



PEOPLE TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
SUMMARY FOR MEETING #4 – THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024 – 5:30PM-7:00PM
HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY – 175 WATER STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT

MEETING PURPOSE

To review and approve the proposed People Task Force Vision Statement and create task force priorities for the Union Square/Hill area.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

To review and approve the People Task Force Vision Statement, gather input on the task force priorities for the Union Square/Hill area, and develop an action plan based on the approved vision and feedback.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Amos Smith, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Doris Doward, Jeffrey Walker, Josh Golden, Maritza Bond, Emily Byrne, Brian Wnek, Carlah Esdaile-Bragg, Eliza Halsey, Ken Boroson, Thomasina Shaw

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Tomi Veale, Linda Cross, Alberta Golden, John Noonan, Jeff Pyltak, Dale Holder, Henry Fernandez, Laura Woodie, Andy Orefice, Kyle Ballou, Alice Forrester, Bill Villano, Kymbel Branch, LaToya Mills, Steven Marans, Maritza Bond, Bill Villano, Alice Forrester, Henry Fernandez, Margaret LaFever, Keisha Redd-Hannas, Shirley Grice, Keisha Redd-Hannans, Santiago Perez-Gomez, Rosaly Rosario

OTHERS PRESENT

Lymarys Walker, Griselle McFadden, Ken Boroson, Luz Alers, Jimmy Miller, Christina Roshier

-PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT-

1. Welcome & Project Updates

Ms. Vincent, Program Manager, welcomed attendees and led introductions. Ms. Vincent provided a brief update on the project and introduced Amos Smith, the Co-Lead of the People Task Force, who conducted the roll call. Ms. Vincent explained that once we get resident and neighborhood data from Yale, we will refine our objectives. Ms. Vincent handed over the meeting to Jimmy Miller to lead the activity.

2. Visioning Statement

Committee were asked to review the proposed People Task Force Vision statement: ***“To create a thriving Union Square and Hill community with quality education, ample employment opportunities, and excellent health care for all”***. Smith explained that the vision statement should represent an aspiration rather than detailing the method. Goals should outline the steps to achieve the vision. Esdaile questioned, "What can you control?" and suggested making the vision statement more inclusive, appealing, and concise. Boroson proposed adding "social interaction" to the statement. Byrne



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recommended removing "to create" and starting with "A" to reflect a future-now perspective. Halsey suggested including "wellness." After discussion, the group agreed on the following vision statement:

"An engaged and thriving Hill and Union Square community with quality education, ample employment opportunities, social interaction, and excellent health care for all."

3. Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Needs Assessment Questions

Participants reviewed existing demographic data for the people in Union Square, which highlighted a disparity between uninsured and insured individuals. Esdaile suggested examining the correlation between undocumented residents and lack of insurance. The data also indicated a low life expectancy. Smith suggested being sensitive to the life expectancy data, considering the impact of the 2019 pandemic. Shaw suggested that we consider the mobility of people in Union Square/Hill, noting that more residents may stop using cars due to increasingly dense parking conditions.

Based on the previous SWOT analysis and basic demographics, Miller highlighted the identified People priorities, which are to:

- Increase educational attainment levels for neighborhood residents
- Reduce childhood and adult poverty levels
- Increase income levels for neighborhood residents
- Eliminate barriers to employment for elderly and disabled Wolfe residents
- Reduce health vulnerability
- Improve health outcomes, such as life expectancy
- Enhance residents' sense of well-being
- Promote community engagement
- Increase youth participation in development activities and programs

Goals have also been drafted based on these priorities.

Goal 1: Enhance Quality Education

Objective 1.1: Increase access to early childhood education programs for children ages 6 weeks to 5-year-old children

Objective 1.2: Improve K-12 educational outcomes

Objective 1.3: Expand higher education and vocational training opportunities



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Goal 2: Green Spaces for Early Childhood Learning

Objective 2.1: Increase opportunities for unstructured imaginative play by incorporating natural elements into play areas.

