Webinar Focus

The Partners for Advancing Health Equity Collaborative hosted the webinar, *Moving to Action: Applying P4HE Learnings to Address Urgent Health Equity Matters* on February 28, 2023. Panelists shared P4HE's first year of activities and plans for year two and engaged in discussion about urgent matters affecting health equity and social justice. This report provides a synthesis of key takeaways, solutions, and action steps identified from the webinar.

Webinar Voices

> Hanh Cao Yu, Chief Learning Officer, The California Endowment

> Andrew Anderson, Associate Director, P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine

> Caryn Bell, Associate Director P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine

Key Resources

- Blueprint for a Healthy and Just Nation
- Lessons in Health Equity P4HE Year in Review
- Foundational Resources on Health Equity
- A Wealth of Knowledge: An Invitation to Learn from Building Healthy Communities

Your Voice

P4HE values collaboration. If there is a resource on this topic that you would like to share with us, provide it here.

Key Takeaways

Partners for Advancing Health Equity (P4HE) facilitated a variety of events and developed several resources in the goal of advancing health equity through collaborative knowledge building in 2022. These activities culminated in December with the first P4HE summit in New Orleans. Key lessons and activities from year one centered around the need to move from research into action. Effective action leverages collaboration for human-centered, community-driven solutions that impact underlying structures and contribute to cultural change. This includes a thinking shift that acknowledges the inherently political nature of all efforts that seek to address health inequities and create impactful, sustainable change in health equity.

Webinar participants shared that they joined for engagement and inspiration related to the current state of health equity and ongoing efforts to advance health equity. Participants highlighted key issues that impact the communities they serve, underscoring structural issues and social determinants that perpetuate health inequities and reiterated the desire for more real-time collaboration opportunities.

"There are a lot of vulnerable communities that have been under attack… …We need to move to action. Less conversations about action and more action." Hanh Cao Yu, Chief Learning Officer, The California Endowment

**Applying P4HE Learnings to Address
Urgent Health Equity Matters**
Webinar Summary and Call to Action

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Below we've summarized immediate action steps shared by the panelists and identified by webinar participants to be taken to advance health equity.

Call to Action

› Show you are listening through taking action.

"Sometimes as academics all we do is talk and listen without always doing the action related to that." Andrew Anderson, Associate Director, P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

In year one, P4HE learned we can create impact by pursuing community-driven, human-centered, trauma-informed priorities, research, and policies based on the lived experiences of individuals. Asking community members what they consider most important is a critical first step. But don't stop there - show you are listening by acting! Asking community members for input and failing to act on it can inadvertently paint the picture that we are not listening to them which can damage trust and limit future engagement. However, lasting change takes time, this highlights why transparency and accountability are essential in successful community collaboration. Acknowledge that "while we are learning, we recognize that learning needs to be accompanied by action." Andrew Anderson, Associate Director, P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

› Build sustainable community power to create impact.

Drive community collaboration by using common language, creating shared knowledge and common goals, and building trust. Work to set a foundation that seeks to understand the mechanisms of inequitable systems and structural determinants of health.

"Investing in capacity, building and communities and infrastructure building may not be the sexiest thing in the world but that's what it takes to affect a long-term structural change and to address root causes." Hanh Cao Yu, Chief Learning Officer, The California Endowment

Be patient and invest in community capacity and infrastructure building to address root causes of health inequities. Center community priorities, interests, and voices in democratic decision making to co-create tailored solutions, build sustainable community power, and increase accessibility to research, funding, and information for those most impacted by health inequities.. Build power through advocacy and highlighting successes, especially for those who have been historically disadvantaged. "If community members are able to see their success in one area, they can transfer their sense of agency and approach to problem solving and problem definition to other kinds of

issues. That is how communities can make their vision of Health equity a reality." Hanh Cao Yu, Chief Learning Officer, The California Endowment

Action Steps to Address Health Equity

1 **Community Leaders in Power Positions.** Prepare community leaders to be in decision making roles and sustain their power thorough recruiting and preparing future community leaders for key leadership roles.

