

2010

Healthcare in Bayview Hunters Point Policy Recommendations & Advocacy Tool

Developed by Seva, a partnership of our community, San Francisco General Hospital's Internal Medicine Residency Program, the Southeast Sector Food Access Working Group (SEFA), and the University of California Community Partnership Program*



*Health policy from the
Ground...UP*



Issue areas that have emerged include...

- ✓ **Food access and security**
- ✓ **Street violence and post traumatic stress disorder**
- ✓ **Youth engagement and mentorship**
- ✓ **Access to community and health care services**
- ✓ **Social cohesion and social capital**
- ✓ **Built and natural environment**

"Seniors and all of us are too reliant on traditional medication | In the marina, if a child is shot, they bring in extra counselors and support staff to talk with the children about their experience with the violence and how to process and manage their emotions | Many seniors need someone to make sure they are taking their medications properly | We need bring intramural sports back | We lose a lot of people who have a little too much income to qualify for local services | Youth-led gardening is important to teaching youth to eat vegetables, exercise, and live a healthier life | We understand that your health and wellness isn't just about blood pressure checks, but about your life in the community where you live | Where does all this garbage come from?! | We need to educate everyone about environmental health risks and necessary preventive actions | As a service provider, I appreciate the willingness of youth to try new things | Where is the health food store where we can get fresh affordable and healthy food? | Transportation on MUNI can be hell for people on the Hill | The best thing about my community in terms of health is the strength of our families and church groups"

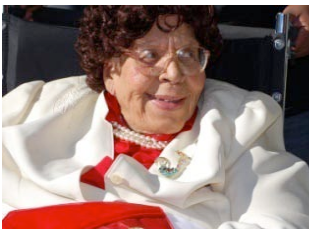
Together, we are creating...

- ✓ **An organized listing of healthcare issues facing BVHP**
- ✓ **A consensus set of policy recommendations that speak to the healthcare issues facing BVHP**
- ✓ **A useful tool for grassroots advocacy about healthcare issues facing BVHP**

Residents and community workers from Bayview Hunters Point, doctors from San Francisco General Hospital, interested community-based organizations and leaders from throughout the neighborhood have come together to discuss our community's health needs and assets.

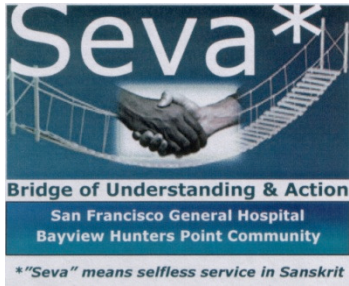
So far, Seva* has...

- ✓ **Organized 5 community dialogues** hosted by community-based organizations in Bayview Hunters Point that have brought SF General Hospital doctors, neighborhood residents and community workers together to talk about real life assets and barriers to health and wellness. (Hosts have included: African American Community Health Equity Council, BMagic, Southeast Sector Food Access Working Group, Willie Mays Boys & Girls Club, and BVHP Multipurpose Senior Services Center.)
- ✓ Invited interested community experts and leaders to join the **"Accountability Council"** for review of the policy brief.
- ✓ Invited community organizations and allies to join the list of **"Community Partner Organizations"** as an expression of support and commitment to advocate for community-based health care policy.



All our work builds on the heroes who came before us. That is especially true when it comes to public health and housing advocacy in Bayview Hunters Point. For instance, "The Big 5" - Elouise Westbrook, Julia Commer, Osceola Washington, Ruth Williams, and Rosie Williams - went to Washington DC in the heat of the Civil Rights Movement to

Community-based healthcare providers and concerned residents of Bayview Hunters Point, a multicultural low-income urban community in San Francisco, believe that efforts to improve health should be informed by the reality they face daily. Seva* is in dialogue with concerned residents and others to report the most pressing issues for our community, and to advance experientially-grounded consensus recommendations for improving policy, practice and advocacy.



