

Roadmap to Resilience

Reporting on the Third Ark of Safety Community Resiliency Summit

June 15, 2023

For



By



Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who attended the Ark of Safety Community Resiliency Summit Reconvening; this report summarizes the deep value of information you shared.

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Ark of Safety Community Resiliency Summit Reconvening was held in-person at the San Bernardino Diocese on June 15, 2023, as well as available online. It was the third Ark of Safety event in the series. There were more than 65 attendees in-person; see Appendix A for the registered attendees. There were also 17 participants who joined the meeting online.

The summit presentation focused on the findings from the second summit which focused on collaboration, resources, understanding needs with assessment, sharing and respect, funding, civic engagement, and elected officials.

Participants then self-selected into breakout groups; there were seven breakout groups with one dedicated to explore each of the aforementioned topics.

All breakout groups tackled the same three questions:

1. What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?
2. Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?
3. What resources do we have together that none of us has all of on our own?

This report summarizes the key findings from each of the breakout groups.

Findings

Collaboration

Participants in the collaboration group envision a future that we don't work in silos, and instead we effectively coordinate, build trust, and focus on the agenda of the collaborative.

All people should care about collaboration, particularly nonprofits and government agencies. Participants described that anything can be accomplished together – “nothing is impossible.”

The resources we have together are that we become whole and complete together, we also have more information and greater focus when we work together.

Resources

A future we want to create for resources is to be better connected and minimally siloed. Additionally, organizations need to take accountability.

Participants described that everyone cares, including government, nonprofits, and people who care about the community. Together, we can identify community needs, encourage community involvement, and better coordinate our efforts.

Participants in this breakout group described a few different resources we have more of when we work together, including shared knowledge, shared data, and we're more powerful together.

Understanding Needs with Assessment

The future envisioned for understanding needs with assessment is one that elevates the voices of community members and is synthesized with qualitative data. This future is also one that provides incentives for the participants and community members feel a sense of safety while sharing their truth.

Participants described that everyone cares, including organizational leaders, parents, and youth. Together, we have the ability to understand the needs of the community, elevate their voices, and create connections to provide wrap-around services.

Sharing and Respect

The future related to sharing and respect is one that empowers the community to make decisions and that we listen to community members. Our future should also build trust and create a safe space for participants.

This group described that everyone needs to care about sharing and respect, particularly those who do not currently demonstrate concern. Additionally, law enforcement and youth care.

Funding

Participants in the funding group described that they envision a future in which nonprofits have awareness of funding possibilities and sustainable, continuous revenue. People who care include funders, community organizations, churches, and the people who are in need care.

Together, we have a better understanding of the needs in the community and the ability to address those needs. Resources we have together include collaboration in addressing the needs of the community comprehensively.

Civic Engagement

Participants described a future for civic engagement in which we have a guiding action plan and a place where everyone has a voice. The people who should care include politicians, leaders, and community members themselves.

Together we can educate the community on the importance of community engagement, we can increase awareness of civic opportunities, and hold politicians accountable and increase community involvement.

Resources we have together include collaboration and communication, training opportunities, and physical spaces.

Public Advocacy & Policy (Elected Officials)

Participants described that we want a future that consists of ongoing conversation between public officials and community members. Participants also described that they envision a future with politicians who listen to community needs, and there is community education on public policy.

Together, we have greater power, can foster trust, and have a better understanding of how to navigate resources.

Conclusion

Breakout group conversations often helped us gain a better understanding of the issues at hand (i.e., collaboration, funding, etc.) but also provided the opportunity for these participants to discuss what the community really needs, how organizations can better coordinate, communicate, and connect with each other. As a result of these breakout groups, participants came to better understand our collective goals, the needs in the community, and how we all fit together.

Introduction

About the Inland Region

The Inland Region of Southern California (sometimes known as the Inland Empire) is made up of two counties: San Bernardino and Riverside, as illustrated in the map below.

Map of the Inland Region



Map provided by Building Resilient Communities.

Originally home to the Tongva, Serrano, and Cahuilla peoples, the Inland Region is now home to more than 6.5 million people. The majority of residents are people of color, and there are extreme wealth differentials across the region. At more than 27,000 square miles, this region is larger than 10 U.S. states. The largest cities include Riverside, San Bernardino, Moreno Valley, Fontana, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Corona, each home to more than 150,000 residents. However, the region also includes some incredibly rural and isolated communities as well.

