



Desert Highland Gateway

BOLD ACTIONS

Community members will be engaged and involved in addressing health disparities and inequities.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK TO DATE

In 2013-2014 Desert Highland Gateway community residents, Loma Linda University students & faculty, and El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center collaborated to conduct a community health assessment of the north Palm Springs community known as Desert Highland Gateway. Upon receiving the results of the assessment, residents who assisted in implementing the assessment formed the Desert Highland Gateway Community Health and Wellness Committee to address the critical needs identified. Today, the Committee consists of diverse community stakeholders. In 2015 the Committee developed a plan outlining five (5) strategic priorities focusing on: a Health Navigation Program; Low Cost Health Care Access; Job Placement Programming; At-Risk Youth Programming; and Vocational Training Resources. Utilizing an all-volunteer effort, the Committee began to implement a series of action-oriented tactics associated with the strategic priorities. In the summer of 2016, the Committee secured funding from the Desert Healthcare District to hire two part-time community health workers and one project coordinator/ community health worker.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORK YET TO DO

The Committee recognizes that advancing the health and wellness in the Community is a long-term obligation that requires sustained commitment and that their internal

operational capacity and long-term sustainability prospect must be strengthened. Capacity building and sustainability initiatives have been identified and will be worked by the Committee over the next 12 months.

“By working with the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, our Committee has been introduced to collaborative partners and new relationships to advance our ability to deliver critical resources to our Community residents.”

Ron Oden

Former Palm Springs Mayor and Committee Member

EXPECTED FUTURE IMPACT

The Committee expects to bring the resources of a Health Navigation Program to the residents of the Community; redirect Community residents away from local emergency departments for non-emergent primary care services by introducing them to free or low-cost, local Medical Homes; encourage work readiness among able-to-work Community residents; encourage Community youth to complete high school; and encourage work readiness among Community residents who have a conviction record or other impediment that may limit employment options.