

## **TCE Project - Building Healthy Communities**

### ***School Attendance Momentum Team***

#### Meeting schedule

4-6 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays City Heights Center 4305 University Ave, sixth floor  
(Price Charities large conference room)

Jan 13: scheduled

Jan 27: scheduled

Feb 10: scheduled for 5-7 pm

Feb 24: scheduled

Mar 10: scheduled

Mar 24: scheduled for 6-8 pm

#### ***What we are doing:***

*Using advocacy and policy change strategies, the School Attendance MT plans to enhance learning participation for youth in City Heights. To achieve this systematic change we will use collaborative strategies to engage youth, families, organizations and community leaders for the improvement of community environments, access to a health, and focus to ensure healthy behavior.*

#### ***School Attendance Momentum Team Guidelines/Launch Pad***

1. Operate and commit to consensus and outreach
2. Accountability and Commitment
3. Respect/Appreciate other and their differences
4. Listen to others
5. Demonstrate Leadership and disseminate
6. Coordinate systems and create change for the greater good not just your organization
7. Be flexible (logistics)
8. \*\*Because Sensitive issues are discussed at meetings, each team member must acknowledge a "SAFE Zone" while participating.

**Goal:** *Increase School Attendance in City Heights*

**Target Population:** Families and children who live in City Heights as outlined by TCE, but bordering regions that influence school attendance. Include (1) gang recruitment/involvement (2) multiple school/home varying district enrollments among residents.

**Convening Locations and Times:** Meetings will occur between in the late afternoon/evening 4-6 pm within City Heights to allow professionals, youth, parents and residents to attend this common time.

- I. Invite all interested community partners, residents or overall contribution to our objective to increase school attendance.
- II. Participate in community forum, retreat or weekend event as part of TCE Healthy Communities Project.

#### **General Information Sharing Guidelines:**

- I. Language and culturally friendly messaging, flyers, school service devices to provide ongoing dialogue with residents and MT members.
- II. Document communication and information sharing by developing a collection site for resident comments.

III. All meetings will be inclusive and welcome story, data, and resource sharing.

<b>Framework of Concepts for Discussion</b>	
<b>Healthcare</b>	Access to healthcare financially and physically, number of medical clinics that serve residents, wait times, cost, current programs and or other health conditions limiting opportunities to learn.
<b>Economic Development</b>	Jobs and availability of resources as external and internal stressors for attending school or not.
<b>Family and Peer Relations</b>	Influence or pressure to adapt or perform for others
<b>Cultural and Language</b>	Messaging, programs or resources that consider diverse cultural and languages
<b>Development</b>	Analysis of root cause behaviors, home environment trauma of violence, health issues, social and adolescent changes
<b>Environment</b>	Specifically school, neighborhood and home in conjunction with proximity to violence, distractions in class, school resources, physical space, programs for students and cultural and language barriers.
<b>Personal Conflict Resolution /Issues</b>	Realizing the negative effect of the lifestyle of drugs, alcohol, gangs etc. to overcome barriers and self-esteem.

**Engage Youth:** Partner with any Mid-City based youth organization to capture youth perspective of attendance issues. These organizations or agencies should be either youth led, include intervention or education programs and/or parent involvement.

- ❖ Include dialogue with youth for all future meetings or special focus group as a source for qualitative data
- ❖ Surveys within schools to other youth as additional sources of data (*if necessary based upon feedback from resident surveys*)

**Engagement of MT Members:** Use all Mid-City based organizations to capture organization or agency perspective of attendance issues. These organizations or agencies should include intervention or education programs and/or parent involvement focused on the outlined framework in the table above..

- ❖ Use Existing networks of staff and resources of MT member agencies /organizations etc.
- ❖ Data, questions and information is presented and dialogued from various perspectives of MT members for cross-analysis.
- ❖ Outreach within current networks to disseminate community information that is language and culturally appropriate.
- ❖ MT liaisons to attend house party meetings or other project meetings to enhance knowledge base.