Objective 2.2: Improve focus and concentration by providing daily access to green spaces for all children

Objective 2.3: Utilize nature-based learning activities to stimulate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Goal 3: Expand Employment Opportunities

Objective 3.1: Foster job creation and economic development

Objective 3.2 Enhance job readiness and skills training

Objective 3.3: Improve access to employment resources

Objective 3.4: Create incubator spaces for home-based day care centers

Goal 4: Ensure Excellent Health Care

Objective 4.1 Improve mental health services and support

Objective 4.2: Promote healthy living wellness

Objective 4.3: Provide education and resources to help individuals make informed decisions about health care

Goal 5: Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation

Objective 5.1: Foster leadership and life skills among youth

Objective 5.2: Enhance youth employment opportunities

Objective 5.3: Foster a sense of community and belonging

Objective 5.4: Promote volunteerism and civic responsibility

Goal 6: Support Youth Development and Engagement

Objective 6.1: Provide enriching extracurricular activities and programs

Committee suggested revising **Goal 1: to read Enhance K-6 Quality Education**. Byrne suggested revising **Goal 2 to read "Equitable Early Childhood Learning,"** emphasizing that all early childhood learning should embody the objectives listed below. It is a necessity, not a luxury. Mental health was emphasized as a priority for Goal 3, with the observation that more people are likely to struggle post-pandemic. It was also suggested that Objective 5.2 be moved to Goal



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6, as it relates to youth development. Additionally, an objective for mental health and wellness should be added to Goal 6, which focuses on supporting youth development and engagement. A summit was proposed to allow young people to share their ideas on the priorities for youth development and engagement.

4. Questions

- Can you consider having the next people task force meeting virtual and have participants think about goals, objectives, strategies and how we can achieve this?
- Can you consider providing refreshments for these meetings?
- Can you translate the vision statement in Spanish?

5. Planning Handbook

Ms. Vincent distributed planning handbooks. The handbook is designed to walk CNI participants through the steps of the planning process of transforming an existing community into a neighborhood where people choose to live. The task force members were asked to review and become familiar with the information and bring it to future meetings for reference.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting date and time will be determined.

UNION SQUARE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATON PLAN

People Vision Statement: To create a thriving Hill and Union Square community with quality education, ample employment opportunities, and excellent health care for all.

People Priorities

- Increase educational attainment level for neighborhood residents
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Goal 1: Enhance Quality Education

	Strategies	Metrics	Partners
<p>Objective 1.1: Increase access to early childhood education programs for children ages 6 weeks to 5-year-old children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partner with local schools and community organizations to create more preschool slots. ○ Provide funding for early childhood education scholarships. ○ Increase the number of opportunities for infant and toddlers to get access to quality pre-school learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds attending pre-K program ○ Average wait time for preschool enrollment ○ Number of formal partnerships established with local schools and community organizations ○ Amount of funding resources contributed by partners 	<p>.</p>
<p>Objective 1.2: Improve K-12 educational outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement after-school tutoring and mentoring programs. ○ Increase investment in teacher training and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changes in standardized test scores of participation students ○ Amount of resources allocated to teacher training and resources 	
<p>Objective 1.3: Expand higher education and vocational training opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop partnerships with local colleges and vocational schools. ○ Offer scholarships and grants to residents pursuing higher education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ % of enrolled students from targeted demographics who complete these programs ○ Average income increases for participants after completing educational or training programs ○ % of recipients who complete their degree or certificate programs 	
<p>Objective 1.4:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 	

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Goal 2: Green Spaces for Early Childhood Learning

Objective 2.1: Increase opportunities for unstructured, imaginative play by incorporating natural elements into play areas.	Strategies		Partners
Objective 2.2: Improve focus and concentration by providing daily access to green spaces for all children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop outdoor classroom spaces where lessons can be conducted in a natural setting. ○ Establish school gardens where children can participate in planting and maintaining plants ○ ○ Design schoolyards with trees, shrubs, grassy areas, and other natural elements 	○	
Objective 2.3: Utilize nature-based learning activities to stimulate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrate nature-based learning activities into the existing curriculum across various subjects ○ Schedule regular nature walks and field trips to local parks, forests, and botanical gardens 	○	