About Building Resilient Communities

Building Resilient Communities (BRC) is a nonprofit based in Redlands, California. BRC provides disaster preparedness training and resources to remove barriers that unfairly affect people in times of disaster. BRC equips families and youth, community and faith-based organizations, small businesses and government. Since 2012, BRC has provided training and resources for more than 600 faith-based and community organizations and continues to serve the most vulnerable populations.

About HARC

HARC, Inc. (Health Assessment and Research for Communities) is a nonprofit research and evaluation organization based in Palm Desert, California. HARC is a nonprofit that advances quality of life by helping community leaders use objective research and analysis to turn data into action.

Summit Sponsors

The following agencies contributed greatly to making this event happen (presented in alphabetical order):

- Academy for Grassroots Organizations: <https://academygo.com/>
- Building Resilient Communities: <https://www.brcus.org/>
- Diocese of San Bernardino: <https://www.sbdioocese.org/>
- Edison International: <https://www.sce.com/>
- HARC: <https://HARCdata.org/>
- Riverside University Health System – Public Health: <https://www.rivcoph.org/>
- United Way – Inland SoCal: <https://inlandsocaluw.org/>
- We Are One United: <https://weareoneunitedinnovation.org/>

About the Third Ark of Safety Summit

The third Ark of Safety Community Resiliency Summit was held in-person at the San Bernardino Diocese on June 15, 2023, as well as available online.

The event began with a keynote from Yumi Sera, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications.

Next, Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinely gave a presentation that summarized the findings from the second summit, including the seven areas of focus:

1. **Collaboration** – unite and become stronger together.
2. **Resources** – garner more resources and leverage those in existence.
3. **Understanding Needs with Assessment** – strategically gather community insight.
4. **Sharing and Respect** – cultivate trust as a foundation to our efforts.
5. **Funding** – garner financial resources for both strength and sustainability.
6. **Civic Engagement** – uplifting voices so that everyone is heard.
7. **Public Advocacy & Policy (Elected Officials)** – bridging the gap between the community and their leaders.

Next, John Epps presented an overview of the catalytic thinking process that would be used to gather data from the breakout groups.

Subsequently, the group broke out into seven breakout groups (each addressing only one of the aforementioned themes); participants were allowed to self-select the group they felt best suited their knowledge/experience. Each breakout group had one individual who had been asked to lead the process while also acting as a participant.

All breakout groups tackled the same three questions:

1. **What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?**
2. **Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?**
3. **What resources do we have together that none of us has all of on our own?**

After the breakout sessions, each group reported out to the full group. This report summarizes what was learned from those breakout sessions.

Results

Collaboration

The first breakout group discussed collaboration, defined as “unite and become stronger together.”

Participants

This in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Diana Fox, Reach Out
- Norma Spencer, The Centre at Highland
- Venus Williams, The Centre at Highland
- Rosa Ramos, St. Christopher Parish
- Jenise Solorio, San Bernardino County Medical Society
- Cathy Giles, We Are One United
- Quana Beverly-Hall, We Are One United
- Michelle Kelly, County of Riverside Emergency Management Department
- Terry Starks, Rubidoux Missionary Baptist Church

Overview of Collaboration Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the collaboration group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

Participants provided a variety of ideas on the future we want to create and what it will take to create that reality.

Not working in silos is a future to aspire towards for collaborations:

- “Not working in silos. There’s so many different organizations and a lot of the organizations might be doing the same thing. If we can collaborate a little bit more, partner with all groups, it can really affect change.”

One participant emphasized that it is important to **coordinate effectively** and **know everyone’s strengths** to collaborate most effectively:

- “We have to be able to know what everyone's strengths are. Also where others might need help and be able to help those organizations that maybe just need a little extra capacity or need a little extra something to be able to really rise up to their full potential. A good collaborative will do that for all of its members.”

Building trust was described by participants as an important step in creating secure collaboration:

- “For me, you have to trust in who you know or may not know...You have to build up trust in them... It will allow you guys to have that bridge. It will allow communities and neighborhoods to be better because you have built trust in each other.”
- “Have you ever heard that saying? It’s like collaboration moves at the speed of trust. This should be number one on collaboration because, without trust, nothing will happen.”

