10/30/2017 CEC Community Forum Input Summary
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Held at the Community Empowerment Association, 7120 Kelly Street, in Homewood, the CEC Community Forum’s purpose was to orient residents and community stakeholders to the purpose of the CEC, share information about the services and programs that might be offered there, and gather input on the concept, programs, and general approach that Pitt should take. 17 University Units participated and the event was co-sponsored by 12 community-based organizations. What follows is a summary of the input and feedback received throughout the evening.

In addition to the units included here, the Pittsburgh Admission Collaborative, Manufacturing Assistance Center, and Human Resources were also present.

* = Unidentifiable Character

1. **Community Engagement Center (received questions and open comments)**
   - All of these services and programs are great, but how are you going to prepare all these people to be successful in this neighborhood? Everyone has great intentions, but it’s hard to gain trust when you don’t understand the culture and background of the people. Pitt has to be real about what its White students and teachers know and don’t know.
   - How will you engage the residents?
   - Are you only going to work with the community organizations listed in the program?
   - Workforce development and unemployment is a top issue in this community. Pitt needs to play a role in addressing this. It’s not responsible for the solution, but it’s a big player in this city and needs to be at the table.
   - Pitt needs to be a connector here. We’re so fragmented, all these organizations and people going in different directions that nothing of real impact happens. I’ve been to so many meetings just like this: all the post-it notes and feel good panels. But they aren’t connected.
   - This is great! Finally, Pitt is making a commitment. I’ve worked with so many Pitt people over decades but they come and go. This could be a real contribution to our community.

2. **Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence**
   - As a small business owner, would you use these educational programs? Why or why not?
     - Yes. Motivation to prosper.
     - I would use this program to help my new business continue to thrive.
     - Each business owner need financial assistance to slow the flow of money and where it is spent. Bridges through SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Micro loan. –Business owner. P.S. I would use this program.
   - Are those programs wanted in your community?
     - Entrepreneurship and business development.
     - Financial protection for businesses.
     - What are you doing to support childcare providers as they move towards quality?
     - Small business development.
     - Yes. Wealth of resources for small businesses.
     - Promote live/work spaces for artists in Homewood in the business district streets.
     - What are you doing to support untapped innovators?
3. Pitt Assisted Communities and Schools
   • How can the University support educational outcomes in your community?
     o Programs that emphasize that the first education is the parents. Teach parents the importance of reading from the time in the womb.
     o Tutoring!! After school programs (fun & educational) all encompassing.
   • What are the greatest educational needs in your community?
     o Education about growing our own food.
     o Vocational training for everyone (The Booker T. Washington approach).
     o Not enough connections with other community organization i.e. Urban League.
     o Plan B Club in every middle/high school (thinking about career alternatives).
     o Science based programs. Additional science/math assistance.
     o Educate outside community. Greater exposure outside Homewood.
     o Plan for a Makerspace in the Homewood neighborhood. To learn STEM and STEAM through actual projects.
     o Make sure kids are reading at their levels before 3rd grade.
     o To finish high school & go to college.
     o More diversity for African American children in learning.
     o More mental health advocacy before police/law intervention.
     o Book and tutoring resources/groups.

4. Social and Urban Research
   • How should we share information about the neighborhood with you and your neighbor?
     o Social media.
     o Little newspaper.
     o Website.
     o Informational meetings. Email. Newsletter.
   • What do you most want to know about your neighborhood?
     o Workforce development outcomes.
     o Property sales. Cash offers for houses.
     o Who does what in Homewood (Resource directory).
     o Air pollution and asthma/lung disease data.
     o Youth.
     o Where is redevelopment happening?
     o Childcare providers by race and college level.
     o Who's buying up all the property in Homewood?
     o % of homeowners (Owner occupied homes).
     o Ownership vs. Renters.
     o Education levels, mobility, business.
     o Drug activity.
5. **Office of Child Development**
   - **How can we help?**
     - Education/programming around healthy food habits (plant based)
     - What are you doing for childcare providers around cultural competencies?
     - What you doing for families around digital media literacy?
   - **What are the most important needs for families/children?**
     - Healthy food habits.
     - Jobs for men. Mental health care.

6. **Center for Interventions to Enhance Community Health (CiTECH)**
   - **What kinds of programs would you like to see in your community to help manage stress, depression, anxiety, and other behavioral health conditions?**
     - Education programming around healthy eating (plant based).
     - What would help people manage stress? Family workout classes.
     - Kids have gotta have a safe space.
     - What would help manage stress? Exercise. Better conditions for walking i.e. better sidewalks, green spaces.
     - [Elders] Want to be heard. [They are] pillars of the community. [For example,] Mrs. Mary Savage. Gardening!
   - **What programs exist in your community for helping people to manage stress, depression, anxiety, or other behavioral health conditions?**
     - No responses.

7. **School of Nursing**
   - **Are there services or programs we have not listed that you want in your community?**
     - Questions? How do I get people connected to Pitt to go from CCAC to Pitt Nursing?

8. **The Center for Parents and Children**
   - **As a parent, what kind of support do you wish you had more of?**
     - More things for teenagers to do.
     - More mental health services. Psych, emotional, educational, in the community.
     - Exercise places for senior citizens. Line dancing. Exercise programs.
     - Breastfeeding support and meal prep.
     - Teaching healthy eating habits early! (From the womb).
     - What are you doing to support parents around changing policies? State, local, federal.
     - Affordable childcare.
What are you doing for digital media literacy? In early childhood?
Something for young people to do. Jobs for young people!
Parents need self-esteem, self-confidence. Support from system. For women to have confidence to know they don’t need a man. Single moms-feel empowered.
What are you doing for childcare providers? How are you supporting their business development aspects?
Afterschool activities that parents can do with children.
Before working in Homewood it would be important to know that a lot of people don’t have much so it is difficult to afford different programs.

