

MONTHLY
**ACTIVITY
REPORT**



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Office of Health Equity



HEALTHY & EQUITABLE *California* **FOR ALL**

Addressing health impacts
of where Californians live,
work, and play.

#HealthEquityCA

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)

Mission

The Office of Health Equity (OHE), Community Development and Engagement Unit's (CDEU) mission is to strengthen the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) focus and ability to advise and assist other state departments in their mission to increase access to, and the quality of, culturally and linguistically competent mental health care and services.

Vision

To create a public mental health system for a diverse California that advances an authentic commitment to community engagement, cultural knowledge, accessibility, quality, resilience, and wellness.

Projects

California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP)

In response to former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher's call for national action to reduce mental health disparities, the former Department of Mental Health (DMH), along with several key partners, created a statewide policy initiative to identify solutions for historically unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served communities. Under OHE, this statewide Prevention and Early Intervention effort, the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP), focuses on five populations:

- African American
- Asian and Pacific Islander
- Latino
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning
- Native American

Now in Phase II, the CRDP will focus on funding and evaluating the promising practices identified in Phase I, as well as advancing the strategies outlined in the CRDP Strategic Plan. In all CRDP will award \$60 million to 41 contractors and grantees over six years. The CRDP is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) that was passed in November 2004. This act imposes a one percent income tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million.

Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit (HEPPU)

Vision

Our vision is a healthy, equitable, and environmentally sustainable California where all people thrive and health equity principles are the foundation of government policies and practices.

Mission

The Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit's mission is to provide statewide leadership in policy, systems, and environmental change by improving health, equity, and environmental sustainability in California government decision-making, practices, and policies.

OHE's HEPPU addresses complex issues that require input and collaboration across multiple agencies and departments, most of which are outside of the health sector.

Projects

The California Health in All Policies Task Force

The California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force was created by Executive Order S-04-10 in 2010 because the health and well-being of Californians is impacted by the policies and practices of many agencies and departments, not just health services and public health. The HiAP Task Force is housed under the SGC, and brings together 22 state agencies, departments, and offices, with a common goal of working together to support a healthier and more sustainable California. The HiAP Task Force is staffed by CDPH in partnership with the Public Health Institute.

Climate Change and Health Equity Program (CCHEP)

California is a national and international leader on climate change as a critical emerging issue. The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) has mobilized California's state agencies to develop a coordinated response to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions. CDPH and other state agencies are conducting research and developing strategies to reduce carbon emissions (mitigation) and prepare for (or adapt to) the challenges brought by climate change. CCHEP works on policy, adaptation planning, land use and transportation planning, epidemiology, environmental health, health education and risk communication, emergency preparedness and other areas relating to climate change and health.

Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

Vision

HRSU's vision is to become the state's reference office that provides consultation and data resources to keep abreast of data trends, in an effort to mitigate and eliminate health and mental health disparities and inequities in California.

Mission

HRSU is a leading state unit in collecting data and disseminating information about health and mental health disparities and inequities in California. HRSU researches and produces data to fulfill statutory mandated reports, and provides information and technical assistance to CDPH programs, state agencies, local health departments and stakeholders who are working to collect and report information on health and mental disparities and inequities in California.

HRSU advances health and mental health equity by:

- Providing consultation and technical assistance to state departments and other state and local agencies as well as private entities related to health disparities.
- Developing a report with demographic analyses on health and mental health disparities and inequities, updated periodically but not less than every two years, highlighting the underlying conditions that contribute to health and well-being, accompanied by a comprehensive, cross-sectoral strategic plan to eliminate health and mental health disparities.
- Transparency through making the data easily accessible to all Californians through different means such as biannual reports, issue briefs, and dissemination through a website in order to measure and track disparities among vulnerable population groups.

Projects

The OHE published its first demographic report on 2015 as part of its [Portrait of Promise](#). This is the first State report that presents a comprehensive analysis of the status of the social determinants of health in California with evidence of the impacts that an inequitable distribution of resources has on health.

