



Date: September 2, 2015
To: City Council
From: Wanda Boone
Subject: Poverty Reduction Initiative; Health Task Force Update

Executive Summary

In response to the Mayor’s Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) that focuses on Census Tract 10.01, a number of task forces were created to look at different aspects of reducing poverty, supporting services and building wealth in this low-wealth area of the City. Council representatives and others co-chair the Task Forces. This Agenda Item is an interim report from the Health Subcommittee.

Background

The Health Task Force has been meeting over the past year. Guided by the PRI’s data collection processes that included Community Listening Sessions and PRI Questionnaire, Task Force members examined health disparities related to low resource communities, reviewed results of the community survey and compiled a list of potential initiatives.

Issues/Analysis

While there are many promising ideas and programs involving health, the task force has settled on the Community Health Worker (CHW) initiative. The CHW initiative is a complete program with a job description, administrative home, office location, salary and training. Residents from the focus area will be hired to do this work. The CHW initiative will serve as an “employment ladder” and an entry level into the health care profession

Activities Completed

- Established core competencies of the CHW position
- Determined administrative home and location for office when required
- Wrote job description (Department of Public Health position)
- Explored partnerships for workforce development including Social Services Work First program; Office of Economic, Workforce Development and the Work Force Training initiative

Upcoming Steps: Over the next 6 months,

- Continue creation of a training and certification program, working with Durham

Tech and the Durham County Department of Public Health

- Finalize credentialing and training curriculums
- Complete evaluation plan
- Work with Board of Public Health towards creating a credentialing program
- Continue efforts to locate sufficient funding for PRI area

The Health Task Force continues to meet bi-weekly, carrying out the action steps to alleviate issues residents have identified as their greatest needs. The Health Task Force will continue to inform, educate and include community members in our quest to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents within the impact area.

Alternatives: Not applicable

Financial Impact

Not applicable with this request to receive a presentation.

SDBE Summary

Not applicable