

**Attendees:**

- Maritza Bond, MPH – Director of Health and Social Services, City of Bridgeport

**The statements below are a summary of the opinions expressed by those interviewed. The statements do not necessarily reflect City policy or objective facts.**

The City of Bridgeport Department of Health and Social Services, under the leadership of Ms. Maritza Bond, is examining how best to promote the health of all residents through the development of a comprehensive vision statement and a new strategic plan. The Department has developed priorities and goals to seamlessly integrate with Bridgeport and be on the forefront as a branded, and recognizable agency. The City has conducted many successful health and wellness campaigns in the past and supports entities that provide free clinics and health services to those with limited access. Funding and inter-departmental communication remain a hindrance to the success of the Department. Funding for key health issues, such as STD prevention and HIV treatment, often do not trickle down to local governments. However, through better communication, the Health Department could be instrumental in acquiring funds for other City efforts, such as bike-share programs or waste management and control, as these policies and many others encompass public health. The Department is currently pursuing national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) which will allow easier access to national and federal grants and funds. Ms. Bond hopes that the City's Master Plan will support the goals of the Health Department as well as further collaboration within the City's Departments to ensure that public health is represented as a vital piece of each future policy.

**Vison for Bridgeport:**

- Health Equity needs to be emphasized in the Plan; Public health, both clinical and public/social health, needs to be incorporated and highlighted throughout the Plan
- Ensure that the Strategic Plan of the Health Department aligns with the City's Master Plan
- Change negative perception of Bridgeport's health services
- Emphasize "Health in All Policies" Initiative
  - Ensure that the health department is brought to the table early-on when other City departments are proposing initiatives because it's very likely that Public Health is involved and the Health Department can assist with funding channels and other directives
- Bring ADA planning and considerations to the forefront – ADA compliance can sometimes be left off the table and its attempted incorporation is often an afterthought
  - Easier to plan for ahead of time and should be prioritized as it is a part of health equity

