

**Men & Boys of Color**

**Black Men & Boys Coalition Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 05, 2009**

**Held at African – American Museum**

**5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Facilitator:** Keith Kelley, Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development (FWCED)

**Note Taker:** Candice Hill, FWCED

**Building Healthy Communities Background/History**

The California Endowment is a statewide foundation that has made tremendous financial contributions to communities of color and plans to enhance their impact of building healthy communities by adopting a more tightly focused direction. Beginning in 2010, their work will be focused in pursuit of a single vision: **Building Healthy Communities in the state of California.** They will:

**1. Focus on Places:** Understanding that where one lives has a direct impact on one’s health, The Endowment will target a limited number of communities impacted by poverty with 10-year partnership funding to build healthy communities where all children and youth have the opportunity to be healthy, safe and ready to learn.

**2. Focus on Children and Youth:** Children and youth will serve as the primary (although not exclusive) focus of The Endowment’s work and the measure of our success.

**3. Focus on Systems:** The Endowment will provide the resources and support the leadership necessary to influence a range of local and state-level changes in policies and systems that influence the health of children and youth.

**4. Focus on Impact and Results:** The Endowment’s work will be guided by specific state-level policy outcomes and local-level health outcomes and policies that advance a comprehensive movement for building healthy communities in California. They will accomplish these four objectives through 10 goals also known as outcomes.

**Fresno West Coalition’s Role:**

We are to focus on outcome number nine which is to narrow the health gaps for young men and boys of color (MBOC), primarily for African- American males at this time. We’ll accomplish this by:

**1.- Providing a strategic proposal based upon the recommendations of our Black Men & Boy (BMB) Coalition to the California endowment by the end of 2009.**

**2.- Forming a Black Men & Boys (BMB) Coalition that is ready to give strategic solutions on how to narrow the health gap for African-American males**

**Presenters:**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Keith Kelley (KK) –  | President / CEO, FWCED   |
| 2. Sarah Reyes (SR) –   | Senior Program Officer, Central/West Fresno City<br>The California Endowment (TCE) |
| 3. Joe Brooks (JB) –    | Vice President of Civil Engagement, Policy Link                                    |
| 4. Marc Philpart (MP) – | Program Associate, Policy Link   |
| 5. Steven Reid (SR) –   | Associate, The Ramsay Group (TRG)  |
| 6. Veda Stamps (VS) –   | Managing Partner, TRG  |

1. KK – Fresno came in the top 14 cities that TCE decided to invest in within CA
2. SR –
  - a. TCE doesn't want to tell the community what it needs, but have chosen the method of bringing the community to the table to be a part of the BHC process and MBOC process.
  - b. The statistics among school drop out, violence are highest among men and boys of color
  - c. MBOC and BHC is not separate – access to jobs and healthy homes
  - d. TCE isn't excluding women, but the statistics are very high (scary) among the males. When the males are going forward it will raise the whole community.
  - e. TCE urges all to support FWCED in the MBOC and the BHC process because the community needs to have a seat at the table.
3. JB –
  - a. For a foundation to think of a 10 year investment as TCE has, is very unique.
  - b. We are here to pick the community's thoughts for a statewide MBOC agenda.
  - c. Policy Link is a national public policy institute to achieve equity for people of color. We are headquartered in Oakland and we have a presence in New York, L.A and New Orleans. We are dedicated to telling the good news. The challenge is to lift up the methods that are working.
  - d. Where you live determines your health. We will be "constructive flies on the wall". Working with Keith's (FWCED) and the statewide counterparts to share a statewide and federal MBOC agenda. This can't be solved by Fresno alone.
4. VS – Conceptual Framework:
  - a. There will be four sessions to strategize and analyze the connections between health disparities and black and Latino males. We are looking at how system, programs and natural environments, institutions, community, interpersonal and individuals.
  - b. We want to have outcomes the will (as Joe Brooks mentioned) "move the needle towards a positive element".
  - c. We want this group to digest the information and provide strategies.
5. ST –
  - a. Black and Latino males have scored drastically low compared to white students.
  - b. We are here to find ways to bridge the gap.

**Question:** (Resident) - How will health insurance be addressed?

6. KK – We want the community to voice the way they think disparities with health insurance at BHC meetings.
7. VS- Bring strategies to the planning process.
8. JB –
  - a. The way I see this process is that this is an opportunity to educate each other (ah-hah moment) on how various institutions work.
  - b. We would need to give a unified message instead of separate efforts.

**Question:** Ellen Gill (EG) - When will a full report of the research in the presentation be available?

9. VS – The community will have access to a full report the research by the next meeting.

**Question:** Michael Leffall (ML) - Will training be a part of the effort?

10. JB –
  - a. The problem is that sometimes efforts are not customized for the community. We need to connect all the scattered pieces. The left hand needs to know what the right hand is doing.
  - b. The problem is politics and funding.
11. Carolyn Carter (CC) – One problem is that organization, and city counsel and sometimes Fresno Unified would use West Fresno and Southeast Fresno statistics but then the distributions of funds do not do the communities justice.

12. SR – A key solution is to bring your perspective to the BHC table.
13. Gloria Rodriguez – To address Carolyn’s concern FUSD is improving in their efforts. (FUSD was in the BMB Coalition meeting)
14. Tate Hill (TH) – Neighborhood based organization need the capacity to be partners with government agencies and major agencies.

**Question:** Tate Hill (TH) - How are we building the neighborhood organization’s capacity to be sustained?

15. SR – Everything is on the table. That question should be at the BHC table.
16. CC – Many citizens have good thoughts, but when we get together politics come in to play; so there is a need of training to teach the org how to come together.
17. Randle Cooper (RC) – Parks & Recreation is applying for a 1.2 million grant to connect west Fresno organizations and non profit. FUSD, Hinton Center Board and 906 is at the table so far with us.
18. Cindy – United One Productions is working with Convoy of Hope to feed 10,000 families in November 2009.

**Question:** Will the committees be broken down for the conceptual work?

19. KK – We are at the point where we are framing that.
20. VS – From a planning perspective we have to submit a report to TCE so a soft recommendation to use the conceptual as a basis and we can add more if needed.
21. KK – Is there anything else to add to the conceptual framework?
22. Amy Guerra – we should add a legal framework.
23. VS – That may fall under public safety.
24. SR – It could be separate under legal / justice.
25. Allysun Williams (AW) – add personal development (conduct) and add entrepreneurship.

**Question:** What is FWCED expecting out of the committees?

26. KK – we are looking at three more meetings to help people interject in MBOC. FWCED is not doing this by ourselves; we want organizations like HOOD to
27. Paul Copeland (PC) – it seems like CBO do so much of the work and rec the bits of the funding.
28. Sabrina – there’s a model called Continue of Care in which homeless can apply. That model could be duplicated to address that.
29. VS – If it’s funded, that’s a good model. Sign up so we can ask you which committee you would like to be a part. Each meeting would be no more than about 1.5 or 2 hours. We would need to concentrate on what is working than just what the issues and needs are.
30. SR – Think of what can be fixed without money that the city, FUSD for ex, that we can speak up about it. There are some system changes that can’t be fixed with money, for example “driving while black” or walking in your house while black. For ex how FWCED help lead the building of Kearney Palm Shopping Center.

31. KK – What committees are needed?:
- Leadership / Professional and Personal Development
  - Education & Training
  - Socio-Economic Development
    - Neighborhood Development
  - Justice & Safety
  - Health Equity
  - Community Capacity: Advocacy & Organizing (Implementation)

\*\*Youth should be involved in all committees.

VS – Next meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm (location TBD)