



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: February 21, 2017
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.*
From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health & Human Services *KC*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Alignment of Office of Equity and Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Efforts in the Department of Health and Human Services

In 2016, the City Council approved the integration of equity and violence prevention efforts within one department. Realigning our complimentary initiatives into the Health Department brings a number of benefits to the City, including expanding our capacity to serve our residents, allowing for more coordination of efforts, and increasing our ability to find and secure grants from government and private funding sources. In addition, violence and fear of violence are major factors that undermine health and worsen health disparities.

The Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) is pleased to announce that the City of Long Beach Office of Equity is now open, and would like to welcome Katie Balderas as the Office of Equity Manager. Katie comes to us from the Los Angeles County Public Health Department where she served as a Social Determinants of Health Policy Analyst driving policy efforts around healthy housing, collaborated with other Los Angeles County departments to create an Equity Scorecard and participated in the Government Alliance for Race and Equity training. Katie has been living in Long Beach for the last 14 years and is a strong advocate for equity and social justice in our city. We have aligned the Language Access Policy, My Brother's Keeper (MBK), and the Human Relations Commission in the Equity Office.

In addition, the Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Team has relocated to the Health Department and are now part of our Human Services Bureau, alongside Homeless Services and our Center for Families and Youth. The Office of Equity is leading our City's second cohort in participating in the Governing Alliance for Race and Equity, which includes representation from 12 City departments, and will focus on City policies and processes that can support equity in Long Beach. Also, City staff and community partners have recently engaged in a Rapid Innovation Lab with Smallify to design strategies for moving toward a more equitable community. Through the support of MBK, we were able to offer Implicit Bias Training to City department directors, management, staff, and community organizations. The Office of Equity will be researching best practice models across the Country to address the social conditions that lead to inequitable outcomes for our different communities and working to put practices in place to support a healthy and safe community for all.

The Safe Long Beach team continues to lead the violence prevention planning and implementation efforts. Our team supports the Safe Families Workgroup, which recently

completed a successful Trauma Informed grant, providing trauma informed training to over 80 community partners and organizations. The Safe Schools Workgroup has been partnering closely with the Long Beach Unified School District to implement the All-In Campaign focusing on students who are chronically absent from school. The Safe Communities Workgroup is focused on strengthening communities and is also supporting the Board of State and Community Corrections Strengthening Law Enforcement and Community Relations Grant, which is providing implicit bias and procedural justice trainings to the Long Beach Police Department and offering community police academies. The Safe Long Beach Team also leads the My Sister's Keeper efforts focused on human trafficking.

The Health Department is excited about the many opportunities the alignment of these programs within the Department brings. More about these efforts will be provided in upcoming months.

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