

LONG BEACH

Building Healthy Communities

Annual Report 2016



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Each BHC Site is working to further collective learning with BHC stakeholders by prioritizing inquiry, reflection, adaptation, and intentional relationship-building.

INTRODUCTION

The TCE Learning Evaluation Department and its 14 BHC site partners have worked together to develop common tools to assess local progress in collaboration, resident organizing, youth leadership, and in selected policy and systems change efforts. The Annual Reporting Template (ART) provides a means for BHC sites to synthesize, update and highlight local work. The learning and evaluation team in this site gleaned learning insights from key stakeholders and groups knowledgeable about the BHC work in this community.

This report is intended to provide an overview of how Long Beach has been learning and reflecting from the cross-site tools and other key local learning and evaluation efforts, and making adjustments to the work in the 2015 calendar year. This report highlights some community outcomes and the reflections about the processes that led to outcomes. The learning insights shared by individuals and groups in this BHC site are dynamic and emerge as the people and groups work together and form new collaborations.

The California Endowment commends the efforts of thousands of adult and youth residents who are the community leaders and emerging leaders vested in making their communities healthier places to live. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the local Learning and Evaluation staff who reported on learning insights of adult and youth residents, BHC partners, Program Managers, and Hub Managers.

A VISION FOR LEARNING AND EVALUATION

The California Endowment is committed to promoting learning among staff, grantees, partners, and the field through evaluation, research, and convenings that inform strategic decision making, build evaluation capacity, foster adaptive change, and help TCE and its partners achieve impact in Building Healthy Communities.

STORIES OF MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

The Long Beach community has many stories of how key and pivotal events and activities are leading to improved outcomes. Below are three examples that feature work done in 2015.

STORY #1: PARENT ORGANIZING WORKGROUP (POW): THE NEW AND IMPROVED SCHOOLS WORKGROUP

Campaign Type: Schools

Drivers of Change: People Power

Enhanced Collaboration & Policy Innovations

Leveraging Partnerships & Resources

BHCLB has turned a ‘fantastic failure’ into a story of success with the relaunch of its Schools Workgroup, now called the Parent Organizing Workgroup (POW). BHCLB decided to suspend School Workgroup meetings after an unsuccessful attempt to create a meaningful space for partner organizations and community residents to work collaboratively to address concerns with the school system. The vision for the Schools Workgroup has always been to mirror the collaboration between the Youth Organizing Workgroup and the Youth Committee, where campaigns are led by youth members, who are supported by BHCLB youth-serving organizations. Reported as last year’s Fantastic Failure, a lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the Schools Workgroup led to membership attrition and tension during meetings. To provide some initial structure, meetings were facilitated by the BHC Parent Organizer, which caused

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confusion among partner agencies about their role in the workgroup. Tension between workgroup members was also due in part to funding allocations, as some organizations were funded to work on school issues, while others were not.

To address the issues listed above, the Schools Workgroup was restructured using lessons learned from BHCLB’s successful youth-

organizing model. To minimize tension between partner organizations related to funding, POW consists of only

organizations that are funded to support parent organizing.

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Once partner organizations were identified, POW worked with a consultant on coalition-building activities to lay a strong foundation to support the group's work moving forward. Team-building exercises were integrated into each session with the consultant and through homework that was distributed to workgroup members. Workgroup members worked together to develop a shared analysis of the schools landscape and to set the groundwork to eventually move into developing campaigns, many of which will be in collaboration with the Youth Organizing Workgroup. To align their activities, POW and the Youth Organizing

Workgroup meet jointly once a month to discuss how they can support each other's work. POW's workgroup lead, BHCLB's Parent Organizer, is a member of the Youth Organizing Workgroup and serves as a liaison between the two groups.

POW currently supports efforts around the Local Control Funding Formula to ensure that parent voice are heard in the budgeting process and has participated in the School Board hearing around the Local Control Accountability Plan. POW continually supports the Youth Organizing Workgroup and its efforts to implement restorative justice as a more holistic approach to discipline. In 2015, POW co-authored a letter to the superintendent calling

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for more parent participation and investment in the community. In the fall of the same year, POW established a committee of parent leaders (i.e., Parent

Committee) with representation from all partner organizations and held a retreat on October 23 to orient new members to the group. Two more meetings were held with parent leaders to share stories, hear key parent concerns, and to provide an overview of district structure and advocacy and organizing basics. Parent leaders have been asked to start conversations with other parents to both gather input on key issues and to build a broader base. Currently, 15 parents have joined POW and are brainstorming ways to bring more parents into the space.

STORY #2: RESIDENTS FORCE CALTRANS TO TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY!

Campaign Type: Neighborhoods

Drivers of Change: People Power

Community residents along the I-710 corridor have been on-edge for years waiting for a slated project to break ground, a project that will inevitably increase pollution to already highly impacted communities. This \$7 billion project includes proposals to widen the I-710 freeway from eight to as many as 14 lanes, adding a "Freight Corridor" with four dedicated lanes for trucks to address congestion and safety issues between the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and inland LA. Construction is set to begin in 2020, but thanks to the tireless work of BHCLB partner organizations, community voices are being heard in this process and residents can now breathe a small sigh of relief. On October 22, 2015, Los Angeles County Metro Board Member Hilda Solis introduced a motion to make funding for the revised and recirculated environmental documents for the I-710 expansion project contingent upon studying key project elements proposed by the community (CA7), and this motion was approved unanimously.

