

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 2

A-28

From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 11:49 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob
Subject: Public Comment A-28 Declaration that Racism is Public Health Crisis



Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors Hart and Williams,

There are a few things notably absent from your resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Notably, the failure of the war on poverty in America and the dissolution of two parent intact families.

The American Institute for Economic Research recently outlined the most expensive wars waged by the United States. The third most expensive war was World War 2 which lasted four years. The second most expensive was the war on covid. The war on poverty continues to be the most expensive ever at \$23 trillion and counting.

Despite spending this much money trying to alleviate poverty, the US poverty rate has been a pretty steady 10% (plus or minus 3%).

So, why hasn't the war on poverty succeeded?

The number one indicator of poverty is a home without a father, regardless of color, creed and nationality.

Moreover, America's woke progressives, such as yourselves, need to take a world tour of this poverty stricken planet.

Six billion people in the world are living on less than \$10 per day. 11 million children die from poverty every year.

The real question here, is what are you doing to make housing more affordable, attract better paying jobs for people without a high school education, and lowering the cost of government regulations and taxes, all of which disproportionately affect the poor?

That is, besides passing nauseatingly woke, virtue signaling, meaningless resolutions?

Fatherless Epidemic

Definition: An epidemic is a negative phenomenon affecting many people of a community or area.

20  **Million**
Infected

20 million children in the U.S. are living in a fatherless home

Know the Symptoms of the Fatherless



- Poverty
- Substance Abuse
- Physical & Emotional Health
- Educational Achievement
- Crime
- Sexual Activity & Teen Pregnancy

Poverty

Fatherless families are **44%** more likely to raise children living in poverty

4X More likely to be raised in poverty

90% Of all homeless and runaway children are fatherless



Substance Abuse

Drug and alcohol abuse

is greater among fatherless children

10X

More likely to abuse chemical substances



71%

Of all adolescent substance abuses come from a fatherless home



80%

of adolescents in psychiatric hospitals come from fatherless homes



2X

More likely to commit suicide



Physical & Emotional Health

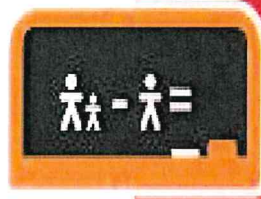


Fatherless children experience more accidents and a higher rate of chronic asthma, headaches, and speech defects.

Educational Achievement

Fatherless children are more likely to score lower than the norm in reading and math

.10



9X

More likely to drop out of school

.11



Less likely to attain academic and professional qualifications in adulthood

.12



70%

Of adolescents in juvenile correctional facilities come from fatherless homes



.13

60%

Of teens were raised in fatherless homes



.15

11X

More likely to have violent behavior



.14

20X

More likely to be incarcerated



.16

Crime

Sexual Activity & Teen Pregnancy

9X

More likely to be raped or sexually abused in a home without a biological father

.17



70%

Of teen pregnancies happen in fatherless homes

.18

Causes:

¹⁰ Jank, Dennis, et al. "The Role of Fathers and the Home."

¹¹ Sankaran, Jay, et al. "Effectiveness of Interventions."

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jeremy Neill <jeremyneill@me.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 12:03 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda Item A-28

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern at the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you to urge you to pass Agenda A-28, to officially frame racism as the problem it actually is, a public health crisis that robs our community of the power and freedom to be who we are as individuals and a community. As a straight white male, I do not experience nearly the same magnitude of discrimination as people of color do generally, but even the small incidents of discrimination I have experience does something almost indescribable to the mind. Having to deal with structural inequities is not just unfair, it robs a human being of their full potential to be who they are, and to contribute to the collective society. Being constantly in a defensive posture in the ways I have seen even glimpses of in this regard, is a self-fulfilling prophecy that can fundamentally alter a person's destiny not just in social opportunities, but the fundamental psychological security that is required to develop into a full, developed human being. The sad profundity of this point cannot be overstated. It is the single saddest thing I have ever seen to see that in the 21st century, entire communities are utterly robbed of their humanity, and we will not stand for it anymore.

