

# 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 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

#### *Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI)*

The goal of HCI is to enhance public health by providing data, a standardized set of statistical measures, and tools that a broad array of sectors can use for planning healthy communities and evaluating the impact of plans, projects, policy, and environmental changes on community health. The initial phase of the project (2012-2014) was a 2-year collaboration of the CDPH and the University of California, San Francisco with funding by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), to create and disseminate indicators linked to the Healthy Communities Framework. This framework was developed by the SGC Health in All Policies Task Force with extensive public discussion and input from community stakeholders and public health organizations.

## *Portrait of Promise Demographic Report and Strategic Plan*

HRSU is responsible for synthesizing and analyzing data to provide the Portrait of Promise report and subsequent biennial statistical profiles of health and mental health inequity in California, thereby providing a baseline against which progress can be measure.

## **Policy Unit**

### **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 Policy 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 Policy Unit 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 (CCHPEP)*

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. CCHPEP 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.

# 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.

### Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

- An offer was made and accepted on 08/02/17 and a tentative start date for the Chief, Research Scientist Supervisor II is set for 09/25/17.

### Policy Unit

- A Research Scientist IV will start 09/01/2017.
- A RPA will be submitted shortly to HRB for a Health Program Specialist I for Health in All Policies.
- Currently recruiting for a Health Program Specialist I for the Climate Action Team. The final filing date was 08/22/017.

## Financial

- Please see attachment

## Activities

### OHE-wide

- OHE staff participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Sacramento and Richmond.

### Trainings, Presentations and Workshops

- Tamu to the CA Arts Council grantees at the Arts in Corrections: Building Bridges to the Future conference at Loyola Marymount University. Her presentation was entitled Creating Culturally & Linguistically Competent Services and Providers.
- At the Arts in Corrections conference, Tamu co-presented a workshop to a national audience along with her invited guest Jason Quezada, a formerly incarcerated staff member

of Street Poets and advocate on behalf of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. The theme and title of their workshop was Cultural Equity and the Arts.

- Tamu presented in Marin City to the ISOJI Coalition and their invited guests on the potential to formally partner on Portrait of Promise. Those in attendance included representatives from multiple sectors addressing the social determinants of health in Marin City. The stark inequities coupled with the tremendous interest in engaging with the Office of Health Equity has prompted the next Advisory Committee meeting to be held in Marin City on 9/28/17. Dr. Smith is anticipated to be a featured guest.
- Tamu conducted a training session in San Francisco at the Bay Area Air Quality Resources District to support their involvement as a member of the Government Alliance for Race and Equity. The session was entitled What Does it Mean to be a Culturally Competent Organization?

#### Advisory Committee

- Sarah de Guia, Executive Director of the California Pan Ethnic Health Network is the newest member of the Advisory Committee and will be featured in the next newsletter.
- Tamu and Dante met with Advisory Committee member Donnell Ewert, director of Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, and Charlene Romont, who supervises their health equity unit, to plan a stakeholder forum for OHE to get better acquainted with the needs of California's rural north. This forum, which has been scheduled for 10/26/17 in Redding, will feature a partnership between OHE and Sierra Health Foundation (SHF). Jahmal and Sierra Health Foundation (SHF) leadership have committed to participating. A tour of the area and an exchange between Health and Human Services, Office of Health Equity (OHE) and SHF staff on how to build internal systems and structures to sustain health equity work is expected as part of the visit.
- Tamu 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.

#### Partnership and Pipeline Development

- Tamu and Dulce forged a partnership with the University of San Francisco to enlist their graduate students in the implementation of 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."
- Tamu and Dante met with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) staff Maisha Simmons and Cathy Malone on 7/17/17. On this call, Tamu pitched ideas for how OHE and RWJF could formally partner, particularly on gender lens work that impacts systems change. OHE was asked to follow up by submitting a brief proposal, which Tamu is currently drafting.

## OHE Units

### Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)

- CDEU staff served in a lead capacity on the National Office of Minority Health's first ever Behavioral Health Committee to review and develop the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Population Briefs that will be shared nationally. Additionally, staff is serving in a lead capacity in to organize a webinar on national, statewide and local efforts to address mental health inequities & disparities.
- CDEU staff is leading efforts department wide and working closely with Jim Suenen with CA Health & Human Services Agency on planning efforts for Native American Day scheduled for September, 2018.
- CDEU staff is participating in ongoing efforts to enhance the gender lens within OHE by working closely with gender lens experts to outline strategies that OHE can utilize in program/policy development, design and implementation.
- 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. This meeting will be held on October 18-19, 2017 in Sacramento.
- CDEU staff participated in the Health in All Policies Violence Prevention Work Group to provide expertise on mental health considerations and strategies for engaging diverse populations.
- CDEU staff presented at various venues such as the Community Connections Forum in Yuba City, Gender Spectrum Conference in the Bay area and internally at CDPH for the Fiscal Management Branch on the CRDP.
- CDEU staff continues to provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise to internal and external stakeholders (i.e. Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission, Truven (federal level contractor's researching health plans, etc.), on community engagement processes, working with vulnerable populations and how to develop solicitation mechanisms.
- CDEU staff is overseeing one Master's level intern and in the process of onboarding another Master's level intern to develop emerging leaders from underserved populations.

### Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

- Rafael Colonna participated in HiAP's Think Tank on Youth Programs and Policies, Session 2: Data Collection and Evaluation. At the Think Tank, Rafael provided an overview on CRDP Framework and Evaluation Design.

- Dulce Bustamante and Meredith Milet participated in the Health Disadvantage Index steering committee. This is a project lead by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California.
- Dulce Bustamante and Meredith Milet participated in the Transformative Climate Communities steering committee meetings. HRSU is providing technical assistance in relation to the health and well-being goals of this grant program.
- Dulce Bustamante and Meredith Lee (Policy Unit) met with Department of Transportation (DOT) team to provide technical assistance regarding health data for a DOT data visualization project.
- Rafael Colonna, Dulce Bustamante-Zamora, and Marina Augusto (CDEU) will participate in a CDPH interoffice meeting to discuss a response to the data analysis request submitted to CDPH by the Pacific Islander Taskforce Data Initiative.
- The Public Health Alliance of Southern California has also completed a contract with CDPH to create data visualizations of the CalBRACE (California Building Resilience against Climate Effects) indicator data. This also included policy briefs outlining best practices to address the climate risks addressed in the indicator data. These will be part of the Health Disadvantage Index.
- Meredith Milet is presenting at a San Luis Obispo County webinar series, Communicating Climate Change as a Public Health Issue. Her talk is part of the Climate Change Planning Tools webinar, and will focus on the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators for California and the Climate Change and Health Profile Reports.
- Ongoing Collaboration and Technical Assistance:
  - California Air Resources Board and review of their research projects and plans, as they relate to climate and health
  - California Community Burden of Disease project led by Dr. Michael Samuel in the Fusion Center. Dulce Bustamante and Ben Hicks participate in the technical team.
  - Let's Get Healthy California team. Held planning meeting on July 24th. Agreed to undertake a disparities surveillance project using LGHC indicators.
  - Open Data Portal technical review team. Madhurima Gadgil participates in the review team.
  - CDPH GIS team. Held meeting on July 21st to discuss data visualization options using ArcGIS Online.
  - Blanket marketing group to produce a demographic Report General Outline, and infographic template.

### **Policy Unit**

- Successfully administered 5 racial equity trainings and 6 health equity 101 trainings to approximately 250 CDPH staff



- Served on various external steering committees, advisory groups, technical advisory committees, and research proposal and grant review committees, to provide input and represent public health and health equity voice
- Participated in development of various program guidelines for a suite of programs funded by recently passed SB 1
- Conducted briefing the CDPH Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs and Janne Olson-Morgan of CHHS on climate change and health activities in CDPH
- Hosted and facilitated the July 18 Climate Action Team Public Health Workgroup meeting on active transportation, land use, health equity, and climate change, which was attended by approximately 80 participants representing over 34 organizations and agencies
- Sponsored and provided the welcome at the World Institute on Disability workshop on disability, health equity, and climate change
- Continued to integrate public health and health equity comments into state plans, policies, and programs, including for the state climate change adaptation plan (Safeguarding CA), and the statewide climate change mitigation strategy (Scoping Plan)
- Began to develop a literature review and white paper on the public health and health equity implications of possible scenarios for the deployment of autonomous vehicles in California
- Continued to maintain and advance existing action plans, work plans, issue briefs, research plans, and other initiatives
- Provided consultation, technical assistance, and/or resources to external partners and stakeholders, including the following state agencies / departments:
  - Air Resources Board
  - Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency
  - CA State Transportation Agency
  - CA Transportation Commission
  - Dept. of Housing and Community Development
  - Dept. of Parks and Recreation
  - Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
  - Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans)
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Governor's Office
  - Governor's Office of Planning and Research
  - Health and Human Services Agency
  - Natural Resources Agency
  - Strategic Growth Council

## Communications

- Represented OHE at Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce Event. Served as a speaker on panel addressing health concerns of African Americans. More than 150 chamber members were in attendance where I presented on the social determinants of health and health equity implications for African Americans.
- Continued management of OHE branding and multimedia work including “What is Health Equity?” informational video, managing OHE pages of the CDPH website.
- Published OHE stakeholder newsletter with updated look and feel. This issue focused on Pride month, and included information from CDPH partners including the Office of AIDS, as well as Governor Brown’s Climate Alliance announcement. This issue garnered nearly a 30 percent open and click through rate, which is nearly double the national average for similar publications.
- As part of our communications strategy, we have secured panelists and completed planning and logistics to lead a workshop at the National Association of Black Journalists Annual Convention. The panel, which will be held on August 10, 2017, will focus on Health Equity Issues in Media Coverage. This conference is the nation’s largest gathering of African American journalists and communications professionals. OHE Deputy Director Jahmal Miller will moderate a panel discussion featuring public health practitioners from around the country.
- Policy Unit responded to three media requests through OPA regarding the connection between extreme heat, wildfire, health and climate change.

## Legislation

- Bill analysis: Jenny Nguyen submitted an analysis of SB 10 and the secondary analysis for AB 1520.

## 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.