the team. Julia Gohlke relayed her interest in understanding the differences between living in urban versus rural environment as they pertain to overall health and well-being. Keisha Brown stated her primary interest was ensuring that correct information is conveyed to community members. Matt Lacke conveyed his role as communicating JCDH's role in monitoring air quality in Jefferson County, working with EPA to ensure all regulations pertaining to air quality are met, and explaining how emissions from stationary sources are estimated. Mary Evans spoke about her primary interest in communicating and translating research in timely and appropriately formatted ways for consumers. Jeff Hall spoke about his interest in urban rural differences and interest in helping with the proposed volatile organic compound sampling.

2015 workshop: Discussion of potential topics and timing of the workshop was moved to the agenda for the next meeting due to time constraints.