Lastly, one participant described that to be effective, the group should **focus on the agenda of the collaborative**:

- “A lot of times people will bring their own agendas into collaboration instead of focusing on the goal of that collaborative. They’ll be like, ‘I’m going to go because I want to see this happen, not because I believe in what’s happening at the table.’ Whatever the goals of the larger group, that we work towards that.”

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

Participants mentioned **a few different groups/entities who care:**

- “Government agencies”
- “The County of Riverside”
- “Nonprofits”
- “All of us here”

Participants went on to describe how to engage the groups/entities who can bolster the participation in collaboratives, in saying:

- “Bring others alongside you.”
- “Bring people with resources.”
- “Bring people with a variety of skills.”

The resounding answer to what can be accomplished together was **“Anything [can be accomplished together]. Nothing is impossible.”** Participants went on to describe important factors for collaborations to accomplish goals:

- “Not getting distracted. Not, ‘Oh, here's a shiny object over here. Let's go after that.’ It's like, no, we said three years ago, and we're still working on it, that we need to do this. Be steadfast to goals.”
- “Facilitation to me is paramount. You have to have strong facilitation to keep everybody moving.”

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has on our own?

Participants described that **we all have different specialties, but together we become whole:**

- “If one person specializes in housing, and somebody else specializes in food service, and somebody else specialized in mental health, with everybody collaborating - then the person is whole.”
- “Sometimes you have to step outside of your skillset and even if it is a stick and a twig, you know what?”

Another participant mentioned that **information** is a valued resource that we have together:

- “Resources are information that connects people together for me. I have worked in the care committee at the church. I work with people coming in new, and they need to know what we offer. Resource-wise I'm looking at education of, for us, Bible in the work, but also those coming in with hurts and disappointments needing someone to counsel, emotional support, going through a divorce or whatever brought them there.”

Lastly, one participant described that together we have **focus**:

- “At some point, we have to narrow our focus because we can't do everything. Collaboratives that want to do everything wind up doing nothing.”

Resources

The second breakout group discussed resources, defined as “*garner more resources and leverage those in existence.*”

Participants

This in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Sayra Cisneros, Inland Southern California United Way 211+
- Aubrie Fong, Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications
- Josie Ecosto, RUHS – Public Health
- Michelle Santiago, RUHS – Public Health
- Juan Landeros-Tavera, RUHS – Public Health
- Mariana Hernandez, RUHS – Public Health
- Maria Pelaez, Unite Us

Overview of Resources Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the resources group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

The most commonly identified theme in response to this question is the desire for a future where organizations are **better connected and minimally siloed**:

- “We have a lot of organizations in silos offering different services. Sometimes those services are in contradiction with each other. We create this really complicated system where people have to access different things through 20 different entry points. Then, each entry point has its own requirements, right? You have to fill out the forms... Having some way to coordinate different organizations and have people coordinate resources.”
- “It’s one where we’re all connected.”

Another participant mentioned the need for organizations to take **accountability**:

- “We can hold each other accountable. If we could hold our agencies accountable, but also help in securing this workflow within our community in which we can all collectively help fulfill their needs.”

Participants then described a few barriers to the future we want, including **lack of community trust, stigma to accessing resources, and fragmented practices in assessing risk**:

- “Connecting more with the Latina community and the underserved communities... I think, like you said, creating that trust and letting them know that there is organizations that have well-intended intentions for them.”
- “Vulnerable communities, the undocumented communities, the victims of domestic violence, those who were experiencing intra and interpersonal violence. There’s just so much stigma that comes to it.”

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

Participants specified that **we all care** and that **the entire community cares**. Other people who care include **government, nonprofits, and people who care about the community**.

A few themes were identified related to what we can accomplish together that we can’t accomplish on our own.

First, participants described that together we can **identify the needs:**

- “We have those meetings that we express, ‘This is what my community needs.’ We have the Summit minutes to make an effort, make it be heard.”
- “What could we do to be heard and make an echo that it does transpire to not just our community, but it goes higher up into our government agencies, and they can hear us? We do have the right. We do have the right to speak up and try to make a difference.”

Participants also described that together we can **get the community involved:**

- “I think one of the big opportunities we have with this new program model that we’re kind of been putting it across the board, if you really do focus on bringing up individuals from the community.”
- “I think we’ve had three or four participants who now have apartments, jobs, aren’t using, and it all kind of started with this like, ‘Hey, you can help people too.’ That empowerment at the granular level really kind of brings them up and shows them that they can also make a difference even if you’re homeless and using drugs.”

