Health Impact Assessments for Community Development Corporations

EXPLORING BEST PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

June 18 and June 20, 2013
2:00-3:00 PM
Presenters

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Fostering Healthy Community Design

• “Fostering Healthy Community Design Through Health Impact Assessment”
  – Focus on Land-use, Housing, Transportation
  – HIAs, training, capacity building
  – Collaboration with many partners (BCHAP, BEH, MAPC, HRiA, Mass in Motion)

• The importance of Community Development

• CITC HIA!
Overview of today’s webinar

• What is health and what impacts health?
• Overview of HIA
• Steps to the HIA process
• Examples of HIA
• Opportunities for CDCs to get involved

Slides are adapted from Human Impact Partners, Health Impact Project and the Georgia Health Policy Center
Factors Responsible for Population Health

Health status is determined by:
- Genetics: 20–30%
- Health care: 10%
- Social, environmental conditions, and behavior: 60–70%

*Health Affairs, 2002*
“Get more exercise”...
“Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables” ...
Unintended Adverse Impacts on Health

Highway Policy

- Increases in driving and traffic
- Lack of physical activity
- Air pollution
- Traffic injuries

Estimated costs of traffic-related health outcomes in the US could be as great as $400 billion annually

Education Policy

- Has led to disproportionately poor education among low income and minorities
- Impacts opportunities for jobs and income, as well as life expectancy
Decisions Have Unintended Health Benefits Too

1996 Olympic Games, Atlanta
24 hour public transportation
Addition of public buses
Reduction of auto travel and congestion
Public announcements
Was shown to decrease acute childhood asthma events

Introduction of EZ Pass, Northeastern U.S.
Reduced traffic congestion
Reduced motor vehicle emissions
Reduce disparities
Resulted in reduction of low birth-weight infants in surrounding neighborhoods

Slide courtesy of Human Impact Partners
The Problem

So many daily decisions made outside of the health sector have significant health implications that go unrecognized because health is just not on the radar screens of decision makers.
What is a healthy neighborhood?

A neighborhood with housing options, quality schools, thriving businesses, reliable public transit and markets full of fresh food. It’s where parents have access to good jobs, children have parks to play in, and grandparents can age in place. It’s where we look out for each other and know we are safe. Most importantly, healthy neighborhoods provide access to the resources we need to lead stable, fulfilling lives.

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, an Oakland, California-based nonprofit agency
What is HIA?

• A framework or process that tries to predict anticipated health outcomes of a decision/project
• Translates that information into recommendations for well-informed decisions
• Helps folks outside the health field understand the direct health impacts of their work
• HIA’s purpose is to improve health, track unintended consequences and mitigate risk
A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

National Research Council of the National Academies, 2011
HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

How might the proposed project, plan, policy affect
- Housing
- Air quality
- Noise
- Safety
- Social networks
- Nutrition
- Parks and natural space
- Private goods and services
- Public services
- Transportation
- Livelihood
- Water quality
- Education
- Inequities

And potentially lead to predicted health outcomes?
HIA Core Competencies

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Equity
- Communications
- Evaluation
What HIA is not... What HIA is

- It’s not used to make the case for why a policy, program or project should be proposed – it is not an advocacy tool.
- It’s not an assessment to understand the impacts of a program or policy once it has been implemented.
- The Sweet Spot – It’s proactive! It’s meant to inform a proposed policy, program or project currently under active consideration by a decision-making body.
  - It’s not a community assessment tool, but those can be used during assessment stage of HIA.
- HIA is the framework that translates that data into well-informed decisions.
The HIA Process

- Screening: Is HIA feasible and likely to add value?
- Scoping: What are the important health effects? Who are the affected populations? What is available evidence?
- Assessment: What are the baseline conditions and likely health impacts?
- Recommendations: Develop health-based recommendations and a feasible plan for implementing them
- Reporting: Disseminate the report to the public, stakeholders
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitors results of HIA, monitors health outcomes; evaluates the HIA process
Authors: Health Resources in Action

Decision: Plan for 23,000 sq. ft. parcel of land next to Fairmont Indigo Commuter Rail Line

Parcel design included a tot lot (playground for young children), teaching and production gardens, and a learning/teaching kitchen.