DRAFT 1

Seva* Health Policy Dialogue Notes and Quotes

Issue areas and related community input and quotes

This is a grouping of the primary issues we have identified from our focus group Health Policy Dialogues in the Bayview Hunters Point between the Fall of 2009 and Spring of 2010. Included here are notable quotes and notes compiled from each dialogue, as of March 22, 2010. We will facilitate another policy dialogue as possible and as necessary. These dialogues have been limited by the time available in staff meetings, and there are at least several constituencies in the community whose voices are not represented here. Still, there is important and interesting information shared here that helps guide the development of the Seva* Health Policy Brief.

Food Access and Security

- *"We have fast food restaurants and liquors stores on every corner. But where is the health food store where we can get fresh affordable and healthy food?"*
- Youth-led gardening is important to teaching youth to eat vegetables, exercise, and live a healthier life.
- School meals should be given careful attention.
- The number of fast food restaurants is a problem. We should consider pushing for healthier menus.
- We should encourage the SF Food Bank to offer healthier snacks. (SFFB representative acknowledged the organization wanted to do that, but is dependent on food that is donated to them.)
- We should provide incentives for merchants to provide healthier food options.
- There is no fresh produce in this neighborhood.
- A big challenge is the culture of eating and cooking in ways that are not as healthful as they could be.

Street Violence and Post Traumatic Stress

- *"Buses aren't safe. I think there should be security on the bus."*
- There is no one who counsels witnesses of street violence after an incident, which normalizes the violence and allows trauma to set in.
- The Peacekeepers are a good violence prevention model.

- We should minimize the availability of liquor.
- Street safety and lighting is an issue.

Youth Engagement and Mentorship

- *“Congratulations to all the staff of the Club. I have kids who are being consistently mentored. Now, kids go to them before they do us parents sometimes!”*
- *“I appreciate extracurricular activities that lots of people wouldn’t be able to afford if they weren’t provided.”*
- I appreciate the recognition that programs give youth. *“Our youth have a chance to shine.”*
- *“I like having a safe positive place to be.”* (Young man)
- Youth-led gardening is important to teaching youth to eat vegetables, exercise, and live a healthier life.
- We need to push toward gender equity in our programming. There are too few programs targeting girls.
- *“I appreciate being able to work and having a place for my kids.”* It’s important to have jobs, job placement support, and childcare...places like the Club where my kids are safe.
- *“As a service provider, I appreciate the willingness of youth to try new things. That willingness is very impressive.”*
- *“I like the activities of the Boys & Girls Club, especially basketball and the Learning Center.”*
(From a young man. The Learning Center is a safe place where kids can do their homework and get help when they need it.)
- There are underutilized basketball courts. We need bring intramural sports back. We should also encourage safety, coordination and communication between sporting groups. We need to improve social cohesion amongst youth, and this is a good way to do it.
- Strong parents are necessary to the health of our youth.
- We need more youth mentorship programming.
- We should be providing sex education and encouraging sexual literacy.

Access to Community and Healthcare Services

- *“I like having a safe positive place to be.”* (Young man)
- *“Every morning there are buses lined up on the hill. I’m glad I have the option of safely sending my kids to a good school, and then to afterschool programs.”*
- *“I appreciate being able to work and having a place for my kids.”* It’s important to have jobs, job placement support, and childcare...places like the Club where my kids are safe.
- We need access to services (transportation)

- We should leverage our good open spaces, waterfront, and other environmental assets that could contribute to good health.
- There are underutilized basketball courts. We need bring intramural sports back. We should also encourage safety, coordination and communication between sporting groups. We need to improve social cohesion amongst youth, and this is a good way to do it.
- We need to improve the cultural competency of work being done in the neighborhood.
- We need to push toward gender equity in our programming. There are too few programs targeting girls.
- We should be providing sex education and encouraging sexual literacy.
- We need more positive health promotion and in-home services for elders.

Example: In March, there will be a Health Fair at the Cornerstone Baptist Church. Blood pressure checks and other basic services will be provided. June Wallace will talk about transplants as part of a program to share health information.

Example: Marian Fields checks in on her elderly neighbors in an informal way since her neighbors know she is a nurse, and she lives so close.

