

## Steering Committee of Reduction of African American Child Deaths

April 6, 2015  
Emergency Meeting  
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Sierra Health Foundation  
1321 Garden Highway  
Meeting Summary Notes

### Attendees:

**Steering Committee Members:** Debra Cummings, Paris Dye, Linda Fong-Somera , Diane Galati, Keith Herron, Chet Hewitt, Olivia Kasirye, Darcel Lee, Barry Loncke, Robert Moynihan Leslie Moore, Wendy Petko, Gina Roberson, Tina Roberts, Natalie Woods Andrews

**Center Staff:** Diane Littlefield, Madeline Sabatoni, Kindra Montgomery-Block

**Guests:** Toni Moore

### **Meeting called to order:**

5:15 pm

### **Update and Purpose of Emergency Meeting**

Presenter: Chet Hewitt and Wendy Petko

Chet gave an update on the Board of Supervisors meeting, which was postponed to April 14.

Chet: Although we thought we had a good understanding with the county following meetings with county agencies, there were a few stand-out items from the board letter:

1. The focus on best practices – these seems like intellectual underpinnings because we are not focusing on programs, but systemic issues
2. Imbed work in the Children’s Coalition and dismantle the Steering Committee. Some committee members would go on to the Children’s Coalition. However, we are concerned that they would be imbedding us into a bureaucracy four layers down, without cross-agency work. We also know that the coalition has had challenges of its own.
3. Letter was not reflective of the urgency
4. Letter did not speak to recommendations of the TA Resource Center
5. Letter did not speak to the capacity needs of grassroots organizations
6. Letter did not speak to the reporting system with real metrics
7. We did not see a lot of new money going to new groups

Wendy acknowledged that it was unsettling that things were dismissed without giving any noticed to the steering committee.

Questions and Comments:

Dr. Kasirye said that it was a suggestion being made, but it was not set in stone. That the letter was not intended to be dismissive, but work is being taken seriously. The reason that there are no new organizations to fund is because the level of detail needed for the county to fund projects. The idea was once the workshop was held, there would have to be more work to justify the budget. The thought is that we were all coming together for discussion at the workshop. Dr. Kasirye would ask that before emotions get too high people wait to listen to the other side that wrote the letter.

Darcel Lee said that the real red flag is the county wanting the work placed in the Children's Coalition without discussion.

Gina Roberson said that on that note, the coalition is a member advisory board. She is not sure if they would really be disbanding the Steering Committee or be a sub-committee, which could be autonomous with its own staff. This could be a place for compromise.

Chet noted that he and Wendy will take that up on Wednesday when they are hashing it through. He will note that the Steering Committee wants autonomy and that it's important that the committee is able to work with multiple departments.

Dr. Kasirye said that this would be a good approach to use – to set up an agenda that gives discussion that highlights why the committee does not think that it's a good idea. She also didn't get the impression that the county wanted to do away with the Steering Committee, but instead of creating the ICPC it would be under the Children's Coalition.

Chet noted that the idea is to go into the meeting and negotiate, not be a rebel rouser. If there's a need for clarity, that is a reasonable request.

Places/Pieces that is important:

- Building capacity of local organizations
- Cross agency body that the Steering Committee can govern by (that it's not one department's sole responsibility)
- Retain the integrity of the Steering Committee

Gina said that maybe the structure doesn't matter and the negotiations should just focus on those three points. Darcel disagreed and said that the structure does matter.

Keith Herron said that the letter is a metaphor for part of the problem. That the committee is not being a part of the conversation – that the process is part of the problem.

Judge Loncke noted the confusing around the lack of inclusion from them, especially around trusted messengers, etc.

Chet also wanted to note that the Steering Committee will need to build evaluation/metrics in

Darcel asked for clarity: doesn't the strategic plan hold a place for the implementation plan?

Chet said that the strategic plan will be our framework. Chet and Wendy promised to provide an update on Wednesday afternoon.

The workshop will be held next Tuesday, April 14 at 3 p.m.

**Actions of Steering Committee Members to be Addressed**

Presenter: Chet Hewitt and Wendy Petko

Chet acknowledged that in a meeting with members of the Board of Supervisors, it was noted that there were Steering Committee members who were meeting with Board of Supervisors and expressing discontent and concerns. The group discussed the background of the issue and the Steering Committee members present discussed the need to work together, work towards consensus and speak up during meetings.

The background issue was focused on structural inequalities and sustainability. The group agreed to move forward, focusing on the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting and return to the issue of structural inequality at a later time.

**Meeting adjourned:**

6:30 p.m.