

NLAPH – Design 4 Active Sacramento Activity Summary

Design 4 Active Sacramento (D4AS) is a cross-sectoral team that includes Sacramento County's Public Health Officer and its Sustainability Coordinator; the Executive Director of WalkSacramento, a regional walk and active transportation nonprofit; an engineer from the private sector; and the Public Information Coordinator from the region's metropolitan transportation planning agency.

The team's Leadership Learning goals were to:

- Build consensus and leadership in the region and increase awareness of the importance of walkability to a healthy, prosperous community
- Develop skills to communicate the health impacts of the built environment to inform decisions on policy and community development.
- Begin to incorporate health related policies and solutions into the Sacramento County zoning code, improvement standards, and design review.
- Build support among healthcare leaders and employers for active design in the built environment.

The D4AS team wanted to better communicate the health impacts of the built environment to bridge the gap between what we know about building healthy communities and what is actually being built and/or retrofitted. D4AS was active throughout the year bringing in stakeholders from local, regional and statewide organizations.

D4AS successfully incorporated new language into the Housing Element of the County's General Plan, making health improvement a goal. The team worked on including "active design" elements into to the County's draft Zoning Code which would support the development of healthy built environment design.

D4AS is now an organization within WALKSacramento, which has been awarded funding by The California Endowment to review design guidelines in cities throughout Sacramento County. D4AS will serve as an advisory council to WALKSacramento on issues of health and the built environment, and will continue to develop awareness of and support for active design principles among community leaders.