



Date: May 21, 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.L.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Update on the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults**

The Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget includes \$200,000 in one-time funds for a Youth and Children strategic planning process and implementation. This memo serves as an update on the development of the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults, which will serve as the guiding vision and framework for responding to the needs of Long Beach's youth and their families for the next three years.

In October 2018, the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) released the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Strategic Plan, which focuses on children ages 0-5. The ECE plan included 22 focus groups and 11 stakeholder interviews and lays out a broad vision for that age group. The Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults (Plan) builds on the ECE plan, focusing on the wellness and opportunities for skills mastery of young people ages 6-24. This particular age span allows for the equitable recognition of the broad, and yet distinct, needs for several groups of young people: school-age, middle school, high school, postsecondary, and transitional-age youth (TAY), and could include former foster youth, college graduates, and parents. The original request from the City Council in September 2018 pertained to a request for a strategic planning process and implementation for youth and children. This process will not only fulfill that request, it may even broaden public awareness of the critical span of the life course between ages 18-24.

The Health Department, in partnership with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, is the lead on this project. The planning process will involve the Commission on Youth and Families, Invest in Youth Coalition, and other relevant community organizations. The driving mechanism of the Plan's development will be conversations with youth to find out their priorities, goals, needs, and aspirations. A team of youth, ages 14 to 24, representing each of the Council Districts, will be trained as youth ambassadors. A community-based selection process will be held, reaching out to youth-serving organizations and through online marketing. Youth will be selected based on their willingness, interest, and commitment toward completing the process. Through a series of surveys, focus groups, listening circles, and town hall meetings, conversations will be hosted, and youth voices will be captured across Long Beach.

To facilitate the most comprehensive representation of, and response to, the youth voice in Long Beach and to complete the scope of work in support of this effort, the Health Department has sought out two consultants, a Community Engagement Specialist and a Strategic Plan

Development Consultant. Staff is currently in the procurement process for both and expects to start engagement in June.

The Community Engagement Consultant will:

- Provide effective training for youth ambassadors and leverage their relationships with youth organizations across the city to ensure that youth have a rich development and leadership experience;
- Develop and implement an equity-based, culturally competent, youth-led community outreach and engagement plan that will deepen the understanding of the needs of Long Beach children and youth; specifically, the accessibility and availability of existing services, gaps in services, differences across Long Beach neighborhoods, and strategies for how to ensure that services are equitably distributed; and
- Leverage a deep understanding of youth and community connections to ensure that marginalized voices, specifically LGBTQ youth, youth experiencing homelessness, and systems-impacted youth, are centered, well represented and meaningfully engaged in the process.

The Strategic Plan Development Consultant will:

- Facilitate a training seminar for the youth ambassadors to prepare them for facilitating and conducting group discussions, collecting information via surveys, focus groups, and interviews at the community level. At the mid-point of the project, the consultant will facilitate a thematic analysis workshop for the youth ambassadors to further develop their participatory action research skills;
- Collect and synthesize the data gathered by youth ambassadors; and,
- Draft the Plan that will cover: (a) the context in which the Plan was developed; (b) the vision and mission of the Plan; (c) descriptions of attainable goals; (d) measurable, time-limited objectives; and, (e) suggested action items and activities.

The project team plans to release the draft in August 2019 and release the publication in September 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-4016.

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