2 **Multi-culture Democracy.** Center black and indigenous voices in multi-culture democracy through addressing the origins of the United States and our history with colonialism and slavery and current issues of voting suppression and gerrymandering.

3 **Narrative Change.** Narrative change addresses ideology, belief systems, and norms of who is determined to be deserving and who is not. Shifting norms is key to gaining public support for sustained change.

4 **Align Around a Common Vision.** Share resources, skills, and talents to make something larger than any one individual or organization.

5 **Define Metrics That Matter.** Metrics are needed to hold public policy makers accountable to communities, to measure policy impacts, and to quantify community power itself.

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> **Leverage democracy for anticipatory public health solutions.**

"All of the alarming politicalization we have been seeing over the last year has been disheartening. But at least it has been pulled out into the open so that we can be clearer about the challenges that we are confronting, not only in enacting the policies that we care about, but also in the court," Andrew Anderson Associate Director, P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Engage community, state, and federal leaders who are in positions to effect sustainable change through consistent policy. Ensure that solutions start with understanding the underlying causes of health inequities and allocate adequate time for community trust-building. This advocacy is critical as we continue to see redistricting and gerrymandering create barriers to long-term sustainable change by limiting communities' voices and political power in democracy.

"Communities that are most impacted need to be at the center, and we need to make sure that they are at the center, of developing the agenda for social change around all the things we know historically have been taken away from our communities." Hanh Cao Yu, Chief Learning Officer, The California Endowment

Advocate with your representatives to pre-empt future issues with anticipatory solutions. Anticipatory solutions shift the focus from the individual level to the systemic level, which is necessary for wide-scale impact. Don't get caught up in a pattern of crisis response. Trying to tackle things as an emergency response without addressing the underlying issues causing the crises will always be a losing battle.

> **Generate Community-driven data.**

"Sometimes we just think about health policy rather than the judicial arm of policy… … [it is critical to] define our goal and center the outcomes and the work of those who are most affected by this… ….not just bringing their voices but centering their outcomes," Caryn Bell, Associate Director, P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Effective and impactful changes in public health will require ongoing resources, transparency in funding, and accountability. Data directly relates to the ability to measure impact and to know when we have achieved health equity. Using the data to show where the problems continue to exist is what led to the current changes. Which in turn calls for more data to continue to drive change. While more

data is helpful, the most impactful is the data that communities need and want to support their efforts. Providing community-driven data "...starts with asking them and working with them to figure out what data could be supportive," Andrew Anderson, Associate Director, P4HE, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

State of the Science

Leveraging Systems Theories for Cross-Sector Collaboration.

Systems thinking has been proposed as one way to impact public health. Systems theories illustrate the interwoven nature of society and structural determinants that impact health equity both directly and indirectly. Cross-sector collaboration means more than just people from different sectors discussing health equity. It also means applying theories and models across disciplines to impact change. Ecological systems theory is one example of this, taking a model which is frequently used to discuss child development within social work fields and using it to guide public mental health policy and practice. A systems view can be leveraged to make strategic, sustainable plans to address health inequites and to build power among communities.

Climate change in Health Equity.

Climate change is an undeniable part of the large-scale disasters that increasingly impact health. Ongoing degradation of air and water quality and water shortages impacting crop-yeilds and food supplies will impact all communities. Mitigation efforts will require funding to alleviate the threat multiplication of climate change impacting low income communites and communities of color. But this also requires addressing the underlying causes of climate change and the health impacts, which are tied to overproduction and excessive consumption that degredes natural ecosystems, habitats, and diversity.

About P4HE

The P4HE Collaborative harmonizes goals, advances learning, and facilitates collaboration to improve health equity. It is led by the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and is part of the Tulane Institute for Innovations in Health Equity. Support for this program is provided by ICF. Funding is provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Foster
the co-creation and spread of knowledge.

Sharpen
our research tools to focus on solutions; facts and stories.

Disrupt
traditional research approaches.

Harmonize
our voices.

Challenge
the status quo.

Shine
light on practices that are indefensible, irrationional and inconsistent.

To learn more about these issues, or Partners for Health Equity's calls to action, a resource library including a full recording of this, and all previous P4HE Webinars, can be found on the P4HE website.

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