



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett
Subject: Health Equity & Innovation District

Recommendation

Referral to the Planning Commission, the Community Health Commission, the Commission on Aging, and the City Manager to establish a Health Equity & Innovation District (HID).

The goal of the HID is to reduce chronic racial health disparities and improve the overall public health strategy of Berkeley by fostering innovations in healthcare delivery, improving resiliency, and strengthening the integration of health services and systems. The HID is intended to draw investment and grant opportunities, as well as to explore the expansion of scope of practice for medical providers.

The City should explore incentives for health service organizations and health technology organizations that:

- A. Are sited within HID; AND
 - B. Offer free or low-cost direct health services to community members
- OR
- Partner with the City of Berkeley's Public Health Division or existing medical non-profits to deliver enhanced health programs and eliminate health disparities.

The City may seek to promote the following and other similar policies and programs:

- Remote Medicine:
 - Employing new technologies to deliver personal health and prevention solutions (such as tracking health data to identify opportunities for health improvement)
 - Platforms for active aging with the goal of maintaining and fostering the cognitive abilities of elderly patients suffering from cognitive impairments

- Remote consultations in order to provide residents, especially senior residents with chronic health conditions, with regular check-ins and follow-ups
- Data Analysis:
 - Surveying and statistical analysis to identify the communities' greatest health-related needs
 - Gathering environmental data (e.g. sensors monitoring air quality or other monitoring of the built environment) in order to evaluate health related impacts
 - Machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques in order to mine data to identify sources of health issues, such as lead contaminated paint or food poisoning, and cluster events
- Disaster Preparedness:
 - Analyzing and identifying improvements for the City's emergency disaster preparedness protocols and infrastructure, including incorporating mental health resilience and psychiatric first-aid
- Mental Health:
 - Internet and technology based cognitive behavioral therapy
- Mobile Services:
 - Mobile dentistry services, including high-speed and eco-friendly digital impression technology and mobile based tablet intraoral scanners
- Education and Resources:
 - Interactive kiosks that would help people identify, locate, and sign up for, resources, information, and services, including information regarding prevention of colds and flus, cancer, and diabetes
- Culturally Responsive Services
 - Supporting the development of a service network rooted in practices that will appropriately serve low-income communities of color.
 - Stay in alignment with Alameda County Innovation Report for culturally responsive service allocation.
 - Train providers in order to understand needs of population for adequate service delivery.
- Trauma informed Health Services
 - Supporting systems and staff in understanding trauma to better accommodate those with lived experience.
 - Funding coalitions and services that support the development of long term trauma informed services.
- Community Based Services
 - Development of coalition of organizations within health zone to address specific needs of community as identified in needs assessment.

Background

Health benefits are not experienced equally throughout the city. Health inequities in Berkeley persist in patterns based on race, ethnicity, geography, as well as income and education. For example, African American residents in South and West Berkeley have higher rates of adverse pregnancy outcomes, childhood asthma hospitalizations, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, and diabetes.¹

In an equitable region, individuals of all races, incomes, ages, genders, and other social identities have equal opportunities to live healthy lives. The investments and policies proposed by the South & West Berkeley Health Innovation Zone Pilot Program would reduce inequality and improve the lives of the city's most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents.

Berkeley is one of three California cities with its own Public Health division. This initiative seeks to expand upon the services provided by our Public Health division in order to promote health entrepreneurship and deliver next-generation health innovation to the entire Berkeley community.

As our population ages and inequality and homelessness continues to grow, we are faced with an increasing prevalence of chronic and degenerative conditions along with fragmented healthcare provision. We predict that there will be a growing demand for qualified services that only new models of care will be able to support. We must leverage innovation, encourage partnerships, and promote entrepreneurship in order to create infrastructure and services to increase equitable health promotion and risk prevention through education and service delivery.

The City of Berkeley's Public Health division recognizes health inequities as a priority and the City is committed to addressing and eliminating health inequities. This initiative would take another step in the direction of accomplishing this goal. This is meant to provide a model for best practices to aid the development of universal health care in California.

Financial Implications

¹ Compared to a white resident, an African American resident in Berkeley is:

- 20 times more likely to be a teen pregnant
- 2.5 times more likely to be born too small
- 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes
- 14 times more likely to be hospitalized for diabetes
- 12 times more likely to be hospitalized due to hypertensive heart disease
- 2 times more likely to die in a given year from any condition
- 2.5 times more likely to die of cardiovascular disease
- 9 times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma (this is for a child less than five years old)

Staff time.

Contact Person

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