

The Partners for Advancing Health Equity Collaborative hosted the 2022 Summit, *On the Front Lines of Equity & Justice*, December 4-6, 2022. The Summit brought together leaders in health equity and justice to foster collaboration across sectors, and to promote action in advancing health equity in research, practice, and policy. This report provides a synthesis of key takeaways from the breakout session, Promoting Healthcare Equity through the Medicaid Program.

## Session Voices



Andrew Anderson, Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine



LaShawn McIver, Director, Office of Minority Health at Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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## Key Takeaways

**Leverage good data practices and strategies to support health equity.** When operationalized in thoughtful ways, timely and high-quality data has the potential to uncover weaknesses in the healthcare system and [address inequities](#) at the local, state, and national levels. Because healthcare programs like Medicaid often rely on ground level systems to facilitate quality data collection, [engagement and support must be prioritized in these local levels](#). Unfortunately, public health data is not always available due to [barriers in data sharing restrictions and staffing limitations](#), making increasing data accessibility a critical first step.

**Include and amplify the right voices in health equity conversations.** To change the conversation on health equity, we must [include the right players at the table](#). This means pulling providers – who best understand clinics’ needs – into data collection conversations as well as including day-to-day staff over transient leaders in health equity strategies. It is critical for state Medicaid and public health programs to [practice authentic engagement with the community](#) and encourage sustained community member engagement in health equity planning. As a community member, one way to remain engaged in health equity planning is to [submit comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) when proposed decisions are released for Medicare and Medicaid services.

**Embed health equity across the entire healthcare system.** To achieve health equity, all healthcare must prioritize reducing disparities at every level. This often means [finding the right incentives to encourage this behavior in healthcare organizations](#). No matter the sector, health equity work must become normalized in order for its influence to become known. [Intentionally thinking about how equity is and should be embedded in healthcare research and policymaking](#) is necessary to create sustainable change.

### Share your thoughts!

What did you think of this topic? Would you like to hear more from these speakers? Do you have any resources you would like to share with us?