



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

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April 22, 2009

Mid-City CAN Coordinating Council
4275 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. 101
San Diego, CA 92105

Dear Coordinating Council Members:

On behalf of the University of California San Diego's Division of Child Development and Community Health, I would like to express our enthusiastic support and partnership with the Mid-City Community Advocacy Network during the 9-month planning phase of the California Endowment's (TCE) Building Healthy Communities Initiative.

UC San Diego's Division of Child Development and Community Health is best described by its mission, "*Join us in discovering new ways to improve community health!*" Our commitment to community health is aligned with the mission of TCE's Building Healthy Communities Initiative to create "prevention-focused systems and community environments that work together to produce optimal health across the lifespan."

Our Division has worked to improve the health of the City Heights community for over twenty years. We have successfully leveraged both internal and external resources to address the needs of City Heights' residents starting with our involvement in the development of *New Beginnings* in 1988, a collaborative designed to improve outcomes for children and families through systematic reform, which resulted in the school-based health center at Hamilton Elementary in 1995; continuing in 1997 with the nine-year UCSD/City Heights Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) focused on increasing safety and livability; and more recently in 2000 with the five-year UCSD Academic Center on Youth Violence Prevention for which Mid-City CAN served as a key partner.

Currently our work in City Heights community is focused on alleviating health disparities through programs focused on health promotion, in particular nutrition and physical activity; food security; access to health care and insurance; and domestic violence prevention. In addition, we offer academic enrichment programs to increase minority representation in medicine and other health sciences, as well as training pediatricians to provide culturally competent health care to the diverse populations of City Heights.

Including myself, I have identified two other faculty and six staff to serve on 9 out of the 10 subcommittees focused on the 10 objectives of the City Heights' Building Healthy Communities Initiative. This diverse group of individuals represents a comprehensive network of resources and expertise necessary for supporting the Building Healthy Communities Initiative. Each individual will

contribute between five and ten percent of their time to this important endeavor. Moreover, I am applying to serve on the Oversight Committee. In addition, I agree to cover other costs associated with our involvement with the Healthy Communities Initiative. We estimate our total in-kind contribution over the 9 month planning phase to exceed \$65,000.

On behalf of UC San Diego's Division of Child Development and Community Health, I look forward to supporting Mid-City CAN during this planning phase and throughout the 10-year life of this Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Gahagan, M.D., M.P.H.".

Sheila Gahagan, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief
Division of Child Development and Community Health