Timeline: April – August 2012
SCREENING

SCOPING

ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORTING

MONITORING & EVALUATION
Purpose:
To determine whether a proposal is likely to have health effects and whether the HIA will provide useful information

Minimum Elements:
• Informs a decision-making process
• Conducted in advance of a policy, plan, program, or project decision
Basic Yes/No Screening Questions

• Is there a decision regarding a policy, plan, or project, currently under consideration whose outcomes are likely to impact health?
  – Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC) was determining the design for a parcel of land along a commuter rail line

• Does the decision-making process allow for input from an HIA?
  – Local residents, called The Friends, were already engaged in the decision-making process of CSNDC
  – CSNDC and The Friends were willing to participate in the HIA process
Basic Yes/No Screening Questions Continued

• Is health a part of the discussion? Would the HIA bring anything new?
  – Health was not explicitly part of the design for this parcel

• Can the HIA be completed within the timeline for the decision, and with the resources available?
  – Though timing and funding were tight, the HIA could be completed within these constraints
Additional Considerations

• What is the likelihood that the HIA findings and recommendations will receive consideration by decision-makers?
  – CSNDC and The Friends were and open to taking its results into consideration

• Are there other stakeholders who are willing and able to participate in the HIA?
  – Many interested partners around the city and state; formed an advisory committee
Additional Considerations

- Does this HIA have the potential to increase partnerships, visibility, and support for future HIAs and other Health in All Policies efforts in your region?
  - The HIA brought together new and old partners and, along with other HIAs happening simultaneously, helped increase visibility and capacity for the HIA process

- Is there the potential for different sub-groups within the community to be more adversely affected than others?
  - This HIA had the potential to adversely affect those people living in close proximity to the parcel of land

- Has a group or organization requested an HIA on a particular decision?
  - The CSNDC requested an HIA on the design of their site
Scoping: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose
To establish the scope of health effects that will be included in the HIA, the populations affected, the sources of data and the methods to be used

Minimum Elements
• Utilize a systematic analytic process to:
  – Comprehensively consider potential impacts on health outcomes as well as on social, environmental, and economic health determinants, and select potentially significant issues for impact analysis
  – Solicit and utilize input from stakeholders
Scoping Questions

• **Why** are we doing the HIA?
  - To incorporate health into the design of the CSNDC parcel
  - To build capacity for conducting HIAs

• **How** will the decision impact population health?
  - The site has the potential to impact the social, economic, and physical environment of people who use and live near the site

• **Who** will be impacted by the decision?
  - People who use the site
  - Residents who live nearby the site
  - CSNDC and The Friends
Scoping Questions

• **Who** will be involved in conducting the HIA?
  - HIA Team: HRiA, MDPH
  - Advisory Committee
  - CSNDC and The Friends

• **How** will we assess the health impacts?
  - Pathway diagrams were created to show the links between the project, the identified determinants of health, and health outcomes
  - Research questions were developed to frame the assessment, e.g. how will the site impact levels of mental health, such as depression and anxiety?
  - Methods- primary data from a resident survey, secondary data from existing sources, literature
Scoping: Codman Square HIA

Project Component
- Garden (teaching/production)

Immediate Impacts
- Δ Access to Healthy Food
- Δ Gardening
- Δ Social Interactions
- Δ Soil Contamination
- Δ Pests

Intermediate Impacts
- Δ Healthy Food Consumption
- Δ Physical Activity
- Δ Social Cohesion
- Δ Sense of Well-Being
- Δ Toxic Exposures (heavy metals; pesticides)

Health Outcomes
- Δ Chronic Conditions (obesity, heart disease, diabetes)
- Δ Mental Health (depression, anxiety)
- Δ Injury (accident, poisoning)
ASSESSMENT
Assessment: Purpose and Minimum Elements

Purpose

• Describe the baseline health status, assess potential impacts, and assess the strength of evidence

Minimum Elements

• Utilize a systematic analytic process to:
  – Establish baseline conditions for health
  – Judge the direction, magnitude, likelihood, and distribution of potential impacts on human health or health determinants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Determinant</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Strength of Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Food Access</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Participants, Their Families/Networks, Wider Community</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to Soil Toxins</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>All Participants, Especially Children</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment: Resources and Tools

Our Healthy Massachusetts
www.ourhealthymass.org

Massachusetts Environmental Health Tracking
http://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/
Recommendations: Purpose and Minimum Elements

**Purpose**

• Suggest alternatives that could be implemented to improve health or actions that could be taken to manage health effects

**Minimum Elements**

• Identify appropriate recommendations, mitigations and/or design alternatives to protect and promote health
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Determinant</th>
<th>Promote/Mitigate</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Food Access</td>
<td>Promote</td>
<td>Neighborhood survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Local food retailer distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Contamination</td>
<td>Mitigate</td>
<td>Soil mitigation techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>Mitigate</td>
<td>Safe Gardening Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ADA requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pests</td>
<td>Mitigate</td>
<td>Rotation, barrier, &amp; row cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Organic/safer pesticides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCREENING
SCOPING
ASSESSMENT
RECOMMENDATIONS
REPORTING
MONITORING & EVALUATION
Purpose

• Present findings and recommendations to decision makers and stakeholders

Minimum Elements

• Include transparent, publicly-accessible documentation of the process, methods, findings, sponsors, funding sources, participants and their respective roles.
OASIS ON BALLOU:

Health Impact Assessment Report

September 28, 2012

Funded by:
Massachusetts Department of Public Health through the Centers for Disease Control's Healthy Community Design Initiative (Health Impact Assessment to Foster Healthy Community Design Cooperative Agreement) via the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
SCREENING
SCOPING
ASSESSMENT
RECOMMENDATIONS
REPORTING

MONITORING & EVALUATION
Purpose

• Monitor the implementation of HIA recommendations. Evaluation can be of process, impact or outcomes.

