

## President's Challenge

### Health Equity Framework

- Inform, educate, and empower people to confront health inequity
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and act on root causes of health inequities
- Develop policies and plans that support and integrate health equity into all policies, programs, and practice
- Assure a competent workforce that supports diversity and inclusion that aligns with the community needs
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Research for new insights and innovative strategies for health inequities. Begin research and evaluation to link local health outcomes and to the sources that generate them. Move theory to practice
- Create funding streams to improve health outcomes we should seek foundations, community partners, and business community support
- Increasing public awareness and support of our mission and activities by establishing a clear public narrative

How can local health departments operationalize health equity within the agency and community?

1. Conduct research on health status of the community to include:
  - a. Demographics
  - b. Income and employment
  - c. Housing
  - d. Environmental quality
  - e. Education
  - f. Transportation
  - g. Food access
  - h. Health care access
  - i. Community safety
  - j. Parks and physical activity
  - k. Health status including chronic diseases
  - l. Hospitalizations
  
2. Publish results of health status and social determinants of health equity and share with local community by convening a forum and

- discuss along with the County Health Rankings.
3. Premier “Raising of America” video in your community.
  4. Support for local policies that begin to address root causes, such as paid sick leave, living wage, and so forth.
  5. Support the use of Health Impact Assessments and Health Equity Impact Assessments
  6. Workforce Diversity
    - a. Expand training programs that bring diversity into the healthcare and public health workforce
    - b. Develop programming that exposes students to career options within the healthcare professions
    - c. Create medical and research based “shadowing” and “mentoring” programs, scholarships, and research and summer enrichment programs
    - d. Recruit a racially/ethnically diverse workforce
    - e. Promote Anti-racism training for the public health workforce
  7. Innovation & Research
    - a. Increase participation of minorities in clinical trials
    - b. Promote data sharing between health systems stakeholders such as health department surveillance data and hospital assessment data
    - c. Support investment in innovative digital technologies, cloud computing and musicalized smartphones to enhance health care
    - d. Continue to support the testing of payment and service delivery models aimed at improving the quality of care and population health outcomes
  8. Encourage the protection of the civil rights of all people and the necessary efforts by law enforcement officials to treat people in an equitable and unbiased manner.
  9. Support the abolition of discriminatory law enforcement strategies such as racial profiling and criminal justice policies sustaining mass incarceration and denial of voting rights to ex-felons.
  10. Support the modification or elimination of laws that may lead police to use force or arrest people for minor actions.
  11. Educate the public about the ways in which all forms of structural racism impact the community
  12. Explore and communicate how the anticipation and long-term effects of violence and daily intimidation increase toxic stress that severely harms health of families and communities
  13. Research the nature and public health implications of police violence and gun violence.
  14. Initiate and lead efforts to build ties between local government and communities focusing on health equity

Federal Action we can support from the “2015 Kelly Report: Health Disparities in America”

1.) The Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA)

This is the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus's signature health disparities bill.

Sponsor: Rep. Robin Kelly (IL)

2.) H.R. 224 – The Recognizing Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency Act

This legislation would require the Surgeon General to submit to Congress an annual report on the effects of gun violence on the public's health.

Sponsor: Rep. Robin Kelly (IL)

3.) H.R. 768 – Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2015

This bill requires the Federal Bureau of Prisons to develop a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates in Federal prisons.

Sponsor: Rep. Maxine Waters (CA)

4.) H.R. 2651 – Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act

This bill will enhance research at the National Institutes of Health on the causes and effects of diabetes in minority communities. Additionally, under the bill, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will provide more effective diabetes treatment, prevention and public education to highly impacted populations.

5.) H.R. 2866 – Healthy MOM Act

The Healthy MOM Act provides for a special enrollment period for pregnant women (that essentially says women who get pregnant in non-open enrollment months should get a special open enrollment period for the Marketplace).

Sponsor: Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ)

6.) H.R. 1220 – Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2015

The Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2015 works to correct an oversight in current law that requires Medicare beneficiaries to cover the cost of their copayment for a "free" screening colonoscopy if a polyp is discovered and removed during the procedure.

Sponsors: Rep. Charlie Dent (PA), Rep. Donald Payne Jr. (NJ)

7.) H.R. 1586 – REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act of 2015

The REPEAL Act ("Repeal Existing Policies that Encourage and Allow Legal" HIV Discrimination) calls for review of all federal and state laws, policies, and regulations regarding the criminal prosecution of individuals for HIV-related offenses.

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)

8.) H.R. 2730 – National Prostate Cancer Plan Act

Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc  
President July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Establishes in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the National Prostate Cancer Council on Screening, Early Detection, Assessment, and Monitoring of Prostate Cancer to: (1) develop and implement a strategic plan for the accelerated development of diagnostic tools for prostate cancer, (2) review the effectiveness of diagnostic tools for prostate cancer, (3) coordinate prostate cancer research and services across federal agencies, (4) evaluate all active federal prostate cancer programs, and (5) ensure the inclusion of men at high risk for prostate cancer in clinical, research, and service efforts.

Sponsor: Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC).

#### References:

1. Marmot, Michael; Wilkinson, Richard. 2003. Social determinants of health: The solid facts. World Health Organization.
2. Eitler, Thomas, McMahon, Edward, Thoerig, Theodore. 2013. Ten Principles for Building Healthy Places. Urban Land Institute.
3. Kelly, Congresswoman Robin, Webb, Brandon, Garrett, E., Ataiyero, Kayce. 2015. Kelly Report: Health Disparities in America.