- Most seniors have places to go outside to get physical activity. Safety and transportation are big issues, and are often barriers to utilizing available spaces. Seniors may also need help getting on and off vans and busses.
- Seniors need consistent visual education and aids (“visual” is really important for this population of people), such as billboards with educational messages.
- Seniors need small groups that go into their homes to provide basic care. Follow-up with regard to medications is important. Many seniors need someone to make sure they are taking their medications properly.
- Change should be a way of life for all of us, but the fact is that seniors resist change. We need to be aware of and address that reality through public education.
- We need to communicate information about alternative therapies because seniors and all of us are too reliant on traditional medication.
- Clinical workers need to take more time with patients.
- We see people, at most, 20 hours per week. That’s not enough. We see a lot of unmet needs such as people who need their basement cleaned or pets fed. Systems are too limited to provide these kinds of supports.
- We lose a lot of people who have a little too much income to qualify for local services. Those people lose out on socialization.

- Economic barriers facing people reaching out for services is a huge problem. Seniors, especially, often have a fear of losing a home or benefits. Even in crisis, a senior might ask that we not call 9-1-1 because that person knows how much it will cost them.
- Help and education should be provided to caregivers, too. Often it is a friend, family member or neighbor who is making sure seniors are okay, taking their medications properly, etc.

Social Cohesion and Social Capital

- The best thing about my community (Samoan) in terms of health is the strength of our families and church groups. The biggest challenge is keeping new generations connected to those social and cultural assets.
- *"I love seeing other people smiling and saying 'hello.'"*
- We have good neighbors. People are very different, but they smile and wave to each other. We watch out for each other like family.
- Strong parents are necessary to the health of our youth.
- We need a stronger elected body.
- We have some data (Sharon and Marquez).
- We need jobs.
- There are underutilized basketball courts. We need bring intramural sports back. We should also encourage safety, coordination and communication between sporting groups. We need to improve social cohesion amongst youth, and this is a good way to do it.
- We need more positive health promotion and in-home services for elders.

Example: In March, there will be a Health Fair at the Cornerstone Baptist Church. Blood pressure checks and other basic services will be provided. June Wallace will talk about transplants as part of a program to share health information.

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- A senior walking club is about to start.
- Kindness is important to health, more important than we usually think. In our experience, kindness and respect produces positive results in the people we see, and helps overcome the isolation and fear seniors sometimes experience.

Three cups of kindness never hurt a recipe.

- People used to say "hello" to one another on the street. Now, people shrug and don't want to have contact.

- We have a “brown bag” tradition. Leftover food is distributed to people who need it afterwards.
- *Your job doesn't end when you leave work.* We need to create a culture of caring for people because it's the right thing to do.
- We've lost the professionals in our community as the black middle class has moved out. There used to be doctors, lawyers and others in the community who would make house calls.

Built and Natural Environment

- *“School buses could be used to pick up people who MUNI leaves off down the hill”.* We should fill the transportation gap between MUNI and places like the Club.
- *“Buses aren't safe. I think there should be security on the bus.”*
- Transportation is a big challenge. Everything needs to be more accessible, including for people with disabilities. *“Transportation on MUNI can be hell for people on the Hill.”* Buses stop before the end of the line, and kids get left out in the dark.
- Our neighborhood has gorgeous weather, open spaces and water views. *“This is an amazing area that way.”*
- Garbage is dumped everywhere. *“Where does all this garbage come from?!”*
- We need access to services (transportation)
- We should leverage our good open spaces, waterfront, and other environmental assets that could contribute to good health.
- Youth-led gardening is important to teaching youth to eat vegetables, exercise, and live a healthier life.
- We should minimize the availability of liquor.
- We need environmental justice advocacy.
- Litter and dumping is a problem.
- There are underutilized basketball courts. We need bring intramural sports back. We should also encourage safety, coordination and communication between sporting groups. We need to improve social cohesion amongst youth, and this is a good way to do it.
- Street safety and lighting is an issue.
- Most seniors have places to go outside to get physical activity. Safety and transportation are big issues, and are often barriers to utilizing available spaces. Seniors may also need help getting on and off vans and busses.