Minimum Elements

• Propose a monitoring plan for tracking the decision’s implementation on health impacts/ determinants of concern.
Monitoring:

• How did this HIA influence the decision making of the CSDNC?
• What aspects of the recommendations were included in CSNDC’s proposal to the City of Boston for the procurement of land and development of Oasis on Ballou?

Evaluation:

• Routine surveying of neighborhood residents
  – How many residents utilize the site?
  – Have gardening and cooking skills/knowledge changed in the neighborhood?
  – Has fruit and vegetable (healthy food) access changed in the neighborhood?
• Partners who regularly collect data - BPHC, MAPC
OTHER EXAMPLES OF HIA
**Authors:** Human Impact Partners & SFDPH

**Decision:** Plan for 61 new senior housing units close to 2 freeways & Port of Oakland

**Impacts:** Air quality; noise; safety; retail access

**Recommendations:** Noise-insulating windows; pedestrian protection medians; traffic calming measures; air quality monitoring; installation of ventilation systems; and many others

**Outcomes:**
- Many recommendations adopted
- Additional HIA projects were funded
- Healthy Development Checklist adopted by the development committee
HIA Example: Roxbury/HNEF Health Impact Assessment

- New transit-oriented development
  - Δ in housing and commercial/retail space
  - Δ in transportation options
  - Δ in traffic patterns

Immediate Impacts

Intermediate Impacts

- Δ in displacement and gentrification
- Δ in economic opportunity
- Δ in access to healthy foods
- Δ in crime (real and perceived)
- Δ in physical activity
- Δ in vehicle miles traveled

Outcomes

- Δ in stress/mental health
- Δ in chronic disease
- Δ in safety (real and perceived)
- Δ in fuel burned and air quality
**Additional Examples of HIA**

- **MA Rental Voucher Program: Child Health Impact Assessment**
  - Found that proposed changes in eligibility would result in dis-enrollment and increased housing instability
  - Which, in turn, leads to higher education cost for vulnerable children ($6,700 – special education; $6,800 – repeating a grade)

- **MA Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
  - Found that proposed cuts would lead to use of unsafe heating alternatives and an increase in child ER visits
  - Which, in turn, would lead to increased Medicaid reimbursements and higher costs to state in long run

**Other MA HIA**
- Speed Limit HIA
- Quequechan River Rail Trail HIA
- Grounding McGrath HIA
- Fitchburg & Worcester HIAs (in process)
The Benefits of HIA

Involves a broad-range of impacted people
  – Community capacity building/empowerment

It’s an effective tool for meaningful cross-sector collaboration
  – Relationships/trust is built among partners through HIA process
  – Increases likelihood of routine consideration of health

There is a strong business case for HIA
  – Corporate social responsibility – address community concerns early in the planning process
  – Lower business costs – can actually help speed approval of a project/decision
  – Know your “Health ROI” – HIA as a form of risk management
Who Does HIA?

• Non-profit organizations
• Community Development Corporations
• Community groups affected by a decision
• Local and State government agencies
  – Public Health, Environmental Health, Planning Departments
• Universities & research institutions
• Industry/business community
HIA by Sector

- Built environment: 37%
- Transportation: 20%
- Housing: 9%
- Agriculture and Food: 7%
- Economic Policy: 1%
- Natural Resources and Energy: 13%
- Climate Change: 1%
- Gambling: 1%
- Education: 5%
- Physical Activity: 1%
- Labor and Employment: 5%
Completed HIA and In Progress HIAs 2012 (N = 173)
Key Points About HIA (Continued)

• There may be “Health in All Policies” . . .
  – But it doesn’t mean that HIA is right for every policy decision

• HIA is meant to be just one of many tools in the tool box

• Screening is one of the most important steps

• Take time to do proper screening
HIA Goals:

- Inform MA Department of Housing and Community Development on the impact of funding opportunities for CDCs through the CITC grant program.
- Examine the connections between community development activities and health
- Identify health metrics to be measured and evaluated
CITC Program: Opportunities for Engagement

• Scoping Sessions
  – Metrowest: Wednesday, 7/10 @ 2PM
  – Boston: Monday, 7/22 @ 9:30AM
  – Western MA: Wednesday, 7/24 @ 9:30AM

Audience: Community Development Corporations, local health departments, Community Support Organizations, residents
Questions?

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