

HCI:HE HEALTH IN ACTION



KANSAS HEALTH
FOUNDATION



April-May 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- FEATURED RESOURCE LINKS
- COMMUNITY CONVENING HIGHLIGHTS

UPCOMING DATES:

- JUNE 1 -
ANNUAL GRANT STATUS REPORT DUE
QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT DUE
YEAR 3 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN DUE
- JUNE 10 -
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR
COMMUNITY LIAISONS

Featured Resource Links

- The aim of the Kansas Health Foundation's twice-monthly, [Health News: In Case You Missed It](#), is to collect and link to a variety of news stories connecting health issues on the state and national level.
- The ioby campaign "[Feed Arma](#)" from Crawford County is live now.
- Resources from the Community Convening on April 17-18 can be found at [this link](#).

Recap of April 17-18 Gathering

Nearly 100 participants from 18 grantee communities gathered at the Kansas Leadership Center to be a part of the April 2019 HCI:HE Community Gathering. Residents, Community Liaisons, Multi-Sector Team members and Technical Assistance Team members joined for two days of learning and sharing through general sessions, break-outs, panel discussions and community tours.

Day 1 began with "Building Civic Capacity to make Progress from Within" led by Joyce McEwen Crane of the Community Engagement Institute. This session explored the continuum of changes required to move from organization/coalition-led work to resident-led work. In addition, grantees were given the opportunity to explore where they are on the continuum and explore what growth might be needed to fully align with their residents.

Mary Marrow and Natasha Frost from the Public Health Law Center, and Christina Gentry from Douglas County invited participants to explore tough issues that are often at play when trying to make progress in their communities through "Challenges in Community Work". Specifically, speakers discussed how implicit bias and power dynamics must be recognized and navigated in order to be successful at resident-led work.

After this session, Community Liaisons facilitated discussions in separate rooms on resident engagement, sustainability of community work, and implicit bias and power dynamics. These conversations were created to provide space for participants to share their expertise and experience and discuss challenges they have encountered in this work. (continued on pg. 2)

The last afternoon session was led by Judy Hertz, David Hunt, and Laura McClintock of the Midwest Academy. The session demonstrated the Midwest Academy Strategy Chart, a powerful tool for assessing community power and developing a plan for grassroots impact on public policy. Working in small groups, participants used the chart to evaluate a public policy scenario and plan short presentations to (fictional) elected officials and were given feedback from the trainers.

Participants then boarded buses to the Advanced Learning Library where they began community tours of one of two Wichita neighborhoods. One tour focused on the Delano Neighborhood (one of the city's oldest communities and site of some of the newest community development) and the other on the North End (Wichita's historically immigrant neighborhood), each highlighting three themes: history - both distant and recent - which shapes the current conditions of communities; residents, who have agency and the ability to change their communities; and community change work requires understanding different factions.

Day 2 featured Expert and Resident engagement panels and a choice of breakout sessions. The panel session called "Raising the Heat for Change", included representatives from Wyandotte, Sedgwick, and Douglas Counties, who spoke to their experiences of raising or lowering the heat to make progress, specifically with local advocacy efforts. Participants then had the option to choose from four breakout sessions, including: *Engaging Community Health Workers in Creating Change* with Broderick Crawford, Wyandotte County; *Partnering with the Latino Community* with Paul Cruz, Wichita Police Department, Claudia Amaro, Advocate from Wichita, and Shaun Rojas, Kansas Leadership Center; *Helping Communities Tell Their Story* with Kaela Prall, CEI; and *Trauma-Informed Systems/Communities* with Joyce McEwen Crane, CEI.

The last session with the entire group provided an opportunity for residents to talk about their community work, what they've learned so far, and why they chose to become a part of this initiative. Many people were passionate about what matters most to them in their community. One participant commented, "The most helpful part of the Gathering was that residents had an opportunity to share stories and resources with one another." The day concluded with community teams huddling for a time of reflection on their learning and planning.

Challenging conversations about implicit bias, race, power and the rural and urban divide emerged throughout both days of the gathering. Specifically, the implicit bias and power dynamics and the raising the heat sessions illuminated some very important things: creating safe spaces for these conversations is paramount to their success, better preparation of space could have been done by organizers; convening diverse people from 24 different communities who are all entering this equity work at completely different places is a huge adaptive challenge; and that few people in the room felt competent to handle these challenging sessions.

A content analysis completed by CEI of the open-ended meeting evaluation questions provided considerations for future work, "While some participants found the conversations/discussions about bias and race to be helpful, a number of participants mentioned those conversations/discussions as being the least helpful part of the gathering and/or as something to improve upon in the future. Some participants felt that neither the staff nor the participants were adequately prepared for the nature of the conversations that occurred. They also felt that not enough time was allowed for these conversations to unfold properly and/or productively."

A final reflection from a participant was "I thought it was great to have so many people coming together from so many different experiences. I think some real work needs to be done related to race, privilege, and power. We can't really talk about the social determinants of health without doing some of that work." We are all hopeful for a future where Kansans from all backgrounds can focus on common ground and a shared vision to ensure the health and prosperity of their communities.

Pictured L to R, Top to Bottom: Caleb Stephens, Alex Tesla Kimball Williams, Joyce McEwen Crane, Claudia Yaujar-Amaro, Seth Bate, Kaela Prall, Paul Estrada Cruz, Jeff Usher, Broderick Crawford.