I urge you to pass AB-28 in full acknowledgement of the structural realities that are still presenting themselves in our community and to urge action to stop this injustice.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Neill

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Heather J. Rose <rosehj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:12 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda Item A-28 Racism IS a Public Health Crisis

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I encourage you to take up item A-28 and declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis here in Santa Barbara County -- the evidence is overwhelming, with the most recent example being the discrepancies in who is getting vaccinated first. Every decision must be made through the lens of "is this decision actively anti-racist" and the lived stories of People of Color must be acknowledged and centered.

Moreover, the resolution needs to adopt much more specific plans, actionable items, and accountability.

Thank you,
Heather Rose

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Rachel Altman <raltmansb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:14 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda Item A-28

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding the Resolution of Concern about racism as a public health crisis that results in widespread inequities across health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing in Santa Barbara County:

I would like to see the Board of Supervisors make the language in the Resolution more specific regarding actions and measurable commitments, far-reaching scope across all sectors of the county, and supportive infrastructure vis a vis anti-racism training and accountability.

I would like to see the Board ensure that BIPOC lived experiences qualify them as experts on racism. Please invite them into the conversation and listen to their experiences. We cannot, solely as white people, make decisions about the complexities of racism.

The Board of Supervisors should invest in the health of all community members by reallocating funds from the County Public Safety Budget, particularly the Sheriff, into BIPOC led community based organizations, collectives, social services, and individuals.

Thank you,
Rachel (Rochelle) Altman
1383 Sycamore Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Avery Voos <avery.voos@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:28 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item A-28

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing in my support for the adoption of Agenda Item A-28. I support adopting a Resolution of Concern about racism as a public health crisis that results in widespread inequities across health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing in Santa Barbara County. I agree with the premise of the resolution that racism is a public health crisis, but the resolution is vague and doesn't have any actionable steps or accountability structures. Please consider the following.

- We would like to see the resolution have more specific language, actionable and measurable commitments, far-reaching scope across all sectors of the county, and supportive infrastructure in the form of anti-racism training and accountability structures.
- Ensure that BIPOC folks' lived experiences qualify them as subject matter experts on racism. They have understandings of the complexities of racism that white people don't.
- The Board of Supervisors should invest in the health of all community members by reallocating funds from the County's Public Safety budget, particularly the Sheriff, into BIPOC led community-based organizations, collectives, and individuals. Every dollar of the County's budget must be examined through an anti-racist lens.

Thank you!
Avery Voos, Ph.D.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jason Prystowsky <jprystowsky@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 2:35 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Item A-28

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I write to you as a local community emergency physician and educator with a background in public health and medical ethics. I speak as a private citizen and not on behalf of any of my affiliated institutions.

I strongly urge you to adopt this resolution. Structural racism is a public health crisis. Look at our community. COVID 19. Violence. Obesity. Cardiovascular disease. Cancer. Poverty. Poor access to education. Poor access to clean drinking water. Mass incarcerations. What do all of these have in common? They all disproportionately impact individuals and communities of color.

As elected leaders in our community. I know that you have seen the science and the data that articulately describes the health impacts of racism. As an emergency physician working nights in our local community, I hear the stories. Again and again. The same stories. There is not enough time to share so many stories. We live in a community where the color of our skin and the primary language we learned as a child predicts our likelihood of catching COVID19, having a complication from diabetes, dying from a complication of pregnancy, sustaining a violent traumatic injury - the color of our skin predicts these health outcomes. Not to mention the mental health impacts of microaggressions on individuals and communities of color. Routine and sustained racist microaggressions can result in delays in seeking medical care, vaccine hesitancy, and profound mental illness.

