



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 5

**Agenda Date:** August 25, 2022

**In Control:** Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

A briefing on the Metro Health's Community Response and Equity Coalition's (CREC) program and recent recognition from NACCHO.

**SUMMARY:**

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will provide a short presentation on the Community Response and Equity Coalition's (CREC) program and recent recognition from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) as one of four local health department programs across the country to receive the 2022 NACCHO Innovative Practice Gold Award.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, NACCHO developed the Innovative Practice Award to recognize and honor programs and practices that have been quickly and/or creatively developed in response to a specific and emerging public health issue.

The 2022 Innovation Award focused on practices that were developed in response to emerging and exacerbated health inequities due to COVID-19 and demonstrate effective community partnerships and collaboration, adaptability and quality improvement, and remarkable innovation.

In December 2021, an application was submitted for the national Innovative Practice Award to highlight the ongoing collaboration and work of the coalition. The application, titled “Public Health as a Team Sport: COVID-19 Community Response and Equity Coalition (CREC)”, was selected as a 2022 Innovative Practice Gold Awardee by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

A total of twenty-four of these awards were given nationwide. Ten health departments received Silver designations and ten health departments received Bronze honors. The CREC was one of only four local health department programs who were given this distinguished Gold honor.

The designation of this program as a Gold Innovative Practice demonstrates the highest level of program innovation to meet the needs of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The application went through a rigorous peer-evaluation process by NACCHO’s Workgroup members, and our program reflected effective community partnerships and collaboration as well as remarkable adaptability, resilience, and innovation.

The CREC was honored with this award during the 2022 NACCHO360 Annual Conference in Atlanta on July 20, 2022. The CREC also presented during the 2022 Award-Winning Best Practices from Local Health Departments Panel alongside three other local health departments who were selected to present regarding their Model or Innovative Practices from across the country.

Metro Health continues to serve as the backbone agency for the CREC, to engage community members and partners in the COVID-19 response and recovery. The CREC continues to bring community members to the table to center the voice of the populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The CREC serves as the advisory group to the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Advancing Health Literacy project “Health Confianza” to create and implement culturally and linguistically appropriate education and awareness messaging regarding COVID-19 response and recovery with emphasis on marginalized populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

In its two and one-half years of existence, this group has been able to ensure equity in access to COVID-19 information and resources. Several of the accomplishments of which the CREC is most proud include the creation of the several COVID-19 educational and informational resources, assistance with the expansion of testing and vaccination into neighborhoods with greatest need, and collaboration on creating consistent public health messaging for the community.

Moving forward the coalition will continue to focus on health disparities which have been further exacerbated by COVID-19 and will highlight opportunities to increase health equity within our various San Antonio communities. The CREC will also focus on creating and nurturing cross-

collaboration opportunities through partnership and community engagement.

**ISSUE:**

Metro Health would like the opportunity to provide a presentation to the Community Health, Environment & Culture Committee on the CREC's recent recognition from NACCHO.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Item is for briefing purpose only.