

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 12-1-20

ITEM NO. RA9



To the Honorable Chairman Valadez and Board Members,

The Community Prevention Coalition's (CPC) mission is to create an effective and supportive culture to prevent youth alcohol use and other drug misuse. We have continued to look at best practices and policies that can support our mission in prevention, specifically for Pima County. According to the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the evidence is clear that access to substance misuse prevention, treatment, and harm-reduction services differ by race and gender; with the disparity unfavorable to those in communities of color and lower socio-economic backgrounds.

As the Chair of the CPC, I write to you on behalf of the entire Coalition, requesting all Board members to set aside partisan differences, and acknowledge that America's healthcare system has been impacted by historical and systemic racism. That access to safe and affordable housing, active recreational opportunities, well-paying jobs, quality early childhood education, clean air and water, healthcare, and health insurance are all factors that should be equitable and obtainable by all in our society. That these factors have unfortunate impacts on one's ability to be self-sufficient economically, and that these factors ultimately are risk factors that lead to unfortunate side effects, such as substance misuse and other health disorders.

As a coalition of preventionists, the CPC is committed to advocating for equitable health-care access, informative training, and representation that ultimately supports cultural competency throughout Pima County. The CPC has continued to ensure that a trauma informed approach, as a best practice, is central in training provided for the Tucson Police Department, and are additionally beginning to work with other law enforcement agencies in Pima County. The goals of the CPC are in alignment with this resolution; that everyone deserves an equal pathway to healthcare and economic success, regardless of racial and ethnic background, socioeconomic status, or citizenship status. We support the resolution's call for actions that would expand Pima County's efforts to ensure equity for those underserved in our community. The CPC believes in advocating for future programs and projects that would improve the lives of these communities, and ultimately expand opportunities for assessment and capacity building for pathways to economic self-sufficiency and stability. Because of the aforementioned reasons, we strongly urge you to vote in favor of the resolution declaring racial disparity a public health crisis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lovelis', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Lovelis,

Chair of the Community Prevention Coalition

NOV 24 2020 9:58 AM PIMA COUNTY CLERK