I, as a doctor, can do far less to help my patients than you can as our elected leaders to increase awareness about social determinants of health. This costs the county no money to adopt a resolution against racism. This is consistent with the best practice in public health research acknowledging the role of racism as one of the social determinants of health. And most importantly, it is the right thing to do. I ask you to please do the right thing and adopt this resolution. Racism is a public health crisis and results in preventable illness and death. Acknowledging a problem is the first step toward its resolution.

It is an honor to serve our community alongside so many brave people during these turbulent times. Please continue to encourage vaccinations and healthy behaviors. Please take a stand against racism. Thank you for your service.

Jason Prystowsky MD, MPH

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Jason Prystowsky MD, MPH, FACEP

Academic Coordinator Medical Humanities Initiative, University of California, Santa Barbara
Emergency physician Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital
Medical director Santa Barbara City Fire Department

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Alison Parakh <alison_parakh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 3:48 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda Item A-28

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the members of the Board of Supervisors,

I would like to enter this into the public comment for Agenda Item A-28.

First, I support the adoption of Agenda Item A-28 (Adopt a Resolution of Concern about racism as a public health crisis in Santa Barbara County). I am, however, concerned that the resolution doesn't quite go far enough, in that it has no specific action steps or accountability structures. I would like to see things of this nature included in the resolution. In addition, I would suggest the resolution contain measure for supportive infrastructure, such as anti-racism training.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alison Parakh, resident of Santa Barbara

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Melissa Smith <melissasmith@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 3:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Sharing my statement on Agenda Item A- 28 for April 6th BOS meeting
Attachments: Statment Dr. M. Smith_ Resolution regarding Racism to Board of Supervisors April 6, 2021.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear colleagues,

I am registered to make a public comment tomorrow, but would also like to send this in as part of the public record.

Many thanks,

Melissa Smith, M.D.

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Melissa Smith, M.D.
Director, Health Equity Initiatives
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA, 93106-2150
Email: melissasmith@ucsb.edu

[Women's Health, Gender and Empowerment Center of Expertise](#)

Good morning Chair Nelson and members of the Board.

I am Dr. Melissa Smith, Director of Health Equity Initiatives at UC Santa Barbara. First, I would like to acknowledge that we are on the ancestral land of the Chumash people.

I have worked as a family medicine physician for over three decades in low-income communities in Texas and California, most recently in the Santa Maria Health Care Center run by the county health department. Most of the patients for whom I have provided clinical care over these many years, are people of color, primarily from Latinx, Black, and Indigenous communities.

I fully support today's resolution that racism is an urgent public health crisis. Racism undermines the very fabric of our society and specifically, the fair and just opportunity for everyone to be as healthy as possible. Inequities in the social determinants of health, like education, housing, employment, and access to healthy foods, disproportionately impact people of color living in poor neighborhoods. This reveals a legacy of systems and structures, that we, as well-meaning people have inherited, that can be referred to as institutional racism. If left unchallenged, these social structures perpetuate inequality and contribute to persistent health disparities. I have seen this to be true in the communities where I have worked, who have borne the burden of disease and death from conditions, which in many cases are preventable, like diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and maternal and infant mortality. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this reality even more painfully and tragically clear.

As compared to when I began to practice medicine 30 years ago, there is now abundant evidence, grounded in research, that institutional and structural racism are critical upstream factors that influence these disparate social determinants of health and downstream health inequities.

Innovative approaches to research have also identified a potential way forward in addressing seemingly intractable and persistent health inequities. Community-based Participatory Research helps us not only understand how racism contributes to local health disparities, but also to

identify innovative and sustainable solutions that can help us achieve health equity. Myself and other faculty members and students at UCSB, including colleagues at the Center for Publicly Engaged Scholarship, are using this community-engaged approach, working with many community-based organizations who guide our work, community members themselves, the county health department, and other partners, to advance collaborative efforts for health equity. We have a historic opportunity to fully engage in this important journey together--to embrace courageous conversations, committing to a process of research, analysis, collective, critical self-reflection, and healing. New insights and lessons learned can guide specific policy, systems and structural change that address the root causes of the urgent public health crisis of racism.

Thank you