



PHAC Executive Committee Meeting

June 15, 2026
1:00– 2:30 PM

Facilitator: Bobbie D. Bagley

Location: Hybrid/18 Mulberry Street

Minutes

Presentation of the external partner survey

Growth Partners presented findings from the external partner survey conducted between April 1–15, 2026.

- Survey distributed to 112 community partners, 28 responses received.
- Respondents primarily represented community-based organizations, healthcare providers, health systems, and local government agencies.
- Survey results indicated that partnerships with the Division of Public Health and Community Services (DPHCS) were viewed positively. Forty percent of respondents rated their partnerships as very effective, while 36% rated them as somewhat effective. Partners identified several organizational strengths, including DPHCS's collaborative approach, commitment to health equity, effective use of public health resources, data-driven expertise, responsiveness, relationship-building efforts, shared problem-solving, adaptability, and communication.
- Most respondents recognized DPHCS's broader impact on community health. Eighty-nine percent agreed that the Division contributes to coordinated improvements in community health. While feedback was largely positive, respondents noted opportunities to further engage partners in decision-making processes and implementation efforts. Approximately 80% reported that roles and responsibilities within collaborative efforts were somewhat or very clear, although some respondents expressed uncertainty, suggesting opportunities for improved clarification of expectations and responsibilities.
- Health equity efforts were also rated favorably, with 90% of respondents indicating that collaborative efforts to reach populations impacted by health inequities were somewhat or very effective. Discussion highlighted the importance of continuing these efforts while improving communication about outcomes, successes, and engagement strategies. Resource and information sharing received positive ratings as well, with nearly three-quarters of respondents rating these efforts as good or excellent. However, some respondents identified opportunities to improve transparency and accessibility of information.

Discussion	• Communication was identified as a key area for improvement. While most partners rated communication and information sharing positively, respondents highlighted the need for more timely, consistent, and targeted communication, as well as clearer goals, timelines, and expectations. Barriers to collaboration included limited funding and capacity, communication gaps, organizational silos, delays in decision-making, and scheduling challenges. • Partners recommended strengthening collaboration through enhanced communication beyond newsletters, clearer project goals and timelines, improved project-tracking tools, additional training opportunities, increased engagement activities such as site visits and Lunch-and-Learn sessions, and stronger coordination among partner organizations. Opportunities for collaborative funding included joint grant applications, public-private partnerships, and shared funding models, although challenges remain with staffing capacity, funding coordination, and grant management. • Committee members emphasized that communication challenges are less about the volume of information shared and more about ensuring information is relevant, accessible, and actionable. Suggested improvements included developing a centralized project dashboard, providing clearer expectations for volunteers and workgroup members, expanding communication distribution lists, increasing visibility of newsletter subscriptions, distributing meeting materials directly via email, and ensuring timely follow-up with partners participating in workgroups and initiatives. • Members discussed the challenges associated with staff turnover within the Division and its impact on community partnerships. Turnover can create gaps in communication, follow-up, and continuity of projects, making it difficult for partners to maintain momentum on collaborative initiatives. It was noted that while Community Services is generally able to fill vacant positions, there are limited opportunities for advancement within some roles, which may contribute to retention challenges.
Next steps	• Growth Partners will revise the survey report graphics to improve consistency and provide an updated final report. • DPHCS will review the survey findings and identify strategies to improve communication with partners and clarification of roles and responsibilities. Improve the follow-up processes for workgroups, volunteers, and collaborative initiatives. • Communication improvements will be explored, including more targeted, program-specific communication, sending meeting minutes, reminders, agendas, and supporting materials directly to participants.

Next Meeting June 15, 2026