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Goal 3: Expand Employment Opportunities			
Objective 3.1: Foster job creation and economic development.	Strategies	Metrics	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attract new businesses to the Hill and Union Square areas through tax incentives and support services. ○ Retain or expand existing small businesses ○ Support local entrepreneurs with grants and business development training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of residents employed by new businesses ○ Number of existing small businesses remaining after five years ○ Average wages of jobs created by new businesses 	
Objective 3.2: Enhance job readiness and skills training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish job training centers focusing on in-demand skills. ○ Partner with local businesses to offer internships and apprenticeships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of new employer partnerships established because of the training programs ○ number of participants who enroll in the programs ○ percentage of graduates who secure employment in their field of training within 90 days 	
Objective 3.3: Improve access to employment resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a community employment center providing job listings, resume help, and interview preparation. ○ Host regular job fairs and networking events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of people who visit the employment center ○ percentage of clients who secure employment after using the centers services ○ number of attendees at the job fair our networking events ○ number of employers and organizations participating 	
Objective 3.4: Create incubator spaces for home-based day care centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partner with Gateway and vocational schools to offer child care certifications ○ Provide workshops on child development, safety, nutrition, and business management ○ Facilitate CPR and first aid training for day care providers ○ Establish microloan programs and grants ○ Form a local association or network for home-based day-care providers 		

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Goal 3: Ensure Excellent Health Care			
<p>Objective 3.1: Improve mental health services and support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish mental health support centers with counseling services. ○ Provide training for community members to recognize and address mental health issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of community outreach activities conducted ○ Number of partnerships with local organizations, schools, and health care providers ○ number of new clients enrolling in services 	
<p>Objective 3.2: Promote healthy living and wellness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch community wellness programs, including fitness classes and nutrition workshops. ○ Develop and maintain parks and recreational facilities to encourage physical activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participants enrolled in fitness classes ○ our nutrition workshops ○ Changes in key help indicators (e. g., blood pressure, cholesterol levels) ○ Improvement in participants knowledge about nutrition, measured through pre and post program surveys 	
<p>Objective 3.3: Provide education and resources to help individuals make informed decisions about health care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop user friendly websites and mobile apps that offer health information, symptom checkers, and decision-making tools ○ Organize workshops, seminars, and webinars on various health topics, delivered by healthcare professionals ○ Conduct health fairs and free screening events to provide information and early detection services ○ offer support groups and educational classes for chronic conditions such as diabetes common heart disease, and asthma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of active monthly uses engaging with the website or apps ○ Number of participants who attend each workshop, seminar, webinar ○ User reported improvements in health a well-being because of using the website or app ○ Changes in clinical health indicators (e. g., blood pressure, diabetes, asthma) levels) tracked overtime 	

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Goal 4: Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation				
Objective 4.1: Foster leadership and life skills among youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement youth mentorship and leadership programs. ○ Provide workshops on financial literacy, career planning, and personal development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participants securing internships, part time jobs, or full-time employment because of the program ○ Number of youth enrolled in the mentorship and leadership programs ○ Number of people reached through marketing efforts (e. g., social media, e-mail campaigns flyers) 		
Objective 4.2: Enhance youth employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop summer job programs and internships for young people. ○ Partner with local businesses to create youth employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of young people enroll in the summer drop programs and internships ○ improvement in skills measure through assessments conducted before and after the program or internship ○ Number are participants receiving job offers what is the current full-time positions after completing the program or internship ○ Total number of local businesses partnered with to create employment opportunities 		
Objective 4.2: Foster a sense of community and belonging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Host cultural events, festivals, and neighborhood celebrations. ○ Create community spaces such as parks, gardens, and recreational areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of local businesses participating and their feedback ○ Number of people attending the events ○ diversity and representation of diverse cultures and communities at the events ○ Total area of green space created or maintained ○ Number and effectiveness of accommodation provided for visitors with disabilities 		
Objective 4.3: Promote volunteerism and civic responsibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch volunteer programs for community improvement projects. ○ Partner with local organizations to create volunteer opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of individuals who participate in the volunteer programs ○ Number of community improvement projects completed ○ Number of partnerships form with local organizations to create volunteer opportunities ○ level of community involvement and support for volunteer projects 		

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Goal 5: Support Youth Development and Engagement				
<p>Objective 5.1: Provide enriching extracurricular activities and programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offer sports, arts, and academic clubs and programs. ○ Create youth centers with safe and engaging activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of individuals role in the clubs and programs ○ Level of involvement from parents and community members in supporting the programs ○ number of youths enrolled in the centers' programs and activities ○ Self-reported improvements in mental well-being and social connection 		