

RESOLUTION NO. 19-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS HAVE UPON THE HEALTH AND EQUITY OF ITS CITIZENS AND ADOPTING A “HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES” APPROACH TO COUNTY DECISION-MAKING, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION, TO ENSURE THAT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS ARE EVALUATED BASED ON HEALTH AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL METRICS

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Pinellas County residents are critical for a prosperous and sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County and its residents face a growing burden of largely preventable chronic illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, cancers, diabetes, mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and

WHEREAS, unintentional injuries, including traffic crashes, poisoning, firearms, and falls, are a leading cause of death in Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the burden of chronic illness, injuries, and life expectancy vary significantly across neighborhoods, communities, and populations in Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, health is influenced by many factors beyond genetics and medical care, including the social, economic, service, and physical environments, both natural and built, and conditions in which people live, learn, work, play, and age. These environments and conditions are known as the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, clinical health care is vitally important, but the social determinants of health have a greater influence on how long and well people live; and

WHEREAS, the social determinants of health influence exposure to risk and hazards, disease, injury, and death rates, and the adoption of healthy lifestyles by making it more or less difficult for individuals to choose behaviors that promote or diminish health; and

WHEREAS, the social determinants of health are key drivers of health inequities, which are differences in health associated with individual or group specific attributes, including income, education, race, or ethnicity, that are connected to social disadvantage, historical, and contemporary injustices, and which can be minimized through changes to policy, programs, and practices; and

WHEREAS, many decisions affecting health and well-being are made by actors outside of the public health and health care sectors; and

WHEREAS, policies implemented by the County outside of the traditional health sector – including policies related to food access, housing, transportation, public safety, land use,

education, sustainability, climate change, parks, air and water quality, criminal justice, and economic development – significantly affect health inequities and the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, interdepartmental and interagency collaboration can help address the social determinants, or root causes, of poor health outcomes through improved decision-making, better planning, and more efficient service; and

WHEREAS, achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities; and

WHEREAS, “Health in All Policies” is a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas; and

WHEREAS, “Health in All Policies” employs a variety of tools to identify positive and negative health consequences of decisions and to enhance or mitigate these consequences through evidence-based or best practice recommendations. These tools include, but are not limited to, health impact assessment, health lens analysis, health matrices and checklists, walkability audits, task forces or working groups, and health notes; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a “Health in All Policies” approach, the County recognizes that all departments have a role to play in achieving health equity, defined as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of Pinellas County to apply a “Health in All Policies” approach to the County’s decision-making through the consideration of health, equity, and the social determinants of health in the development and implementation of policies, projects, plans, programs, budgets, and the delivery of services.

Commissioner Gerard offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Long upon the roll call the vote was:

Ayes: Seel, Gerard, Eggers, Justice, Long, and Peters.

Nays: None.

Absent and not voting: Welch.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: 
Office of the County Attorney