California Climate Action Team – Public Health Workgroup (CAT-PHWG)

November 30, 2021 Meeting
"COVID Lessons for the Climate Crisis"

Meeting Resources / Links Shared:

California Climate Action Team – Public Health Workgroup (CAT-PHWG):
Co-hosted by CA Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CA Air Resources Board (CARB):
https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/climate-action-team-public-health-workgroup-meetings

CDPH Office of Health Equity:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/OfficeHealthEquity.aspx

- CDPH Climate Change & Health Equity Section:
  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/OHE/pages/CCHEP.aspx

- CDPH COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities:
  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Equity%20Playbook_V1_12.1.2020_final.pdf

- *Additional information available here:* https://covid19.ca.gov/equity/

- "We're already barreling towards the next pandemic." by Ed Yong. *The Atlantic*. September 29, 2021: https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/09/america-prepared-next-pandemic/620238/

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE):
- Raising Up Farmworkers Report: https://causenow.org/content/report-raising-farmworkers

Tribal Climate Health Project:
- Website: http://tribalclimatehealth.org/
- Protecting Tribal Health in Crisis: Translating COVID Lessons into Climate Preparation in Indian Country: http://tribalclimatehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/COVIDtoCLIMATE_final_2-2.pdf

Public Health Alliance of Southern California:
- The California Healthy Places Index: HealthyPlacesIndex.org
- Public Health Alliance Regional Equity Learning Collaborative:
  https://www.thepublichealthalliance.org/collaborative
- COVID Health Equity Resources:
  https://www.thepublichealthalliance.org/covid19/advancing-equity

BARHII Reports & Resources:
- COVID Response and Recovery Platform: barhii.org/4rsofcovid19recovery
- COVID Equity Investment Guide: https://www.barhii.org/investment-guide
- BARHII & PHASC Joint Report: Embedding Equity into Emergency Operations:
  https://www.barhii.org/embedding-equity
- Farther Together: Equitable Resilience Planning Report: https://www.barhii.org/farther-together

- The Kresge Foundation. "Resilience for all: Building health equity infrastructure for climate-driven disaster": https://kresge.org/news-views/resilience-for-all-building-health-equity-infrastructure-for-climate-driven-disasters/

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Facilitated Discussion Question – Written Answers
- Given limited resources and capacity, what are other ways communities can build resilience to public health threats like COVID-19 and climate change?

- Are there any other tools or lessons that could be applied to other sectors in addressing the climate crisis?

Angie Hacker: "One point we made in our paper and our presentation that relates to [these questions] is that governments would benefit from taking inventory of the practices that came out of COVID and to determine which should be fortified and repurposed for climate change (see examples below). The problem is time/capacity. There is probably a role for the State and programs like TCHP to lift some burden here (a self-assessment checklist, a compilation of best practices, funding, training/peer knowledge sharing). Without some intentionality and assessment, we will miss a unique window of opportunity to leverage and align COVID lessons, advances, and resources for long term climate resilience needs.

Examples
- We set up food/water distribution in a way that worked and should formalize partnerships and protocols so it's easier to set up next time.
- We formed an ad hoc interdepartmental or interagency crisis committee and should continue it and broaden its function.
- We had to move staff to fill this big, unexpected need and should hire a position.
- We repurposed an empty space for vaccines or temporary shelter and should determine how to make it available a multitude of emergency uses.
- We built a new storage facility for supplies and should make sure it houses supplies for climate disasters.
- We set up an emergency center and need to make sure it has stable broadband and is ready for a variety of climate impacts including power outages.
- We figured out shelter in place, telehealth, telework, and other processes for COVID and should write up the procedure for activating them in other kinds of emergencies.
- We advanced our use of real time geospatial health data and could apply it to other emergent health threats like heat/vector borne illness.
- We improved our public outreach and notification systems and should ensure all departments are trained to use it for climate emergencies."