



Office of the City Manager

## INFORMATION CALENDAR

April 20, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Community Health Commission  
 Submitted by: May Simpson, Chairperson, Community Health Commission  
 Subject: Community Health Commission 2021 Work Plan

### INTRODUCTION

The Community Health Commission has updated its 2021 work plan, which outlines Commission goals and priorities for the current year. This work plan is guided through a health equity lens seeking to address the health inequities in Berkeley, while advancing other pertinent public health efforts.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the special meeting on December 10, 2020, the Community Health Commission took the following action:

M/S/C (Webber/Rosales): Motion to approve 2021 Community Health Commission Work Plan.

**Ayes:** Engelman, Webber, Carter, Smart, Gilman, Spigner, Rosales, Katz, Imai.

**Noes:** None.

**Absent:** Nightingale, Rojas-Cheatham, Porter.

### BACKGROUND

See attached Work Plan (Attachment 1).

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental impacts or opportunities were identified as a result of this recommendation.

### POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Based on Commission research and public hearings, new initiatives and recommendations to City Council may be submitted to City Council at such time deemed necessary.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

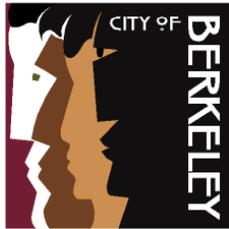
No fiscal impacts determined at this time.

CONTACT PERSON

Roberto Terrones, Commission Secretary, HHCS, PH, (510) 981-5324

Attachments:

1: Community Health Commission 2021 Work Plan



Office of the City Manager

## Community Health Commission 2021 Work Plan

Guiding Philosophy: To look at health through the lens of equity, and to address, ameliorate, and abolish health inequities in Berkeley through our work while advancing other public health efforts.

### Mission/Purpose:

1. Collaborate with the community and the Berkeley Public Health Division, and City of Berkeley to eliminate health inequity by:
  - a. Advocating for good policy to council that has the potential to improve the health of Berkeley residents that can be implemented, monitored, and evaluated.
  - b. Representing the community through the diversity of this commission
  - c. Increasing the public education/social marketing efforts, understanding, and awareness of issues
  - d. Advocating together with the residents of Berkeley most affected by institutional, social, organizational inequities/disparities
  - e. Providing a public forum for all community members to share concerns, ideas
2. Achieve general public health progress by being responsive to community needs and facilitating general health and safety.

### Overall goals, issues & priorities: All issues can be addressed through a health equity lens.

- Include a focus on the impact of covid-19 and the city's response to it
- Increase healthy food security
- Advocate for the expansion of affordable housing
- Continue to urge that Alta Bates Berkeley Medical Campus remain open while also helping to suggest actions to address consequences of planned closure
- Be responsive in potential recommendations to help Berkeley residents, and care providers and clinics cope with potential federal disruption in healthcare policy and federal spending cuts
- Further address more social determinants of health
- Continue to be a community advocate to City Council to address structural, institutional, and health inequities impacting all underserved populations

- Work to have community health data measures documented in a timely manner and to promptly evaluate and act on novel data such as the Health Status Report
- Work to support policies and initiatives that advance UHC such as Medicare for all
- Advise the City Council as the Public Health Department develop their strategic plan

General steps and actions needed to meet priorities:

1. Better follow up with council implementations
2. Conduct outreach to encourage the Berkeley community to engage with the CHC
3. Collaborate with other commissions to share resources and support recommendations
4. Focused/specialized ad-hoc subcommittees
5. Keep track of local, state, and federal policy and data flow

Specific steps and actions needed to meet priorities: Subcommittees

- **Strategic Planning subcommittee**
  - Serve as point of contact with Public Health Division for city's strategic plan and facilitate deliberation between full commission and division.
  - Recommend structure of portion of agenda to educate commission on strategic plan development
- **Acute Services for Berkeley**
  - Continue to recommend actions to keep Alta Bates open
  - Consider ways to increase emergency care access in Berkeley
- **Basic Needs Security**

Focus on healthy food security and affordable/accessible housing

  - In terms of healthy food security:
    - Identify food recovery donation systems
    - Connect communities with healthy food resources (awareness)
    - Advocate for policies to mitigate unhealthy food consumption
    - Advocate for affordability and accessibility of healthy foods
      - in supporting programs like the Berkeley Food Institute, etc.,
  - In terms of accessible/affordable housing:
    - Identify areas of stark homelessness
    - Connect homeless communities with resources (awareness)
    - Advocate for affordable housing
    - Advocate for increased rent control

- Investigate how Covid-19 has exposed and increased the impact of inequities on basic needs of Berkeley residents
- Connect with the community based organizations and appropriate city of Berkeley departments to acquire information about available resources for Berkeley residents.
- Work with community based organizations to disseminate resources to Berkeley residents around basic needs, including housing, food, healthcare, and public health care
- **Policy tracking**
  - Track City Council minutes, state, and national legislative actions
  - Priority areas:
    - Affordable housing throughout the city of Berkeley
    - Homeless encampments: ensure they are receiving necessary care and resources
    - Covid-19 related policies
      - Access to education due to remote learning
- **Health Equity Subcommittee**
  - Engage Stakeholders on LGBT health equity issues to help complement findings of the Health Status Report
  - Follow up on status of the African American Holistic Resource Center
  - Work on cultural competency for health care providers
  - Review the Health Status Report- dialogues with staff and community to investigate the data and inequities, and recommend program interventions for the City Public Health Division
  - Implement efforts to improve immigrant access to health care
  - Investigate community access to telehealth and other technologies to improve healthcare equity
  - Meet with the public health officer to be informed and updated regarding the city's response to Covid-19, including the vaccination program, and ensure the consideration of health equity to include at risk populations based on emerging literature
- **Chronic Disease Prevention**
  - Recommend presenters that can educate the commission on innovative approaches to chronic disease prevention
  - Consider the use of high profile figures in media campaigns to educate the community about chronic disease prevention.
  - Recommend interventions to address diabetes, obesity, heart diseases, and other chronic conditions highlighted by the Berkeley health status report.

- Recommend interventions to respond to deferred preventative care due to covid-19

➤ **Cannabis**

- Advocating for holistic education of cannabis use throughout the community
- Assessing holistically the risks and benefits of cannabis use in terms of community health
- Assessing holistically how cannabis should be integrated within the local economy while maintaining the health of the community .i.e. nurseries, dispensaries, etc.
- Prioritizing community health following the legalization of cannabis with emphasis on holistically understanding the risk and benefits of cannabis