

## Meeting Minutes

Attendance (Team Tri-Chairs in **bold**; absent members in **gray**):

1. Charles Brown, Rutgers University, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC)
2. Chris Kirk, NORWESCAP
3. Corynna Limerick, DOH, Office of Local Public Health
4. **Diane Hagerman, New Jersey Health Initiatives**
5. Elise Bremer Nei – DOT, Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
6. Greg Paulson, Trenton Health Team
7. **Jeanne Herb, Rutgers University, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy**
8. Karen Alexander, Rutgers University, New Jersey Travel Independence Program
9. Kathleen Avitt, NJ Recreation & Park Association
10. Kimberly Birdsall, Health Coalition of Passaic County
11. Lauren Skowronski, Sustainable Jersey
12. Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers University, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC)
13. Loretta Kelly, DOH, Office of Population Health
14. Maria Baron, DOH, Office of Population Health
15. Memphis Madden, City of Trenton, Dept of Health & Human Services
16. Myla Ramirez – DEP, Science and Policy
17. Natassia Rozario, DOH, Director of Opioid Response and Policy
18. Rachel Honychs, Camden County Health Department
19. **Regina Riccioni, College of Saint Elizabeth**
20. Sherry Driber; DEP, Environmental Public Health & Safety Program
21. Thalia Sirjue, DOH, Deputy Chief of Staff

Members shared information and perspectives related to the recent coronavirus response:

- Leigh Ann – vulnerability map of SDOH of COVID
- Regina – underscores need for good information access to a lot of different people
- ? – List of resources to our grantees

Members were asked for feedback on the definition of healthy community:

- a. Kimberly – 1) safe, 2) clean, and 3) stable (i.e, education and workforce development). Also, consumption of fruits and vegetables, lower rates of diabetes, move more, eat better. Kim brought to light the large difference in total number of COVID-19 cases among NJ municipalities. For example, Paterson currently has the highest (~1,400) and XXX had the lowest (~600).
- b. Lauren: housing, transportation, food, parks, etc. She also stated that Sustainable Jersey is currently engaged in a similar effort to define healthy communities. Presently, SJ is surveying municipalities to learn how or if local governments are applying a health lens to decision making. Undercurrent themes are environmental justice and social justice.
- c. Renee – emphasized the need to identify the populations that are vulnerable. Concentrated poverty been created in every NJ county.
- d. Kim – added fruits and vegetables, lower rates of diabetes, move more, eat better
- e. Chris - characteristics of a community that impact the health of all individuals
- f. Regina – suggested a Call to Action approach.

- g. Charles – asked for clarification about where the group is in the process and where it’s headed. Not sure what the value is in defining, and it feels a little redundant.
- h. Maria – provided synopsis of the proposed HNJ2030 process and clarified that it’s more important for each ACT to identify the group’s focus areas than to develop a traditional definition.
- i. Charles – recommended that focus areas be selected based on whether 1) the ACT members have the bandwidth to address the issue, and 2) performance measures are available.
- j. Elise – stated that the coronavirus response is exposing a lot of cracks in the system, such as the impact on vulnerable population groups, racism, etc.
- k. Maria – responded to a question about the kinds of data the ACTs should use during their focus area selection process by saying that all data are fair game. New data collection is also an option.
- l. Renee – suggested that a short online survey be distributed asking group members to rank the focus areas identified so far
  - o <Many group members agreed to this proposal>
- m. Karen – recommended the group figure out what metrics are most compelling from a bottom-up perspective, rather than top-down.
- n. Maria – responded that the HNJAC are responsible for developing broad-based focus areas, and that those areas will be brought to members of vulnerable communities for discussion during DOH’s Health Equity Community Conversations in the spring [currently postponed due to coronavirus response].

Maria volunteered to create an online survey that will ask members to rank their top 5 focus areas

Charles requested for the survey to indicate which focus areas already have statewide data source(s) available

Diane will send out another doodle poll to members to determine the date of the next HC meeting.

## Healthy Communities Zoom Chat Log 4/9/20

**From Leigh Ann to Everyone: 04:37 PM**

COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Map to identify the social determinants of health (SDOH)  
<https://hitconsultant.net/2020/03/24/covid-19-community-vulnerability-map/>

**From Loretta to Everyone: 04:49 PM**

Los Angeles COVID health/community resources list:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1S-WJaMa4q3yNrEBfSFKEdSQArcNc\\_MTI2LiUA63Ycyg/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR0ERHDJFMoSENoqInUL44DfGp0NSUIBt38Otlf7J2IQGhryPGe8YFy6mvgg](https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1S-WJaMa4q3yNrEBfSFKEdSQArcNc_MTI2LiUA63Ycyg/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR0ERHDJFMoSENoqInUL44DfGp0NSUIBt38Otlf7J2IQGhryPGe8YFy6mvgg)

**From kavitt to Everyone: 04:56 PM**

<https://www.nrpa.org/blog/parks-green-infrastructure-healthy-communities/>

**From birdsallk to Everyone: 05:12 PM**

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/coronavirus/2020/04/08/nj-coronavirus-update-april-cases-in-nj-deaths/2967901001/>

<https://www.cheatsheet.com/health-fitness/health-wellness-americas-communities.html/>

Just sent a very unscientific yet potentially helpful "cheat sheet" for 7 things America's Healthiest communities have in common.