

Prince George's County
HEALTHCARE ACTION COALITION



Prince George's County Board of Health
Tuesday, May 28, 2024
1:30 PM

Support for Implementation of CR-127-2020 – Health in All Policies

Good afternoon, members of the County Board of Health,

My name is Christine Stewart, and I am honored to speak today as a representative of the Prince George's County Health Action Coalition's Health Equity Workgroup. Our workgroup is composed of dedicated community leaders and representatives from Community-Based Organizations, County Agencies, and Universities, all of whom serve as subject matter experts deeply committed to advancing health and wellness in our community. I am here to discuss the vital importance of implementing CR-127-2020, a resolution concerning Prince George's County Health in All Policies (HiAP).

HiAP is a strategy used to incorporate health, well-being, and equity considerations in decisions typically made outside of the health sector that have a significant impact on health. The integration of HiAP is crucial for several reasons. First, it supports the health and wellness of our community by addressing the root causes of poor health outcomes, which are widely known as social determinants of health. These determinants, such as access to nutritious food, safe housing, quality education, and equitable employment opportunities, are the underlying factors that shape our health outcomes. Many of the social determinants of health are significantly influenced and overseen by sectors outside of the sphere of influence of the public health sector—whether it be transportation, housing, education, food security, or economic development. By embedding health considerations into all policies, we can create environments that promote healthy living and reduce health disparities. Moreover, HiAP fosters a more cohesive and collaborative approach to policy-making. It encourages different sectors to work together towards common health goals, breaking down silos and ensuring that health is not viewed in isolation but as an integral part of overall community wellbeing.

As the Health Equity Workgroup, we bring together expertise from various fields to support the development of infrastructure and processes that will make HiAP a reality. Our collective knowledge and experience position us well to aid in crafting effective policies, providing valuable insights, and monitoring their impact. The implementation of CR127-2020 is the first step towards engaging the County agencies and grantees to prioritize health equity within their own organizations. This is not just a policy shift; it is a commitment to a healthier future for all residents of our county. We, as the Health Equity Workgroup, stand ready to support this initiative and work collaboratively to ensure its successful implementation. Together, we can create a community where health and wellness are at the forefront of every decision, ultimately leading to a more equitable and thriving society.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Stewart, MPH, PMP

Health Equity Workgroup Co-Chair
Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition

Senior Program Manager
Institute for Public Health Innovation