



## HLM Collaborative Meeting **HIGHLIGHTS** April 24, 2015, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM DePelchin Children's Center

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Albert Cheng, HCPHES  
Alicia Lee, Greater Houston Partnership  
Ann Barnes, Legacy Health Services, *HLM Chair*  
Anna Brewster, MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Anna Sedillo, City of Houston Planning &  
\*Development  
Ashleigh Johnson  
Brenda Cantero, UT School of Public Health  
Catherine Butsch, Houston Parks Board  
Chelsea Arkadie, Goose Creek CISD  
Chelsea St. Louis, Houston-Galveston Area Council  
Chris Browne, EHRA, *HLM Executive Committee*  
DeAngela Hayes, Avenue CDC  
Elizabeth Jeffers, Kids' Meals  
Elizabeth LoCaste, Memorial Herman Community  
\*Benefit Corp  
Ellen Schwaller, HCPHES  
Elyse Heob, Shape Up Houston  
Emily Wei, Shape Up Houston  
Gracie Cavnar, Recipe for Success Foundation  
Jay Crossley, Houston Tomorrow  
Jennifer Hadayia, HCPHES  
Jennifer Sanchez, U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Jenny Rowlands, Texas Children's Health Plan  
Jometra Pinesette, American Heart Association  
Katie Chennisi, HCPHES  
Kevin McNally, HCPHES

Lan Bentsen, Shape Tomorrow  
Lemel Jones, Target Hunger  
Libby Kennedy, Urban Harvest  
Linda Civallero, MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Lisa Mayes, Harris County Healthcare Alliance  
Lisa Kasianowitz, Houston Parks Board  
Maryiam Saifuddin, Houston Food Bank  
Megan Hoag, Texas Hunger Initiative  
Michelle Galindo  
Monica Triplett, Kateland Consulting Group  
Patricia Tinoco, HCPHES  
Rocaille Roberts, HCPHES  
Sandra Wicoff, Urban Harvest  
Shalon Jones, HCPHES  
Shalonda Tucker, American Heart Association  
Stephen Collazo, Harris County Healthcare Alliance  
Tamara Bourda, CHI St. Luke's Health  
Tim Schauer, Cornerstone Government Affairs  
Tommy Garcia-Prats, Small Places LLC  
Trisha Amboree, Shape Up Houston  
Veronica Garza, Planned Parenthood  
Victoria Gbenjo, UT School of Public Health  
Wayne Holt, City of Pasadena  
Wilma Wang, AAHC-Hope Clinic  
Yen Ly, AAHC-Hope Clinic

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Welcome

*Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes, HLM Executive Committee Chair*

Dr. Smith-Barnes welcomed members to the April 2015 Collaborative Meeting and noted the outstanding turn-out of attendees.



Left Photo: Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes & Meeting Attendees



Right Photo: Tim Schauer & Meeting Attendees

### Legislative and Policy Update

*Tim Schauer, Cornerstone Government Affairs*

Mr. Schauer provided an overview of the current state of the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislative Session and HLM's role in advancing the EAT, PLAY, LEARN domains of the HLM Community Action Plan and its policy priority strategies, which kicked off with HLM's Legislative Briefing at the Capitol. He noted that the session is moving at a significantly slower pace than in prior sessions, so many bills have had less progress than would have been expected at this point in the session. He then reviewed the HLM Policy Actions handout as of April 24, 2015, highlighting the following:

- **Global Policy on Childhood Obesity.** This bill will not be moving forward primarily due to the fact that Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Sunset Bill did not progress and, therefore, TDSHS's structure will likely remain unchanged.
- **Physical Education (PE) Requirements.** This bill is awaiting a hearing.
- **Policy to Develop Guidelines to Educate/Incent Providers as Role Models.** This is a unique bill in the session that has been championed by HLM. It died in committee due to the perception that it would become a new mandate. We tried to address this confusion (with Legislators from outside our region), but were unsuccessful.

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"I hear this all the time from people who work for non-profits and governmental entities: you can't get involved because of lobbying restrictions in your professional capacity. But, please know that you can always represent yourself on your own time. You're still an American." – Tim Schauer

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- **Breastfeeding Protections.**

Some additional work has been focused on preventing legislation that would result in outcomes that are counter to HLM goals. One example is a bill to eliminate Fitnessgram. Mr. Schauer closed by noting that the session will end on June (followed by a 21-day veto period allowed by the Governor) and that, in the meantime, there will be Action Alerts on HLM priority legislation sent to members via email. Members are encouraged to respond by calling and emailing elected officials in response to the alerts.

