

Report on ENCHIA's Community Assessment Processes and Findings

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Goodwill Building

Why a Community Assessment?

Local wisdom The members of the Community Council will not be able to adequately represent the diversity and breadth of positions and voices in the affected community. Because of this, the process will host several public dialogues within each of the communities affected by rezoning in order to increase the knowledge and experience brought to the assessment process. The project envisions these dialogue events as settings where community members can learn about the HIA and its objectives and contribute to the knowledge and information used by the Council. The Council may also use these processes to seek community positions on issues where there are conflicts.

***From: ENCHIA Community Assessment Planning
August 10, 2005***

Describing the Process

- ◆ ENCHIA Staff Presented the Community Assessment Process at Monthly Meetings
- ◆ ENCHIA Staff Solicited Feedback on Target Groups for Assessment from Council Members via e-mail and phone
- ◆ ENCHIA Staff Met with Council Members who expressed interest to identify:
 - Population gaps
 - Information needs
 - Groups and settings to conduct assessment strategies

Community Council Members Participating in Assessment Planning

The community-based organizations participating in the ENCHIA community assessment included:

- ◆ Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)
- ◆ Center for Human Development (CHD)
- ◆ South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN)
- ◆ TODCO
- ◆ SRO Collaborative
- ◆ People Organizing to Demand Economic Rights (PODER)

Identifying Population Gaps

- ◆ Small Business
- ◆ Property Owners (residential and commercial)
- ◆ Artists
- ◆ Day laborers and domestic workers
- ◆ Seniors
- ◆ Youth
- ◆ Families in SRO's

Identifying Information Needs

- ◆ Understanding different dimensions of health impacts experienced by the different community sectors, as they relate to:
 - Housing
 - Jobs
 - Services
 - Open Space
 - Traffic
- ◆ Identifying strategies to address these impacts

Identifying Information Needs: The Protocol

Based on Gaps and Issues raised by Community Council Members

- ◆ How is 'neighborhood' defined by the different target groups?
 - What role does housing experiences play in this definition?
 - What role does local jobs, industries play in this definition?
 - What are the services, infrastructure needed, and accessed?
- ◆ How do the structural changes in area/neighborhood impact:
 - Individual's ability to live, work, recreate, socialize, invest in area?
 - Individual's perception of health and safety?
- ◆ What are the incentives/barriers that move individuals to live, work, recreate, invest in area?

Methods

- ◆ Conducted twelve (12) key informant interviews and
- ◆ Four (4) focus groups with community sectors recommended by ENCHIA Community Council members

Results: Key Informant Interview Participants

- ◆ Participants in the Key Informant Interviews included:
 - Small Business owners
 - Homeowners
 - Artists
 - Youth

Results: Focus Groups Participants

- ◆ Seniors
 - Mission and South of Market
- ◆ Day laborers; and
- ◆ Domestic workers

Challenges and Limitations

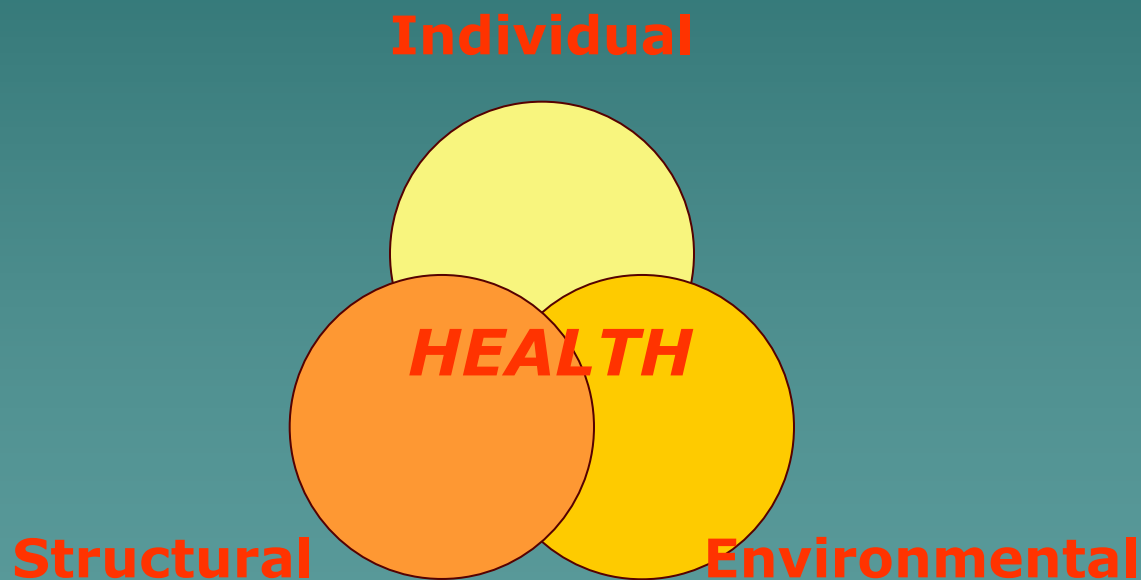
- ◆ Recruitment and Scheduling were challenging
- ◆ Competing Interests for Participants:
 - access to housing, services and food
- ◆ For the small business owners, challenges in recruitment were related to their small infrastructure and limited time
- ◆ Sample may not be representative of the different needs and issues

Findings: Neighborhood and Health

What promotes a healthy life among participants in their communities:

- Affordable and adequate housing
- Diversity of community, goods and services
- Public transportation
- Local jobs for low-skilled, low-education, youth and senior populations
- Affordable produce
- Accessible community services (Seniors and families)
- Parks

Findings: Threats to Health, Neighborhood and Safety



Findings: Threats to Health, Neighborhood and Safety

◆ For Small Business:

- Pressure to compete with new 'upscale businesses' in neighborhood
- Fear of clientele loss due to changes in prices, and stock (to compete)
- Fear of clientele loss due to population shift

◆ For Homeowners:

- Loss in sense of community: family and friends moving farther away
- Disconnect from community because of jobs to keep up housing costs (upgrade, repairs, etc.)
- Hard to project for families because of poor schools and lack of parks & community centers

Findings: Threats to Health, Neighborhood and Safety

◆ For Seniors:

- Constant fear of evictions
- Challenges in mobility due to traffic patterns
- Challenges with noise and air pollution due to poor housing maintenance and construction

◆ For Youth:

- Overcrowding living conditions
- Exposure to gang-violence when traveling to schools across neighborhoods
- Lack of employment and training opportunities

Findings: Threats to Health, Neighborhood and Safety

◆ For Artists

- Challenges in securing working space in neighborhoods
- Challenges in affording working space
- Fear of eviction

◆ For Day Laborers/Domestic Workers

- Overcrowding/substandard living conditions
- Fear of safety for children in parks and schools
- Unstable jobs and low pay, particularly in service jobs

Implications: How these Findings Relate to ENCHIA's Policies

- ◆ Findings from Community Assessment were applied to Policies
- ◆ See attached summary in Appendix 2

Next Steps?

◆ Discussion:

- How do we integrate these findings into the policies?
- What additional information do we need?
- How should we proceed in working with the community?