What is important for us to know before we begin working with families in your community?
Issue = fear of research. Community feels exploited. Empowerment. Workforce development- create a pathway to employment. "Don't be scared to live." "Partner WITH us."
We know how to build community.
Transformation- include people in community. Respect native born intelligence in the community. Effect of mass criminalization and the war on drugs. Make Homewood a place that people want to return to.
Pitt needs to know that Homewood is a community of smart, talented, qualified, unique people. Do not duplicate services.

9. School for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Wellness Pavilion
What programs should we offer? (recorded frequency counts)
- Physical Therapy – 7
- Health Screenings/Fairs - 2
- Chronic Disease – 1
- Support Groups – 1
- Occupational Therapy – 1
- Help with Dr. Follow Up – 1
- Exercise Classes for MS – 1
- Fall Prevention for Elderly – 1
- Medication Help – 1
- Mental Health Services – 2
- Diabetes Classes – 3

What times should the Wellness Pavilion be available?
- 8am – 12pm – 4
- 12pm – 4pm – 1
- 4pm – 8pm – 5
- Saturday – 7

10. School of Pharmacy
What do you see are the most pressing medication related needs?
- Blood pressure. Asthma.
- Cost.
* Youtube videos with answers to common pharmacy questions.
* Asthma children, hypertension, diabetes, face to face visits. Ask questions in person or via Skype.
* I think having some talk to us about diet and other stuff would be nice.

**What medication-related services would you value from a pharmacist at this site?**
* Preventative medicine.
* Education about natural alternatives when prescriptions are offered.
* Exercise. Hypertension. Going over all medications.
* Recruitment to go to pharmacy school for the kids. Having some representation there would be nice.
* Blood pressure screenings. Education on symptoms of heart attack/stroke.
* More specific information about medicines we are taking- side effects. Vitamins/supplement information and interactions.
* How to prevent or avoid opiate addiction/how to get off opiates.

11. **PittServes**

**How would you like to see student volunteers utilized in the community?**
* Help people who are over the age of 55 with painting, gardening, etc.
* Students that drive cars, spend an hour with an older person taking them to the store.
* Students can help with environment and dealing with the effects of toxins in community.
* Helping with home repairs for low income residents that can't afford it.
* Seeing them in rewarding ways working in their field.
* Ask students what they want to do.
* Encourage sustained engagement.
* Please expose our youth to the wonders of education!
* Help with seniors.
* Volunteer.
* Help fix and beautify the community gardens.
* Volunteer at HCV.
* Assist with community coalitions (?)

12. **Honors College**

**What would you like others to know about your community?**
* It’s a good community but it needs a lot of work.
* One of the best urban gardens in the city.
* We’re a friendly community and we watch out for and help one another.
* I would like them to know about our school district.
* Residents have the same wants and needs as everyone else. And Dana’s bakery has the best donuts.
13. **Science Lab/Science Learning (Engineering?)**

- **What do you think is important for us to know before we begin this work?**
  - Older people would love to learn new tech ideas and innovations. You are never too old to learn a new project or way of looking at things.
  - We need water in Homewood checked. As a homeowner of 40 years this would be good to know. Help my grandkids.
  - Classes to teach students about solar energy.
  - Promote inclusion. Promote/teach preventative medicine/medical testing for chronic and acute diseases.
  - Invasive species. I want to learn more computer engineering.
  - Help inform about solar and tech.
  - Include youth in projects. Ask youth in the area what they want to learn.
  - What is the issue with water in the community?
  - Please expose our youth to the wonders of science.
  - Volunteering at afterschool programs.
  - To help the community youth learn about engineering.
  - What kind of programs can you offer for children 9 – 15?
  - What are you going to do for wireless infrastructure? Like a mesh network. WIFI for children beyond the library.
  - What are you doing for data and network security?
  - What about big data? Data system, AI, machine learning.
  - Bring it to them. People don’t know what they don’t know. They may like after you bring it.
  - Get info from community businesses.

- **Are these services or programs wanted in your community?**
  - Yes. We need to measure our soil in gardens.
  - I think it would be great for teenagers- especially boys, to occupy their time.
  - Yes because we need to know what is going on with our water.
  - Computer engineering will be beneficial.
  - Yes. It will be cool to have the service in my community so we can help with the city. And I would like to build a house.
  - Great idea. Summer programs for the youth.
  - Your services will be greatly appreciated. Kids need to learn science!
  - Yes, we need science in Homewood, especially 0-3, birth-5.
  - Yes, know what organizations are already doing STEAM or STEM and collaborate. Provide resources to these existing programs.
  - I think it would be helpful to ask students and families what they want or need and co-construct programs or opportunities that help meet the stated need.
  - Yes. We need to show the youth opportunities and paths to success.
  - Please address the youth first by making them welcome. The children must see alternatives to new lifestyles and living habits. In order to be a teaching asset in a black community we must love the student.
  - STEM research is very important to the Homewood community. We need business programs and financial planning as well. Food stem production. Yes. Thank you for coming to my Homewood community.
14. School of Medicine

- What is one thing you would like to teach a medical student to help them be a better doctor?
  - Treat patients with compassion and listen to them.
  - Bedside manners.
  - Humility. Don’t talk down to patients.
  - Good listening.
  - No "medication first" mentality.
  - Keep good contact & communication. Call patient back.
  - Interventions are not always needed in childbirth, women are born for greatness. Trust our bodies.
  - Central role of mental health issues and trauma in everything.
  - What is good health? What does good health look like?
  - Importance of religion and spirituality.
  - Talking about healthy sexuality.
  - Importance of extended family.
  - Know the history of medical care/research in the community.
  - Empower the patient.