

Statement regarding the remaining STAR Community Advisory Committee meetings in 2022

Per recent conversations between the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) and the STAR Community Advisory Committee (SCAC), it is clear we are committed to the same goal, and we have a shared vision to further strengthen and expand the STAR program so that it can be the best possible resource to the community it serves. Over the past few months DDPHE has received feedback from advisory committee members, community members, partner organizations, and others about the committee and how community is engaged in the program.

As a result of these conversations, DDPHE will not be convening SCAC meetings for the next couple of months while we work to create an equitable structure with clear and consistent processes by which the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee and the department are plainly defined, the channels of communication between the department and committee are clear and understood, and everyone is respectful to each other and accountable to the process. Another priority is to ensure a clear and accessible path forward to incorporate community voice (ideas, innovations, efficiencies, etc.) into proposals that can be brought forward to the department for consideration.

Like every other program DDPHE operates, the Department has a responsibility to carry out the administrative functions of the program, including the structure for advisory committees and community involvement.

Early in 2023, if not sooner, DDPHE will announce next steps in the development of a new SCAC structure for STAR; one that is founded in equity, giving opportunity for every voice on the Advisory Committee and from the community to be fairly heard and considered.