Lastly, participants described that together we can **better coordinate our efforts;** essentially, that the ‘whole is bigger than the sum of its parts:’

- “Discuss how to collaborate. Sometimes when you’re in your little silo, it’s really difficult to not see the other organization as they’re ready for me to fail so they can take my funding. When we should instead be like, “No, let’s write a grant together because some of the things I’m strong at, maybe you’re weak at, and we can now--.”
- “Like, to share what have or how we could work together, but the communication of, “Hey, this is what I have,” or knowing what other programs may be available, actually helped me service that family member get more assistance.”

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has on our own?

Participants in this breakout group described a few different resources we have more of when we work together. The most common theme was that together we have **shared knowledge** and experience that is bigger than our knowledge alone:

- “We don't have to reinvent the wheel... So I think the power of working together is having a lot of great minds kind of buildup and come together to a more efficient and effective way of delivering services and addressing the community's needs.”
- “Learning from one another what works, what doesn't work.”

Along those same lines, another participant mentioned the value of **shared data**:

- “Having shared data, having data sets that focus on what our CBOs and our community want to know about. To drive what each organization does, but also, you're not going to get grants without data. Having easily accessible, easily understandable data sets that everyone can use kind of drives that collective vision, but also makes it easier for us to access money.”

Participants also mentioned that together **we are more powerful** and our voice is stronger:

- “Power. That none of us have on our own.”
- “We have a bigger voice. If every community organization went to the county at the same time. They're going to listen. They're going to listen.”

Understanding Needs with Assessment

The third breakout group discussed understanding needs with assessment which is to “strategically gather community insight.”

Participants

This in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Marci Coffey, IEHP
- Hazel Lambert, RUHS – Behavioral Health
- James Jo, RUHS – Public Health
- Rebecca Torres, Reach Out
- Monica Gaytan, Reach Out
- Jenna LeComte-Hinely, HARC
- Cecilia Arias, Kaiser Permanente
- LaQuita Gray-Baker, Sacred Heart Church

Overview of Needs Assessment Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the needs assessment group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

Most commonly, participants envision that in the future, needs assessments will better **elevate the voices of community members**, which is often gathered and synthesized as **qualitative data**:

- “When you think of primary data we're hearing from the person who has the experiences of the struggles or the gaps. I think that's what I always think we miss hearing from the people who it affects the most, of what's happening in community.”
- “I think the getting information from the community to know what they need, what they want. Hearing it straight from the source.”

Additionally, participants described that **community members need to feel safe** in order to honestly share their perceptions:

- “It's really important that we do have a safe space for people to come, and to share their honestly because I know there are people that are afraid of certain groups, especially community members... I think it's really important that we do create the safe space for people to come, and to really honestly voice the true need.”
- “They're looking for that safe space, but when they find that safe space they have to be able to trust. If you can't build that trust with them, then it's not going to feel like it's their safe space, especially for the youth. Once they find their safe space, then they'll be able to elaborate a little bit more on what their issue is, or where they need the help.”

Another theme was the **importance of providing incentives for community participants** in that it expresses gratitude, but also tends to increase participation from those who are most in-need:

- “The first year we did the public health survey, we were able to offer everyone an incentive, so if you filled it out you got a \$25 visa card. The second survey we did a lottery style incentive, and it was very different. We had a lot of older white people take the second one...”

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

Participants specified that **everyone cares, and further is that we need to just better connect and equip people to do needs assessments. Organizational leaders care, parents care, youth care (they simply need a voice):**

- I think we all realize there's so many people that care about it, but we got to figure out how to connect with each other better. I know that there's lots of investment in platforms that make those connections happen. Going back to the whole person, I think that'll help us figure out who needs to be a part of this."

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has on our own?

Participants described that together we have **the ability to understand the needs of the community, and creation connections to provide wrap-around services:**

- "We have the ability to have people listen to us at that level of government or that we have a voice to advocate with lobbyists that help make policy change."
- "If we have the resources, then we give them the resources of what they need. If we don't have it, we will find it for them. I think that was a great opportunity that we had to open for our community because then they can come to us."

Sharing and Respect

The fourth breakout group discussed sharing and respect, which is to "cultivate trust as a foundation to our efforts."