**Resident Engagement:** defined as community members of target area including house leaders, residents, or other concerned individuals grouped into two groups identifying engagement type based on interest and availability

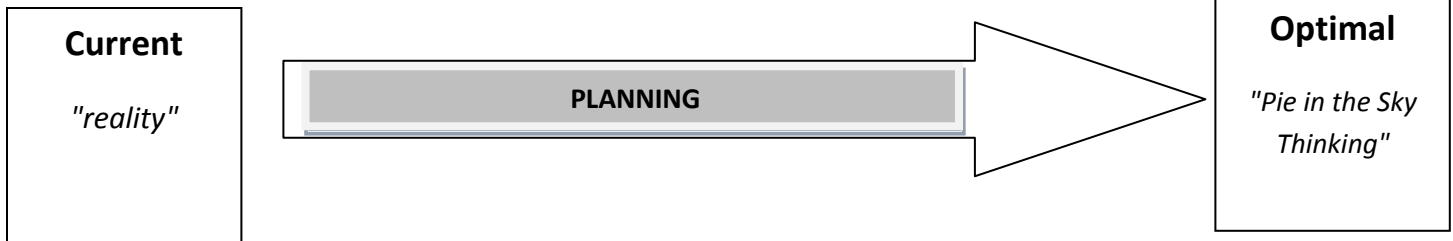
- ❖ Residents who attend Momentum Team meetings and fully participate in work activities.

- ❖ Residents who can't or won't attend meetings or engage in specifically organized activities or meetings, but would like their input heard i.e. surveys

**Engage Community Leaders:** Partner with local city officials who serve the target populations.

- ❖ Identify liaisons to provide updates about Building Healthy Cities project.
- ❖ Create opportunities to leverage additional funds for projects and programs.

- Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting using NOW vs. Future



After we've narrowed down our outcomes, we will begin the logic model process:

**Prioritize → Target change → Strategies → Resources in community → Capacity**

We are all aiming for:

- 1) Systemic change in City Heights
- 2) Advocacy

**10 outcomes must be reduced to 3-5**, which means that our School Attendance MT needs to narrow down the outcomes that feed into our "big result" of "increasing school attendance." Those outcomes are:

- Families have improved access to a health home that supports healthy behaviors.
- Neighborhood and school environments support improved health and healthy behaviors. (outcome #7)
- Health gaps for boys and young men of color are narrowed. (outcome #9)

- Youth Voice put together a list of their ideal programs that would help to engage students and increase school attendance. \*\*Youth Latino Council, TKF and Additional input from other leadership groups. (See PDF titled "Homework")
  - ✓ The list was discussed, but many agencies agreed that these programs are already in existence with little participation, but maybe not publicized as much.

**SAFE and Central Environment**

- ✓ Community Center Program facility should be centrally located for youth can access
- ✓ Parents feel safe for their children to attend programs
- ✓ Use current schools or community buildings for small community centers after school hours
- ✓ "It takes the village to raise children"

**Inclusive Family Involvement**

- ✓ Wrap-around services with holistic approach to addressing often root causes of youth behavior and choices
- ✓ Parental Involvement in mentoring to create balanced social/academics

**Empowerment**

- ✓ Peer to peer mentoring on all levels would be helpful because knowledge cannot be taken away.

- ✓ Teach civic engagement for strengthen strategies toward change
- ✓ Coaching to those undergoing change of status process
- ✓ Help overcome hopelessness and fear
- ✓ Create the mindset that it is necessary to "give back"

### ***Reframe Academic Policies***

- ✓ School start time should be pushed back to keep youth off the streets during critical hours
- ✓ Studies show conflicting views with school start times due to school athletics and other reasons
- ✓ Class sizes are often too big and turns into "babysitting" large groups of teens and therefore teachers have difficult time reaching students and ensuring homework gets completed.

### ***Create Model School Programs***

- ✓ Curriculums should encompass hands on and applied learning to provide skills for the real world application.
- ✓ Reframe academics culturally (IEP's)

### ***Embrace Culture***

- ✓ Some schools do host community events, but the diversity of City Heights should be celebrated and embraced so students/youth/residents feel ownership.
- ✓ Use evidence based research to celebrate holidays, religion, or festivals
- ✓

**Trainings** will be offered by The Cal Endowment on:

- Prevention
- Policy, Advocacy
- Conflict Resolution/Consensus
- Webinars