

## SAM Team Notes: Community Congress

### Participant concerns:

1. Doctor's offices' don't open until nine. Children with mild health concerns don't receive help and schools open at 7:30-8am. Children are missing school for benign reasons.
  - Pie in the sky thinking: Having Full Time School Nurses every day is important. Only 9 schools have full time and nurses and Price subcontracts only 5. Residents should demand better health care at schools!
2. Rosa Parks and Hoover are models. Can they be expanded? Is attendance higher? Can students take advantage without parental presence?
  - Other contributing facts include immigration (ICE), bullying, boring curriculums.
  - Promoting to prevent absences is bigger picture than illness. Treatment after the fact is a problem and should move to preventative measures. Also promoting health at schools, better safety, and will increase school attendance.
3. In regards to health at schools, we need to look at getting through coverage for all schools because if they don't belong to a certain clinic they get denied. Also at any point if a kid needs service they should be able to receive it.
4. Information about resources available in California is needed.
  - Informing them of resources should be enrolled in.
  - Youth can educate parents about resources
5. I have a problem! My daughter has asthma goes to Monroe Clark and no one wants to help and I don't want to apply for Medi-Cal.
  - Schools as a resource to apply for school
  - Easing the problems and long (3-4 hr) processes to apply for programs d/t parents have multiple children to take care of + work and other responsibilities.
6. I have a 5yr old son and he also has asthma. Something that is important when 1<sup>st</sup> sign of asthma attack comes is to give his meds. In order to avoid

missing school I give his meds to the school nurse. She fails to give him meds as he needs it and gets worse as the day goes by. It's different because school nurse sees the role that she has to call the parent whenever something happens and tell us to take the child to the Dr.. If given every 4 hours there is no requirement to miss school.

- Law: Kids can carry their own inhaler so long as the parent gives permission. Age to carry is different and working on a policy for specific age to carry inhaler. It is the Law; if Dr/Parent gives permission they can carry it.
  - Schools should be supporting kids and their families give resources so that kids stay in school.
7. After school programs to decrease. Drugs, gang and offering exercise.
    - Challenging because of safety concerns, also some work after school, many programs are present but there is a disconnect
  8. How can this process move forward: Level of engagement in the future:
    - We were talking that we are a diverse community yet at school that is not addressed. How do we address that so we can get along better? Parents have to work; now children are spending more time at school than at home.
    - What happens is when they don't want to deal with them; they are segregated to identify them. That is a source of the issue because from the 1<sup>st</sup> day they are segregated that feeds into gangs as they identify: Mexican, Somali, diff races and etc.
  9. Holidays: nice to have other cultural celebration/holidays observed
  10. If we are going to make progress we need to include boards and decision makers to create that change. City Heights Community working on systems changes and provide framework for work.

Next steps:

1. Important to approach from two levels. Hear from families who need changes now and need advocates/Liaisons that can link up. Having advantage to handle specific problems can go a long way.

2. I'm a resident, and I would like to demand-right to demand. I want to know why is it that schools in the neighborhood are un-kept. Deteriorating and kids have a right to attend clean schools and should not be a right to La Jolla or Chula Vista. Bathrooms should be in working order. We also have a right to the best education, better teachers, etc.