Since its creation OHE has also been producing and publishing statistical measures or indicators of the social determinants of health that provide ways to assess the current status of community health, equity, and vulnerability to climate change across the State. There are two indicator projects lead by HRSU:

- [Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project \(HCI\)](#)

- [Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators \(CHVI\)](#)

The HCI provides data to assess community health and equity following the framework “What is a Healthy Community?” from the California Health in All Policies Task Force. The first set of 31 indicators was released to the public between the years 2012-2015 on the [CDPH website](#) and on the [Open Data Portal](#) (search term HCI). The HCI project has engaged with internal partners and State agencies to vet indicator definitions and datasets. The data has been used by [Let’s Get Healthy California](#) and [external partners](#), and it is being used by epidemiologists for reporting and accreditation and by public health researchers.

The CHVI provides data and tools to local health departments and partners to better understand the people and places in their jurisdictions that are more susceptible to adverse health impacts associated with climate change, specifically extreme heat, wildfire, sea level rise, drought, and poor air quality. The assessment data can be used to screen and prioritize where to focus deeper analysis and plan for public health actions to increase resilience. The factors that make communities healthy also increase their resilience to climate change. The CHVI uses the [Building Resilience against Climate Effects](#) framework from the CDC.

The data in these projects helps OHE meet its legislative mandate and will from now on constitute the OHE demographic report. The data will be presented to the public on the [cdph.ca.gov](#) website. HRSU is currently updating datasets and developing interactive data visualizations using Tableau.

UPDATES

Human Resources

Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)

- There is one vacancy for a Health Program Specialist I for the Native American contract monitor for CRDP. Due to a hiring hold directed by CDPH leadership on OHE vacant positions, it is unknown at this time when CDEU will get approval to proceed with the advertising, recruitment and hiring for this critical position.

Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit (HEPPU)

- A Research Scientist IV will start 09/01/2017.

Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

- The tentative start date for the Chief, Research Scientist Supervisor II is set for 09/25/17.

Financial

- No updates at this time

Activities

OHE-wide

Intra-Government Support

- OHE staff met with several branch chiefs from the Department of Social Services to provide support to their internal professional development planning. Of particular interest was planning training and other capacity building for racial and health equity.
- OHE and Fusion Center staff collaborated to host a roundtable learning session with Jen Lewis, Special Projects Director at Sonoma County Department of Health Services and nationally recognized leader in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's program to create collaborative solutions that address health inequities and move communities and organizations toward a Culture of Health.

Advisory Committee

- Virginia Hedrick, MPH (Yurok), Director of Policy and Planning for the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health, is the newest member of the Advisory Committee and will be featured in the next newsletter.

- Staff has been working with Advisory Committee member Manel Kappagoda, senior staff attorney at ChangeLab Solutions on drafting an issue brief that examines the relationship between the treatment of immigrants and the impacts on public health. The issue brief has been reviewed by Dr. Smith and is awaiting review and approval by Agency.
- In its quest to put a spotlight on areas of the state that are confronting stark inequities and explore how the state can better align with local efforts, planning is underway for the next Advisory Committee meeting to be held in Marin City on 9/28/17. Dr. Smith, Marin County public health officer, Dr. Matt Willis, and JayVon Muhammad, Chief Executive Officer, Marin City Health and Wellness Center will be featured guests.

Partnership and Pipeline Development

- Staff worked closely with UC Berkeley interns to host a statewide think tank on 8/8/17 on Portrait of Promise Goal AC1.1: "Identify how local communities are currently mobilizing to address the social determinants of health and how they are measuring their efforts toward progress." A team of University of San Francisco graduate students have been oriented to continue the project.
- Responding to a request from OQPA, OHE staff interviewed a prospective intern, Abigail Pereyra, and offered her an internship with our office.
- Staff sent a proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation detailing how OHE and RWJF could formally partner, particularly on gender lens work that impacts systems change.
- Staff met with the Executive Director of the California Immigrant Policy Center and explored opportunities for partnership.

