



## DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

La Quinta Community Listening Forum (5 of 6)

April 11, 2019 (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

La Quinta Medical Center – JFK Education Center, Conference Room #150

47-647 Caleo Bay, La Quinta, CA 92253

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With a small audience, we were given the opportunity to have a focused, in-depth talk and enhance our knowledge around priorities for the physically disabled population.

### **Homelessness:**

- With La Quinta's close proximity to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and Martha's Village and Kitchen, they are able to mitigate their homeless problem and connect individuals quickly
- The appearance of La Quinta might deter people from being homeless in the city
- The community is more focused on the at-risk (1-2 months) homeless
- Those suffering from a physical disability are precariously housed as many reside with their parents - They find it difficult to transition into individual housing under SSI
- There is no financial assistance for infrastructure improvements for the disabled

### **Primary Care and Behavioral Health Access:**

- Even with insurance, there is a limited ability to get adaptable equipment
  - Challenges to navigating the system – increased outreach efforts to connect individuals to organizations that can teach them how to navigate the complex healthcare system
  - Even the rehab coverage is limited – this needs to be ongoing, it cannot just stop
- Limited services to serve the physically disabled in the community (specifically, neurology and nephrology)
  - Most people must travel to Loma Linda which is expensive, time-consuming, and difficult for a disabled child/adult
  - Often parents skip appointments because of the travel
- There are no hearing services available in the Coachella Valley covered by California Children Services
- The Indio center is starting to bring in services but too slowly – nothing around amputation assistance
  - It is not financially viable for a children's hospital – not enough demand
  - With a huge increase in individuals suffering from diabetes, we are going to see an increase in amputations – how can we prepare for this?
- How can we address the gaps in services for the physically disabled?
  - Bring in monthly sub-specialty rotation services
  - Research/survey for the greatest need and what services could provide the greatest impact
  - Sub-specialty care for veterans – Loma Linda is too far
- A Loma Linda expansion in the Coachella Valley has been in the works for a while – what are they waiting for?
  - Building up the influx, contract slowed things down, there needs to be community support
- Increased behavioral health access is essential for the physically disabled
  - Individuals need to be linked to health professionals that have gone through similar experiences – they interact better with those that can relate to directly (peer power)
  - SPINAL TAP works on service connection for the physically disabled – but not many are familiar with their work

- Overall, there is a lot more focus on the developmentally disabled than the physically disabled
- There needs to be a way to connect organizations like the Desert Ability Center with doctors/therapists to build collaboration

**Healthy Eating, Active Living:**

- There is not one gym facility that can meet the complete needs to serve the physically disabled population (ramps, adaptable workout equipment)
  - There might be an opportunity with Desert Rec. → currently, they are working to identify the needs/gaps for a new center
    - Maybe, this center can target the physically disabled, but we would have to establish a demand
- A need for trained individuals – in the gyms, community centers
- There would need to be increased capacity to recruit individuals for targeted activities – outreach work
- Need increased opportunities during seasonal challenges - more bikes and handcycles inside and facilities to support indoor activities like tennis
  - Can we find a crossover with other populations (I.E. seniors) to create enough demand?
  - Target programs in senior developments – do they take advantage of those that are offered?
- Increased access to CV Link and additional connectors
- Utilized La Quinta Culinary School and the shared kitchen concept to increase opportunities to learn about healthy eating

**Other Ideas:**

- There is a lack of data around the physically disabled population (amputations, etc.)
  - Is this documented anywhere? OSHPOD
- Increase transportation routes – CV Link/SunLine, no other means to get around
- Plug-in stations for golf carts
- Inter-generational programs: activities, events especially around nutrition
  - More opportunities to get the family together and out of the house
- Bike lane challenges – they are available, but bicyclists are not abiding by the law
  - More bike racks
- What is the impact of large festivals (I.E. Coachella and Stagecoach) on residents?
  - Do they avoid emergency departments?
- The need for focus groups targeting specific populations with a more residential perspective
  - Ex. Caretakers, trauma-impacted families

**Ranking of priorities from La Quinta participants [please note not everyone returned the ranking sheet]:**

1. Primary Care/Behavioral Health access
2. Healthy Eating, Active Living
3. Homelessness
4. Other Ideas