Community Alternative 7 (CA7) is a comprehensive, sustainable, and community-centered alternative for addressing the

agency's I-710 project goals. CA7 was developed by members of the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice (CEHAJ) as an alternative vision of how goods movement projects, like the I-710 Corridor Project, can protect community health, improve quality of life, improve air quality, and effectively and safely plan for the region's goods movement growth. CA7 includes a mandatory, separated zero-emission freight corridor, a ban on widening general purpose lanes, comprehensive public transit, improvements to the Los Angeles River, prioritization of

CEHAJ mobilized over 150 residents along the I-710 corridor to the Metro Board meeting in October to support Supervisor Solis' motion.

pedestrian and bicycle safety, creation of a local and targeted hiring policy, and establishment of a public-private partnership to ensure accountability. While CA7 is a viable alternative for the project, Caltrans has refused to study it in its entirety, despite claiming to involve community members and stakeholders as part of the development process.

CEHAJ, of which many BHCLB partner organizations are a part, mobilized over 150 residents along the I-710 corridor to the Metro Board meeting in October to support Supervisor Solis' motion. The approval of this motion is a historic victory, as it ensures that public funds are used to protect public health and it changes how transportation projects are funded moving forward. While this is a huge victory for CEHAJ and the residents along the I-710 corridor, the work is not over until elements of CA7 are not only reviewed, but replace many of the existing elements of the I-710 expansion project. CEHAJ members

include: East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice*; Communities for a Better Environment; Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma*; Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles*; Coalition for Clean Air, Earth Justice; and Natural Resources Defense Council.

STORY #3: CAMBODIAN RESIDENTS FIGHT FOR GOOD HEALTH

Campaign Type: Neighborhoods, Schools

Drivers of Change: People Power

Youth Leadership, Development & Organizing

Enhanced Collaboration & Policy Innovation

Changing the Narrative

The Cambodian Advocacy Collaborative (CAC) was borne to address the immense needs of the Cambodian community in Long Beach. Due to experiences of extreme trauma, limited English proficiency and other barriers, Cambodian community residents are less likely than other population groups to advocate for much-needed services. The CAC was established to increase civic engagement among this often overlooked population. The collaborative is a partnership between five Cambodian-serving organizations and aims to improve the health of the Cambodian community by building the capacity of residents to collectively advocate for policy and systems changes that reduce health disparities among the Cambodian population.

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The CAC launched the Cambodian Advocacy Leadership Institute (CALI) in 2014 to build the next level of leadership by investing in key community leaders beyond organizational staff to be change agents in the Cambodian community in Long Beach. CALI is a six-month training program comprised of monthly workshops, mentorships, and opportunities to participate in advocacy work. CALI leaders learn skills to advocate and change health systems and policies in Long Beach, and to apply their knowledge to current campaigns. The CAC held its second institute in 2015 where eight leaders were trained and gained experience in advocacy work. Upon graduation, CALI leaders were selected to gain additional leadership experience in community organizing through a nine-month CALI internship.

In addition to training the next generation of leaders, the CAC directly advocates for policies that would reduce health disparities among the Cambodian population. Continual efforts to educate elected officials on the barriers to mental health services for Cambodian residents

resulted in Senate Bill 291 (SB291) that if passed, would have increased mental health resources for communities that have trauma related to

genocide. Over 479 community members participated in community forums in July 2015 to share their stories and pledge support, 26 organizations submitted letters of support, and community leaders conducted 11 legislative visits with elected officials in Long Beach and statewide. The CAC convened the first

California Cambodian Advocacy Training on mental health advocacy with 18 Cambodian leaders from across the state in Sacramento to conduct legislative visits with

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enter and analyze survey data to report back to the community by the end of July 2016.

elected officials and state departments in August 2015. SB291 passed both the Senate and Assembly floor with bipartisan support, but was vetoed by the Governor. Despite this setback, the CAC was successful in educating the larger community about the mental health needs of the Cambodian community and in establishing relationships with mental health departments to ensure culturally competent strategies are practiced and resources are allocated to the Cambodian community at the local level. Most importantly, the CAC was successful in mobilizing the Cambodian community and in providing residents with skills necessary to continue to advocate for resources for their community.

Fundamental to this fight is the need to demonstrate that this population experiences disproportionate rates of disease and limited access to resources.

Unfortunately, data on Cambodians are limited, particularly for Cambodians in Long Beach. To address this gap in knowledge, the CAC is conducting a community needs assessment in collaboration with California State University, Long Beach. The CAC and researchers at CSULB are preparing an application to be submitted to the Institutional Review Board and will begin data collection once approval is granted. CALI interns and CSULB students will be trained to