

Equity for All Arizonans

BULLHEAD CITY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

October 17, 2023 – Bullhead City, AZ

DEFINING EQUITY AND ITS IMPACT

Equity is meeting people where they are at. Different people have different needs and may be at different stages of their journey. Equality is giving the same thing to everyone.

Equality gives everyone equal opportunities to reach new potential such as with education assistance. Stripping away titles is another equality principle when it comes to getting input. Equitable provision of resources can lead to equality.

The difference between equity and equality can also be influenced by perceptions. For some, there can be concerns about what is fair when it comes to equitable principles.

In rural areas there are many opportunities for more equitable approaches. For example, People in rural areas are often tasked with wearing more hats to accomplish the things that need to be done due to lack of resources. There are also greater transportation challenges than in urban areas that impact the ability to get people to the resources that will make them successful.

In sum, equity is looking at what needs an individual or a community has and how best to meet their needs.

OPTIMIZING EVERYONE'S POTENTIAL THROUGH EQUITABLE APPROACHES

An equitable approach allows us to identify what individuals and different communities need so we can better provide the unique resources they need to become successful. Having a responsible and relevant connection to local needs allows us to better serve them. Having relevant resources available to clients also better suits their needs.

When people value themselves and their jobs and are given opportunities and resources it increases their availability to perform efficiently and increase productivity for the individual, the community, and the state.

There are specific areas such as housing and grants where this approach would benefit the community. Youth is another group where an equitable approach is helpful.

We need to give youth the tools and education to develop critical thinking skills to overcome obstacles. This includes involving parents to support youth in overcoming these obstacles. Self-advocacy and coping skills also will allow youth to better self-express and grow effectively.

IMPROVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EQUITY

Many of our limited resources are being used on repeat patients with mental health issues. The problem just gets pushed around instead of looking at the root cause. We could better use prevention tools and resources to more equitably address these challenges.

To better address prevention, we need to provide more education and communication about the resources that are available and how community members can best access and use the community resources we have. This includes providing social and emotional development education to parents and caregivers and healthcare challenges relating to youth that focus on prevention. Focusing on proactive measures to treat issues before they become insurmountable is critical. When we don't do this - we create more health care costs and an increased burden on our overall economy.

Adding more personnel would also create a more effective approach to solving our community health issues.

From the top down, we need to have new and creative thinking that meets people where they're at, moving away from traditional models and creating diversity at the highest levels so we become more diverse and flexible in finding solutions to the challenges we have.

NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS

We need to grow our own with more medical tracks in high school. We also should focus on making higher education more affordable.

Public transportation is available but very challenging during the summer heat, we can create more shade and other options to make it easier to take public transportation in the summer.

A destigmatization campaign to reduce the stigma around seeking would help immensely in addressing mental health. We all can be a part of such an effort.

As a community we need to come together to create unified and more easily accessible community resources, so people know how to access them.

We need increased access to healthcare, healthcare providers, detox centers and even housing. One example for creating more housing is building affordable housing for students and teachers—an effort that creates a hand up instead of a handout.

We all need to come together to create change. It begins with creating awareness both through individual connections and other broader communication efforts. We also need to identify stakeholders and those with authority to create change—bringing them into the discussion and the effort to create change.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Bullhead City Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Be the Change!
- Work with the community members to start a committee for affordable housing, barriers to education, barriers to employment and healthcare to address community needs in these deficits.
- Help bring more community stakeholders participate in the next town hall.
- Think about health equity, in young children, youth and family can affect change.
- Do my best to help others to gain the resources and knowledge of what they have available in our community.
- Share the information I learned and see how we can help on the local level.
- Continue to challenge the status quo, continue fighting, and pushing.
- Listen and learn more from the community in order to support change from my level.
- Educate myself further on issues that affect more than myself and the community as a whole.
- Commit to bringing together the various resources of communities together to “force multiply” their efforts and effectiveness.

- Open my mouth and share the knowledge I have with members of the community where I meet them.
- Listen to my client's needs.
- Assist them in locating resources.
- Advocate for needed resources.
- Continue to support others.
- Make a difference.
- Engage with more resources that can address needs of the elderly.
- Identify the needs of individuals and rural communities.
- Talk to management about attending a Town Hall meeting.
- Push for better solutions for healthcare.
- Continue to advocate with my agency to bring increased mobile services to community members, including integrated care.
- Commit to working on community outreach and bringing resources together.
- Discuss new ideas.