OHE Units

Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)

- CDEU and HRSU staff led a convening of various CDPH program leads to discuss a data analysis request submitted by a Pacific Islander Taskforce who is seeking data components related to vital statistics, health status and access to care, behavioral health, chronic conditions, etc. OHE will work collaboratively with other CDPH programs to outline the scope by which they will be able to support this request.
- CDEU and HRSU staff held a meeting with Daniela Simunovic, Senior Program Analyst with the Strategic Growth Council to discuss the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC). The TCC Program will be investing \$140 Million to support the development of neighborhood level plans, in the states most disadvantaged communities, to address environmental, economic and public health disparities. OHE staff provided technical assistance related to strategies to reduce barriers that disadvantaged communities encounter when trying to access state funding programs and innovative community engagement processes.

- CDEU Chief was invited by the CA State University, Colleges of Health & Human Services and Continuing Education, to participate in a focus group with other public health industry leaders to explore the development of a new graduate program in Public Health (MPH) in the Sacramento region scheduled for 2019.
- CDEU staff attended a School-Based Health Alliance Training. OHE is looking at obtaining funding, however the grant is focused on direct service delivery. There are potential departmental partnerships to come, therefore a follow-up meeting is scheduled for September.
- CDEU LGBTQ contract manager attended a Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services training in Long Beach, whereby community engagement strategies and cultural humility were the focus.
- CDEU LGBTQ contract manager accompanied UC Davis intern Marisol Beas to LGBTQ Connection and Openhouse and served as a cultural broker to facilitate community member interviews to help a rising public health leader fulfil her project goals.
- CDEU staff attended San Joaquin Pride Center’s Unity Parade and Pride Festival, supporting CRDP grantee success and community engagement activities to enhance CDEU’s growing subject matter expertise with LGBTQ communities.
- CDEU staff attended the WorkGroup for Eliminating Disparities & Disproportionalities (WGEDD), a workgroup of the Statewide Interagency Team (SIT) and participated in the planning of group activities over the next year as the workgroup sunsets next fall. Activities include dissemination and piloting of Debiasing & the Racial Impact Tool and presenting to the SIT on how best to incorporate WGEDD’s work into remaining workgroups post WGEDD sunset.
- CDEU staff is planning and coordinating the CRDP Annual collaboration meeting which will bring together 41 contractors/grantees representing primarily community based organizations for knowledge exchange and collaborative partnership building. Our very own Dr. Tamu Nolfo, along with Dr. Nina Wallerstein (Community Based Participatory Research) subject matter expert, and Captain Andrew Hunt from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration are confirmed presenters. This meeting will be held on October 18-19, 2017 in Sacramento.

Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit (HEPPU)

Climate Change and Health Equity Program (CCHPEP):

- Integrated over 100 comments into public health chapter of Safeguarding California.
- Briefed Saul Gomez of the Governor’s Office on CDPH climate change activities, and met with Aimee Barnes of the Governor’s Office to scope out CDPH’s role in

planning the Global Climate Action Summit hosted by Governor Brown in summer 2018.

- Integrated health and equity into implementing language on the multi-agency SB 350 “Barriers” Task Force led by the Governor’s Office (addressing barriers to accessing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation).
- Integrated health and equity tools and language into five grant guidelines:
 - Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, administered by SGC: Implementation Grants totaling \$140 million (FY2016-17).
 - SB 1 transportation grants administered by CalSTA and Caltrans: Sustainable Communities Grants: \$25 million (FY2017-18), Adaptation Planning Grants: \$20 million (FY2017-20), State Rail Assistance Program: \$105 million (FY2017-20), and Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program: \$1.4 billion (FY2017-23).
- Participated in multi-agency meetings: Scoping Plan Transportation Sector implementation; CNRA facilitated meeting regarding community concerns about exposure to pesticides from food and agriculture, and other toxins.
- Attended BRACE strategizing meeting with the CDC and grantees from other states.
- Led Contra Costa County Low-Income Weatherization and Health Pilot Project to increase access to weatherization services for low-income people with health conditions.
- Led collaborative design of research plan to assess the health impacts of weatherization and energy efficiency services provided to low-income households in California through the Climate Change Investments administered by CSD.
- Moderated and presented in webinars and meetings: i) San Luis Obispo County webinar series, Communicating Climate Change as a Public Health Issue; ii) Southern California Association of Governments Public Health Workgroup, iii) OPR Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program.
- Provided health equity comments for ARB's SB 375 Target Update Draft Staff Report on meeting regional GHG targets through integrated land use and transportation planning
- Provided technical assistance to the Department of General Services for addressing health equity and climate change through the Sustainability Roadmap process (on state facilities)

