NYU School of Medicine Healthy Neighborhoods Fund Evaluation

Paul Tainsh, Senior Evaluator

Department of Population Health, NYU Medical Center

New York State Health Foundation / New York Community Trust / Active Living By Design

Webinar

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Event Info

Healthy Neighborhoods
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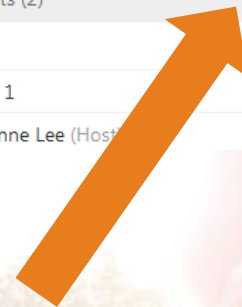
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Components of the Evaluation

- Assess both the <u>implementation</u> of interventions at individual sites and the <u>overall impact</u> of the Healthy Neighborhoods initiative

  - Process evaluation

  - Environmental changes

  - Behavioral changes

Process Evaluation Questions

- What specific **interventions** were implemented?

- What **partnerships/collaborations** were formed?

- What **barriers and facilitators** did sites experience?

- How did the **stakeholders** perceive the initiative?

- Which interventions were **most feasible** and/or acceptable?

- How **sustainable** are the interventions?

Interim Report #1

Time matters: Developing a comprehensive, cross-sector understanding of healthy neighborhoods takes time and effort.

Collaboration matters: But collaboration is hard, time consuming and slow work.

Resident engagement matters: As projects have progressed from proposal to implementation phases, some of the grantees have invested additional time and energy in resident engagement strategies to ensure that the projects reflect resident identified needs.

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Grantee Organization Characteristics

Leadership matters: Lead agencies bring different organizational missions, organizational capacities and relationships within and outside of the community to the work of creating healthier neighborhoods.

Staffing matters: The staff person coordinating the initiative can be most effective when she has leverage and credibility both within the organization and in the community to effectively engage external organizations and residents.

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Healthy Neighborhood Work

All grantee organizations have continued to make progress implementing pre-existing programs, services or planning activities focused on healthy food access, improvements to the built environment and, to a lesser extent, program linkages.

Some communities are currently benefitting from parallel government initiatives to address health inequities and improve resident health at the neighborhood or city-wide level.

Interim Report #2

- Inventory of healthy food assets and programs

- Inventory of parks, open spaces and recreational facilities

- Catalog of programs that support active and healthy lifestyles

Environmental Change Questions

- Has the Initiative:

  1. Increased the availability of **healthy, affordable food**?

  2. Resulted in improvements to the **built environment**?

  3. Linked community residents to **programs that support lifestyle changes**?

Environmental Metrics

Cross-Site Metrics
Food Access:
Supermarkets
Farmers/Youth Markets
#/Type of Food Incentive Programs
Built Environment:
Parks/Playgrounds
Recreation Facilities
Shared Use Facilities
Linkages to Programs:
#/Type of Evidence-based Healthy Eating/Active Living Programs

Selected Site-Based Metrics
Food Access:
Healthy Retail Stores
Food/Nutrition Education Services
School Nutrition Programs
Built Environment:
Programs Activating Parks
Place Making Projects
Active Living:
Healthy Living Program Participants
Active Living Program Participants

Preliminary Findings – Environmental Change

- **Changing Resident Awareness, Knowledge and Access to Healthy Food:**

  - Increased emphasis on resident awareness of healthy food outlets

  - Improved resident knowledge of nutrition and how to prepare healthier meals

  - Increased distribution of incentives to improve affordability

  - Increased access to healthier food at growing network of 30 small food retailers

- **Focus on Parks, Physical Activity Programming and Public Safety:**

  - More than 20 parks and playgrounds are being improved through investment of public funds

  - There are many efforts to improve facilities and increase programming

  - Safety issues are being addressed to encourage increased resident use

- **Linking Residents to Healthy Living Support Programs**

  - Grantees are exploring new ways to share up-to-date and more complete Information about local programs that support active and healthy lifestyles using on-line directories for healthcare providers, calendars and improved referrals processes

Preliminary Findings

- **Comprehensive Planning**: Grantees are beginning to develop more comprehensive visions of neighborhood health. The challenge is to work with partnering organizations to collaboratively develop a shared vision and a resulting action plan.

- **Network Hubs**: Healthy Neighborhood grantees are conduits that draws municipal, county and nonprofit health and built environment resources into the neighborhoods.

- **Access to Healthy Food**: Grantees are working to improve both supply and demand – quality and price are large issues in many neighborhoods.

- **Resident Engagement**: Grantees are working with residents to identify priorities and effective strategies, as well as build local leadership.

- **Public Safety**: Safety is a major factor in accessibility to food and open space. Grantees are attracting residents to public spaces through improvements to the built environment, programming and stewardship.

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Process Evaluation – Next Steps

- Phone follow-up calls

- Site visits

- Technical assistance on evaluation and data collection

- Continued logic model development

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Questions

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to ask a question

We Want Your Feedback!

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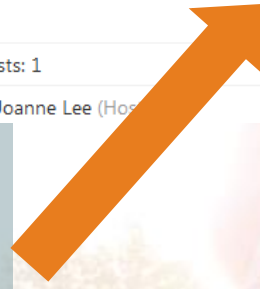▼ Participants (2)
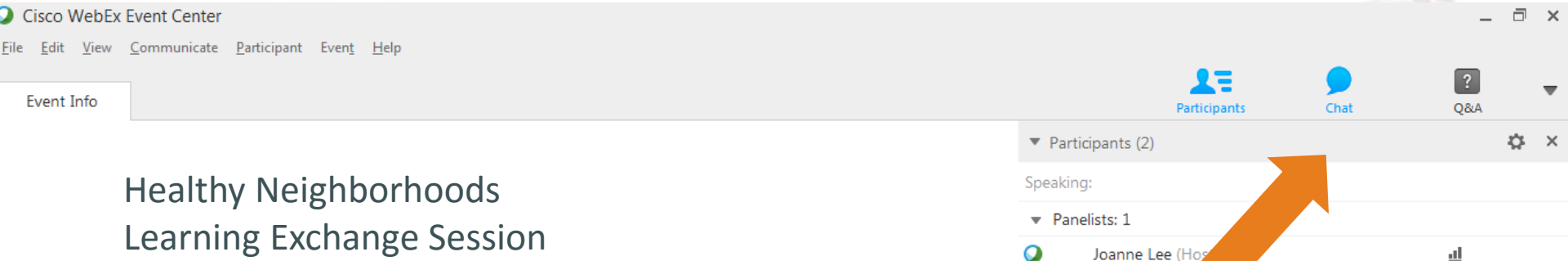
Speaking:

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Joanne Lee (Hos

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Type "+" and identify what worked well today

Type "-" and identify what could be improved

Share topics of interest for future sessions

THANK YOU!!