Participants

This in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Queen Waddell, Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications
- Artinice Walker, Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical Center
- Bridget Vigneault, RUHS – Public Health, Health Equity
- Priscilla Galvan, Riverside County Emergency Management Department
- Luz Mocete, St. Christopher Parish Moreno Valley
- Marie Vazquez, Dignity Health – St. Bernardino Medical Center
- Fatima Baldelomar, Love and Nurture Initiative

Overview of Sharing and Respect Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the sharing and respect group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

There were a few key themes that emerged for the future we want to create as it relates to sharing and respect. First, participants described the importance of **empowering community members to make decisions** that are best for their lives:

- “It’s honoring the individual as the expert on themselves.”
- “Allowing them to take the lead. We become facilitators and supporters instead of the authority. They’re the authority, they’re the expert.”

Along those lines, participants also described the importance of **listening** to community members and not assuming anything:

- “Not just assume that this is what they need, but ask and get to know what they need.”
- “Sometimes I don’t really understand because I don’t know what they went through on their life, so I say ‘Okay, I don’t know what you’ve been through but tell more.’”

Another common theme mentioned for sharing and respect is to **build trust** with the community and also to **create a safe space** for sharing:

- “We can provide or develop a safe space for the community and individuals to come and share.”
- “Just allowing them to have a voice and not being judged for how they feel or think or whatever, just respecting whatever their voice is. It doesn’t mean it’s wrong, doesn’t mean it’s right, but just having the option or the opportunity to have a voice, and then be respected for whatever that may be. Because if you feel like you’re not respected for having a voice, you’re not going to share.”

Lastly, one participant mentioned the importance of **empowering community members** and acknowledging their strengths:

- Acknowledging their strengths. They probably think we’re looking at them as down here, like, “Oh, you need help. I’m here to help you.” Maybe while they’re saying something to us, “Oh, you seem like a really strong person. You’ve overcome these issues. It sounds like you have experience.” A lot of times we just go blind to that.

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

Participants commonly mentioned that **everyone needs to care**, especially those who do not currently demonstrate concern:

- “There’s a quote that nothing will change until the people who are not affected start to care.”
- “I did homeless-specific work for a long time. One of the problems we had was the communities -- we got kicked out of so many cities. We had a grant to open three programs, and we only got two of them. We had to let the third one go because we couldn’t get it done.”

Participants also mentioned that **law enforcement cares** and there needs to be a bridge and trust law enforcement and community members:

- “Another agency, I feel cares about this, is law enforcement. I go to the coffee with the cops, and I listen, and I hear. There are some caring people in our law enforcement in San Bernardino, and I think they need to be more aware of how to allow people to share, and then respect their voice and their opinion, and their needs, and their goals, or whatever they may feel like they want.”
- “That’s a good point. I was born and raised in New York City. One of the things that worked for us in the neighborhoods was knowing the police there. They come into our community events and things like that. You start building that trust. Sometimes, yes, I think that’s so important, especially now with everything that’s going on.”

One participant described that **youth need to be given a voice** and heard:

- Another is bringing those individuals that, like youth. I have an adolescent, she’s 17, my daughter. I went to a faith-based organization and invited her to go with me. We went, and that session, it was for the youth. We were talking about how can we support the youth, and she was the only youth. When she was going through the same thing, nobody listened to her. She was like, “Why am I here? Invite me to something and you guys are making decisions for my generation,” but they didn’t listen to her.”

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has all of on our own?

This breakout group did not discuss this question.

Funding

The fifth breakout group discussed funding, which is to "garner financial resources for both strength and sustainability."

Participants

This in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Debbie Cannon, Academy for Grassroots Organizations
- Janet Chaney, San Bernardino Police Department Disaster Service
- Christine Merriman, St. Christopher Parish
- Queen Hamilton, Building Resilient Communities
- Kimberly Hallmark, Academy for Grassroots Organizations

Overview of Funding Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the funding group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

Participants described a future in which nonprofits have an **awareness of funding possibilities** and **sustainable, continuous revenue**:

- “Funder awareness is important. Making people more aware of those types of programs so that way they can benefit and the community as a whole could benefit.”
- “What we're trying to do is to have enough funding to be able to, once we launch a project, be able for that project then for those population of people to be sustainable... To me, the sustainability is not just for the non-profit but it's for the people that we are serving.”
- “A continuous stream of revenue to run our programs.”