## Charrette Framework Exercise

*Moderator: Chris Browne, Department Manager, Land Planning, EHRA  
HLM Executive Committee Co-Chair*

Mr. Browne explained that the goals of this exercise are to: (1) provide a high-level overview of the Bayou Greenways project, which contributes to active living, which is one of HLM's policy goals to curb childhood obesity and (2) create a framework for ongoing assessment of built environment impacts that can be utilized by HLM, stakeholders and in communities. It will begin with a panel presentation and then include a group exercise.

- A. **Catherine Butsch.** *Houston Parks Board.* Bayou Greenways 2020 aims to add parkways alongside all current bayous (a total of 4,000 new acres and 150 new miles of greenways, funded through bonds and private funds). A commissioned study estimated ROI related to physical and mental health, environmental health, and economic health. These benefits include: preservation of natural beauty, opportunities for physical activities, access to nature, alternative commuting, and flood alleviation. The project will also create a more equitable distribution of greenspace throughout Harris County, stated Ms. Butsch, it will “bring parkland into neighborhoods that are historically underserved.” At the end of the project, 60% of the Houston population will live within 1.5 miles of a greenway.

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“Bayou Greenways 2020 will bring parkland into neighborhoods that are historically underserved.”  
– Catherine Butsch

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Left Photo: Catherine Butsch & Meeting Attendees



Right Photo: Jay Crossley & Meeting Attendees



B. **Jay Crossley.** *Houston Tomorrow.* Mr. Crossley described Complete Streets, which is: context sensitive (i.e., design that takes into account the safety and comfort of all users), a philosophy of designing, funding, and supporting streets to optimize the utility of the public right of way for the most people possible, and a multimodal form of transportation. A part of Complete Streets is the concept of Neighborhood Greenways, which connects residential neighborhood streets to the Bayou Greenways. Houston Tomorrow is proposing pilots at the Super Neighborhood unit-level to re-designed streets with low car usage that would connect to the bayou greenways using the city of Portland as a model, which includes water sustainable elements and signage.

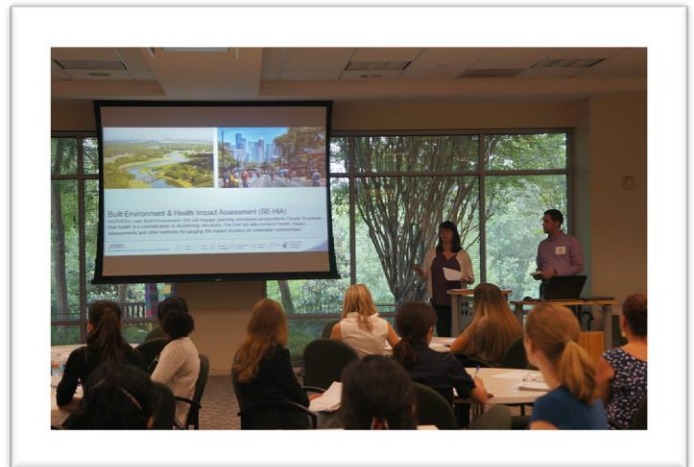
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“We shouldn’t be afraid of streets for walking and biking. We all want to get to the same destinations. That’s why Complete Streets is so important.”  
– Jay Crossley

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C. **Ellen Schwaller & Kevin McNally.** *HCPHES.* Ms. Schwaller described HCPHES’s new Built Environment and Health Impact Assessment Unit (BE-HIA). She explained that an HIA is a structured scientific process for assessing the impact of policy on health. Mr. McNally described an example of a community where the new Unit will be conducting an HIA: East Aldine. Lastly, Ms. Schwaller outlined a list of sectors and organizations that should be engaged during the East Aldine HIA, including municipal and county government, community-based organizations,

environmental advocacy groups, schools, coalitions, hospitals/clinics, and residents.



Above Photo: Ellen Schwaller, Kevin McNally & Meeting Attendees

Mr. Browne “set the stage” for the exercise, providing four considerations: (1) acknowledge the health benefits of nearby recreation, (2) ensure ideas translate via neighborhood circumstances, (3) ensure ideas can be repeatable across Harris County, and (4) be creative. He then led a high-level brainstorm on stakeholders in four areas:

1. **Government, Business, and Professional Stakeholders:**

American Planning Association	CenterPoint Energy	Complete Streets Coalition
Houston Business Coalitions	Reliant Energy	MUD
Greater Houston Partnership	Union Pacific	Bayou Preservation Groups
Super Neighborhoods	Texas Department of Transportation	School Districts
Council Members	Texas Parks & Wildlife	Star Tex Developers
Harris Health System	County Commissioners	National Parks Service
Management Districts	Chambers of Commerce	TIRZ
Clear Channel	Houston-Galveston Area Council	City of Houston Parks & Recreation
Civic Groups	Texas Medical Center	
Marketing/Media Groups	METRO	

