



Center for Health & Fitness
Member Working Group - Summary Report
Meeting #4
November 19, 2024

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1. Introduction

Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) has developed a Member Working Group (MWG) to engage local participants in planning for the relocation of its Center for Health & Fitness (CHF). The MWG is an informal, voluntary group of CHF members who represent a broad range of interests and ideas focused on the center's continued success as a fitness and preventive health resource for the community, and participation is by invitation and recommendation from the BCHD board and staff.

This report summarizes recent MWG activities and feedback received at the third MWG meeting.

1.1 Purpose of Member Working Group

Community Working Groups such as this provide a forum for integrating member input. MWG participants represent the interest of various areas of the CHF membership and serve as an ambassador of these interests. Working Groups such as this are limited in scope to the planning the relocation of CHF, are not a formal voting body and are organized to enhance input into the planning process.

2. MWG MEETING NO. 4 – November 19, 2024

2.1 Overview

The fourth MWG meeting for the CHF convened in the Café at 514 N. Prospect in Redondo Beach. The attendee list, made up of involved CHF members from the three Beach Cities communities, was developed by staff.

Ten members attended this meeting, with three members unable to attend. The format provided opportunities for participants to actively engage in meaningful discussion and share valuable information, insights and feedback with the staff and project team members.

The meeting, led by Cristan Mueller, Chief Health Operations & Communications Officer for BCHD, opened with reintroductions of MWG members, and an overview of the agenda. The agenda included MWG feedback and a group activity designed to help the architectural team design the new CHF location and place equipment, classes, locker rooms, etc. (assuming the center can be located to the 510 N. Prospect Building), solicit ideas for how to improve CHF at its new location, and an update on the status of CHF and BCHD going forward.

Also in attendance were Tom Bakaly, CEO of BCHD; Dan Smith, Director of Communications; Cindy Foster, CHF Health & Fitness General Manager; Julie Lumbao, CHF Programs Manager; and Cliff Neiman from Neiman Group Architects; .

Tom provided an initial post-election update that included the fact that the Measure BC bond was not approved by voters on November 5 and how that decision would impact the District going forward. He indicated that the BCHD Board has determined that the former South Bay Hospital

Building at 514 N. Prospect will be decommissioned in 2026 because it no longer meets seismic construction standards and escalating maintenance costs are becoming too expensive to operate or retrofit the building. The loss of revenue from the decommissioning of that building will be a severe hit to BCHD's budget. He said the District continues to explore options that might allow it to recoup the lost revenues and has already begun paring back expenses. He said the mid-year budget review already shows cuts and that staff will take the next six months to seriously evaluate the budget situation and make recommendations to the BCHD Board. *(More details are provided in the PowerPoint presentation attached that Tom shared with the MWG).* Tom added that the proactive efforts to address BCHD's budget concerns means the District is on solid financial footing for the next 18 months, but said BCHD will face a \$2 million annual budget shortfall once the 514 Building is decommissioned. "We're not panicked, but we are concerned," he said, reiterating that the District is exploring a wide array of options to fill that budget gap, including public-private partnerships, new grants, fee increases and a new philanthropic giving campaign that is set to launch in December.

Following Tom's presentation, Cindy Foster provided a recap of the recent member survey *(results in the attached PowerPoint presentation)* that shows what current CHF members think of the center and their priorities for the new center once it is relocated. The survey included feedback on everything from facility layout and equipment to the use of technology and new suggested amenities.

Cliff then explained the "test fit" activity, which asked MWG members to divide into small groups with a staff member and use a diagram of the potential new space to look at where various CHF elements should go, locating equipment, locker rooms, classroom space, etc. in the way they thought best served the members. Cliff provided diagrams that showed space constraints and locations of patio space, stairwells and ingress/egress locations that could not change.

Following the activity, each group reported out their suggestions/concerns to the full group.

Tom indicated BCHD is committed to maintain an and relocating CHF, and is working to relocate to the 510 building as proposed, pending ongoing discussions with the current building owner and existing tenants.

2.2 Summary of Participation

MWG Participants

Name	City of Residence	Attended
Joni Ackerman	Redondo Beach	Yes
Elias Altenes	Torrance	Yes
John Bunn	Torrance	No
Carol Cutting	Manhattan Beach	Yes
Georgette Gantner	Redondo Beach	Yes
Dennis Heck	Redondo Beach	Yes
Nikki Hoffman	Redondo Beach	Yes
Fred Lukin	Redondo Beach	Yes
Carol Newton	Redondo Beach	No
Dennis McLean	Redondo Beach	Yes
Laurie McLean	Redondo Beach	Yes
Chantal Saltzman	Redondo Beach	No
Ron Werner	Manhattan Beach	Yes

2.3 Summary of Feedback:

Feedback was solicited during the exercises outlined above, and comments from the Member Working Group is summarized below.

- Need more seating in areas where people wait before their classes begin
- Social areas could be expanded by reducing locker room space
- The plan should include fewer showers and more office space for staff
- The design should consider space for a sound system and stage area in some classrooms
- Carpet should be eliminated throughout the center in favor of mats
- Is there truly a need for a private Pilates room?
- Concerns were expressed about ease and efficiency of moving the bikes
- The weight room should be larger
- Shrink the locker room and provide more open gathering space with access to the patio area

- Class start times should be staggered to ease crowding as classes begin and end
- **Next meeting: Tuesday, December 17, noon – 1 p.m.**

APPENDIX A

Photos of the MWG feedback exercises