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

A variety of people were mentioned as people who care about this. Specifically, **funders care**, **community organizations** and **churches** care, and the **people in need** care. **Together, we have a better understanding of the needs in the community and the ability to address those needs:**

- “The individuals who are suffering, those who are impoverished, they definitely care about it.”
- “Funders care. They have to care about the project. I think funders, they do have listening sessions. We can't all exist without them. We also are looking for ways to diversify our funding.”

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has on our own?

Together we can **collaborate to address the needs of the community comprehensively**:

- “We want to complement each other, which means to complete each other because none of us, as we said earlier, are complete within ourselves.”
- “Connect with everyone who has the resources working on it. I just had a flash vision of a jigsaw puzzle. Every nonprofit has to then say who's missing in the puzzle?”

Civic Engagement

The sixth breakout group discussed civic engagement, aimed at “*uplifting voices so that everyone is heard.*”

Participants

This in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Regina Patton-Stell, NAACP Riverside
- Robert Gonzalez, RUHS – Public Health
- Teresita Lopez, St. Christopher Parish
- Amry Singh, Building Resilient Communities
- Monica Perez, St. Christopher Parish
- Russell Williams, Building Resilient Communities
- Mary Obideyi, RUHS – Public Health
- Reginald Woods, Life Changing Ministries

Overview of Civic Engagement Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the civic engagement group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

Participants in this group described a few key elements of a future we want to create together related to civic engagement. Specifically, participants described that we need a **guiding action plan** and we need to **create a space where everyone has a voice**, all races, youth, and minority youth:

- “I want the action plan. You guys want to jump in about creating the future. I'm into action, what needs to be done.”
- “I don't think you need to have one race at your table. No. You need to have everybody at that table from everybody. Black, White, Jewish people, everybody. Because if you really think about it, to push it, we going to need energy from everybody.”

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

Participants in this breakout group described **that politicians and leaders care** about civic engagement, and that the **people should also care**:

- “Every city cares, all right? This is safety for the community. Every mayor, city manager, city council member, et cetera, they do care.”
- “The people should care because the power is truly in the people. If we keep the politicians accountable, and the more people we have, the more accountable they're going to be.”

Together, we can accomplish a variety of things as it relates to civic engagement. Foremost, participants described that together we can **educate the community on the importance of civic engagement**:

- “You got to train them. You got to teach them. ‘There's a city council tonight about this. Not just the city council seven o'clock at the civic center. We're going to be talking about this, this and this.’”
- “They have an opportunity to speak. Many people don't know that. Many people think that they're going to go to a city council meeting and just sit there and be bored. They don't even know that they have the opportunity to speak.”

Participants described that we can also **increase awareness** of opportunities for civic engagement:

- Connecting our civic opportunities-- our politicians and people and really saying, 'Y'all, they have a meeting on this day, folks go to that.'"
- "Everybody does a little. Nobody got to do a lot. We just have to get better at getting collectively our communities to know where city council meetings are."

Participants also mentioned that together we can **hold politicians accountable** and **increase community involvement**:

- "The power is truly in the people. If we keep the politicians accountable, and the more people we have, the more accountable they're going to be."
- "What do we want? Specifically. Community involvement."

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has on our own?

One of the main resources we have together, as described by participants, is that we have the power of **collaboration and communication**:

- "That's the means of communication is huge actually... We also have a podcast. We have a podcast and our social media."
- "Let's take more advantage of the collaborations that we put in place. We need to really look at that. I'm counseled in collaborations now. I can be on the phone every day. I'll be on the phone with you."

Another important resource we have together is **training** opportunities:

- "We have trainings."
- "The first thing for me, keep these trained people, like leaders first, train leaders and go with the community. We can see the needs that we can go provide the resources, and we can connect the people with the resources."

Lastly, **buildings and physical spaces** were also mentioned as important resources we have together:

- "Building is really important, meeting places, and training places."
- "I didn't mention my organization that I happen to lead right now is a civil rights organization, we do all kinds of training. I just need to get out there more, and then the buildings. Who else has an organization that would be helpful in this process?"

Public Advocacy & Policy (Elected Officials)

The seventh breakout group discussed public advocacy & policy, which is “bridging the gap between the community and their leaders.”

Participants

The in-person breakout group included the following individuals:

- Facilitator: Jenna Guzman-Lowery, City Councilwoman with City of Redlands
- Manuel Santiago, Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical
- Fay Glass, Focus Point Emergency Management Consulting
- Naomi Ordonez, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health
- Toni Harris, RUHS – Public Health
- Hope Christman, CPUC

Overview of Public Advocacy & Policy Findings

The findings from all three discussion questions in the public advocacy & policy group are presented in the image here.