Health in All Policies initiative (HiAP):

- HiAP Task Force new Action Plans: Action Plan to Promote Parks, Open Space, and Healthy Tree Canopy (Greening Action Plan) and the Equity in Government Practices Action Plan are both in final review by Task Force members and are anticipated to be

endorsed by the Strategic Growth Council at their October Council meeting. As part of an early action of the Greening Action Plan, NEOPB, State Parks, and HiAP staff met to finalize parks pilot project bringing physical activity programs to local underserved parks.

- HiAP Task Force Active Transportation Action Plan: HiAP staff have been working with the Government Operations Agency (GovOps) and other departments to develop the Bicycle Commuter Reimbursement Program, which would provide \$20/month benefit to employees who use their bicycle as the primary means of commuting to work.
- Racial and Health Equity Initiative: Conducted key informant interviews following the pilot racial and health equity trainings. Finalizing quantitative analysis of pre- and post-tests completed by training participants. Received input on All Staff Equity Survey from Legal Services, Office of Compliance, and Human Resources. Currently waiting to present survey to PHEMT before administering to all staff.

Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

Trainings, Presentations and Workshops

- HRSU completed updates to three indicators of the Healthy Communities Data and Indicators project: Education - education attainment (adults), Housing – household overcrowding, and built environment - access to parks.
- HRSU will hold a meeting on September 6th to talk about progress towards the web-based OHE demographic report with OHE leadership.
- HRSU will be presenting on the Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project on September 13th for the Health in All Policies Task Force.
- On August 4th, HRSU participated in a call with Daniela Simunovic from SGC to discuss plans for Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) project and lessons they can learn from CRDP.
- On August 29th, HRSU will participated in the Fusion Center’s third Think Tank on Youth programs and Policies.
- HRSU completed the first draft of a policy brief on discrimination and health. HRSU requested the review of the document by key staff in OHE and it’s expecting to receive feedback by September 15th. This policy brief presents an integrative review of the literature examining the associations between discrimination and adverse physical and mental health outcomes and the adversely affected population groups studied. California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, 2014 data was used to create the data points and figures based on the seven questions submitted by HRSU. The brief discusses discrimination experienced by people of California in relation to employment, interactions with the police, education,

housing, and policies implemented and recommended to prevent discrimination including state level policies, interventions adopted by law enforcement, and recommendations suggested from research studies.

Communications

- No updates at this time

Legislation

- CDEU is informally watching AB 850, which adds a seat to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for a person with knowledge and experience with reducing mental health disparities, specifically for racial and ethnic communities.

Decision Points

- CDEU is waiting on the approval of the CRDP Statewide Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Disparities. This final draft report has been with Agency for more than a year. The CA Pan Ethnic Health Network cannot complete their final deliverable per their contract due to this delay.
- CDEU is in a holding pattern on the final CRDP Phase II component; the Education, Outreach & Awareness concept. A summary has been provided to Susan Fanelli, a few weeks ago, to obtain approval to share a pre-draft solicitation with stakeholders for input. We cannot move forward with issuing this solicitation until this step is completed. Stakeholders continue to ask for a timeline for release of this solicitation. CDEU is requesting a meeting to discuss next steps and to address any departmental concerns.
- CDEU is requesting a timeline from CDPH leadership on being able to move forward with the hiring for the vacancy in the unit.