## 2. Community and Neighborhood Stakeholders:

Pastoral/Minister Groups  
School Groups  
Community Development Corporations  
Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO)  
YMCA  
Scout Troops  
Community/Business Groups  
Neighborhood Centers Inc.  
Houston Housing Authority  
Harris County Housing Authority  
Houston Community Development Department

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (and other groups targeting Hispanic populations)  
AARP  
Grass Roots Groups  
Universities  
Food Pantries  
Multi-Purpose Centers  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
Local Clinics  
Police Departments  
Houston Area Urban League



Both Photos: Charrette Framework Exercise with Meeting Attendees

## 3. Design Components:

Urban Farms  
Exercise Stations  
Schools  
Museums  
Grocery Stores  
Public Restrooms  
Restaurants  
Event Centers  
Bike Share  
Trail Mix Trail  
Bike Repair Station  
Public Seating / Esplanades

Pocket Parks  
Bus Stops  
Swings  
Playgrounds  
Trees / Landscaping  
Noise Reduction  
Crosswalks  
Shopping Opportunities  
Sidewalks  
Safety  
Public Art  
Speed Bumps

Water  
Car Share  
Dog Parks  
Shade  
Charging Stations  
Community Gardens  
Farmers Markets  
Coffee Shops  
Cooling Stations  
Traffic Calming Measures  
Flood Control

#### 4. Individuals Components:

Bike Racks

Public Art

Maps

Trail Signage

Mile Markers

Wi-Fi

Shade Structures

Lighting

Pollinators

Native Plants

Kayaks

Historical Learning Stations

Guided Audio Tours

Trees

Water Fountains

Emergency Call Boxes

Wild Life

Interpretive Signage

Pedestrian Signage

ADA Ramps

Benches

Picnic Tables

Exercise Stations

Rock Walls



#### 5. Where? Near Northside, Sunnyside, Sims Bayou

### HLM Partners in Action

- Catherine Chennisi, Public Health Analyst, HCPHES

Ms. Chennisi described the HLM-Pasadena Community Task Force (CTF), which is a local version of the full HLM Collaborative targeted to the priority community of Pasadena as outlined in the HLM Community Action Plan (CAP). The CTF currently has 23 members who prioritized three CAP policies:

1. *Incentivize public lands for community gardens and Farmers Markets*
2. *Implement a safe neighborhoods policy; and*
3. *Support a community health literacy strategy*

From the CTF, she explained, another collaboration was developed in January 2015 in response to a funding opportunity called the Harris County BUILD Health Challenge to address the conditions that contribute to food insecurity in north Pasadena. Harris County's BUILD Health Challenge Partnership was one of only 16 selected for Round 2 of the national funding opportunity out of over 300 nationwide. Grantees will be notified by the end of May.



Above Photo: Catherine Chennisi & Meeting Attendees

- Wayne Holt, City of Pasadena

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“No other place in the U.S. has launched this type of venture as a collaboration between county, municipal, education, and commercial partners.”

– Wayne Holt

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Mr. Holt described the economic development needs in north Pasadena and how a vertical farming campus will be an economic development opportunity there. He reiterated how the CTF adopted this project as part of the BUILD Health Challenge grant application. He explained the current status of the project including a signed Letter of Intent between the city of Pasadena and Indoor Harvest Corp to repurpose two city facilities (a non-functioning

community services building and fire station) into a CSA that will include a workforce development and nutrition education component.



Left Photo: Wayne Holt & Meeting Attendees



Right Photo: HLM Meeting Attendees

## HLM Update and Challenge

*Dr. Ann Smith-Barnes, HLM Executive Committee Chair*

Dr. Smith-Barnes closed the meeting with an update on other Collaborative efforts including additional funding requests, including the BUILD Health Challenge (notice expected May 2015) and the Houston Endowment to which a three-year \$2.5 million grant request was submitted (notice expected September 2015). She noted that the Executive Committee continues to meet to discuss overall Collaborative sustainability. The next full HLM Collaborative meet will occur in late-July.

Dr. Smith-Barnes then referenced the challenge she issued to members: “to promote health in their sphere of influence”. Her small action was to offer fruit at work instead of candy and now others at her office are also bringing fruit. She invited others in attendance to share their changes:

*One member distributed healthy recipes to their staff and Board members during Healthy Nutrition Month.*

*Over 10,000 Houstonians participated in the national VegOut Challenge to eat 30 different vegetables in 30 days.*

*One member joined their local School Health Advisory Council.*

*ShapeUpHouston worked with Al's Formalwear to “Rethink Your Drink.” They also added water to their drink budget, and it exceeded the soda and coffee budget.*

*Houston Street Market just launched a community garden on the Navigation Esplanade.*