Future We Want to Create

What is the future we want to create, and what will it take to create that reality?

Much of the discussion about future we want to create around public advocacy and policy is that there is **ongoing conversation between public officials and community**:

- “Creating relationships that are not just with the partnerships or other people who are doing nonprofit work, but with elected officials.”
- “Instead of talking at each other, talking amongst each other of some problem solving of what we can do better and information sharing... I think that's what we're lacking is that communication and understanding between both sides. Coming up with a happy medium.”

Along those lines, a future is envisioned with **politicians who listen to community needs**:

- “It's council members to really listen to what the community needs.”
- “I think a system of governance where you are actually bringing the community in and asking them what they need and what the needs of the community and what does community look like and what do you need?”

Lastly, participants described that there is a need for **community education on public policy**:

- “Educating the community on how policies work, because it sounds like this very ambiguous thing... Telling people the steps that it is going to take to get this or to get this to change.”

Who Cares and What Can We Accomplish Together?

Who else cares about this? What can we accomplish together that none of us can accomplish on our own?

Participants described that **everyone cares**, including politicians, and also that **people need to be taught to care**:

- “Believe it or not, both sides of the table care, but both sides of the table have a set list of processes that they have to go through to get where we all want to be.”
- “We all care. My commissioners want to know that they're doing the right thing for the community. The community wants the commissioners to do the right thing.”

- “We all have to be taught to care on so many levels. A child who's taught to care for their community, the parent, the neighbor, the whole block of neighbors. It just has to be infectious.”

Together, we obtain a **full understanding of policies and programs** and how to move things forward:

- An understanding of the policies and programs. We have to understand how they work and I think that education and I don't mean formal education, I mean education of truth of policies and okay, these policies work this way, this is the process.”

Resources We Have Together

What resources do we have together that none of us has all of on our own?

There were a number of resources suggested that we have together, rather than alone. Specifically, together we have **power**, can **create trust**, and have a **better understanding of how to navigate** everything:

- “A lot of kids can't do what they do without the public trust, and the community can't do what they need to do for the populations they serve without the policies.”
- “There's a lot involved. I think the working knowledge of how this system works, everybody doesn't know how that works.”

Conclusion

Breakout group conversations often helped us gain a better understanding of the issues at hand (i.e., collaboration, funding, etc.) but also provided the opportunity for these participants to discuss what the community really needs, how organizations can better coordinate, communicate, and connect with each other.

The collaboration group emphasized that when we coordinate effectively, we can accomplish anything and have more information and greater focus.

For resources, we want a future that is better connected and minimally siloed. Together we can use our shared knowledge and identify community needs, coordinate our efforts, and ultimately become more powerful than when we are alone.

The future envisioned for understanding needs with assessment is one that elevates the voices of community members so we can better understand their needs and provide the services they need most.

For sharing and respect, the future envisioned is one that empowers the community to make decisions and one in which the community is heard. This group described that everyone needs to care about sharing and respect, particularly those who do not currently demonstrate concern.

The funding group described that they envision a future in which nonprofits have more awareness of funding possibilities and can secure sustainable, continuous revenue.

While certainly these breakout groups were convened to answer the specific questions posed by Ark of Safety. Additionally, these breakout groups largely served as a sensemaking process for participants in that these participants collectively sought to understand and giving meaning to their experience as community partners. In these breakout sessions, participants came to better understand our collective goals, the needs in the community, and how we all fit together.

Many described the need for concrete agendas or action plans, along with commitment to those plans. All groups emphasized that together we can accomplish more than we can on our own, and we have more access to information, data, and resources. There is a need for ongoing communication between organizations and awareness of resources, so that the community can be most optimally served. These breakout group conversations were both fruitful and needed and made it evident that regular conversations like these are needed to best serve our community.

Appendices

Appendix A: List of Attendees

Appendix B: List of Acronyms

Appendix A: List of Attendees

Attendees are listed in alphabetical order by agency, and then by last name.

In-Person Attendees (65)

First Name	Last Name	Company
Debbie	Cannon	Academy for Grassroots Organizations
Kim	Hallmark	Academy for Grassroots Organizations
Christopher	Ortiz	Arrowhead United Way
Crystal	Caballero	Building Resilient Communities
Laura	Cole	Building Resilient Communities
Dan	Coleman	Building Resilient Communities
Princess	Davis	Building Resilient Communities
Queen	Hamilton	Building Resilient Communities
Joesanna	Osborne	Building Resilient Communities
Jim	Smith	Building Resilient Communities
Debra	Williams	Building Resilient Communities
Russell	Williams	Building Resilient Communities
Michael	Lopez	Building Resilient Resources
Joaquin	Castillejos	CCA EJ
Venus	Williams	Centre at Highland church
Selene	Orozco	CHSI
Jenna	Guzman Lowery	Citrus Counseling, City of Redlands
Jodie	Wingo	Community Health Association Inland Southern Region
Michelle	Kelly	County of Riverside Emergency Management Department
Hope	Christman	CPUC
John	Epps	Creative Excellence
Manuel	Santiago	Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical Center
Marie	Vasquez	Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical Center
Artinice	Walker	Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical Center
Kimberly	Anthony	Ecclesia Christian Fellowship
Fay	Glass	Focus Point Emergency Management
Jenna	LeComte- Hinely	HARC, Inc.
Esmeralda	Santos	IC4IJ
Marci	Coffey	IEHP
Cecilia	Arias	Kaiser Permanente
Reginald	Woods	Life Changing Ministries

Regina	Stell	NAACP Riverside County Branch
Aubrie	Fong	Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications
Yumi	Sera	Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications
Queen	Waddell	Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications
Diana	Fox	Reach Out
Monica	Gaytan	Reach out
Josie	Gaytan	Reach Out
Miguel	Olaez	Reach Out
Rebecca	Torres	Reach Out
	Hill	Redlands SDA Church
Josie	Escoto	Riverside County Public Health Department
Toni	Harris	Riverside Public Health- Epidemiology and Program Evaluation/RODA
Fatima	Baldelomar	Riverside Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church
Robert	Gonzalez	Riverside University Health System - Public Health
Ann Marie	Gallant	Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino County
Terry	Starks	Rubidoux Missionary Baptist Church
Mariana	Hernandez	RUHS – Public Health
James	Jo	RUHS – Public Health
Juan	Landeros	RUHS – Public Health
Greg	Mercado	RUHS – Public Health
Mary	Obideyi	RUHS – Public Health
Bridget	Vigneault	RUHS – Public Health
Norma	Spencer	Sa Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
LaQuita	Gray-Baker	Sacred Heart Church
Janet	Chaney	San Bernadino Police Department disaster services
Naomi	Ordonez	San Bernardino County Department of Public Health
Jenise	Solorio	San Bernardino County Medical Society
Cecilia	Fornelli-Ramsey	St. Christopher Parish
Monica	Heredia	St. Christopher Parish
Teresita de Jesus	Lopez	St. Christopher Parish
Christine	Merriman	St. Christopher Parish
Luz	Mocete	St. Christopher Parish
Rev Christopher	Navarro	St. Christopher Parish

Rosa	Ramos	St. Christopher Parish
Phyllis	Clark	The Healthy Heritage Movement dba Healthy Heritage
Maria	Pelaez	Unite Us
Quana	Beverly-Hall	We Are One United
Cathy	Giles	We Are One United

Online Attendees (17)

Name	Organization (If Known)
Alison Elsner	SBCMS
Andrea Morey	
Ankitha Doddanari	
Benita Ramsey	
Chinyelu Ugwuanyi	
Daisy Ramirez Bell	RUHS – Public Health
Dia Poole	
Dorothy D	
Edwin Ramoran	We Are One United
Irene Hjelmervik	
Iris Williams	
Joseph Branch	
Kay Strawder	(OASH Region 9)
Luis Garcia	
Rosa Ma. Vielmas	
Veatrice Jews	
Vladana Hrivnak	

Appendix B: List of Acronyms

The following acronyms were utilized in this report and are included here in alphabetical order for reference.

- AAPI: Asian American Pacific Islander
- BRC: Building Resilient Communities
- CBOs: Community-based organizations
- FBOs: Faith-based organizations
- HARC: Health Assessment and Research for Communities
- IE: Inland Empire (synonymous with Inland Region)
- NGOs: Non-governmental organizations
- RUHS: Riverside University Health System (e.g., County of Riverside)
- UCR: University of California, Riverside