



Mission

To ignite a Fair Health Movement that gives people of color the inalienable right to equal opportunity for healthy lives.

By framing the HPI mission in terms of a Fair Health Movement, HPI acknowledges the legacy of activism and coalition that underpin racial, political and economic progress.



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- *HPI approach deliberately shifts focus away from a list of health disparities to desired outcomes and implied action strategies.*
- *HPI approach means that key components for change and achieving goals include community leadership and input.*

Major Public Policy Issues and Health Disparities

- Medicaid Reform
- Medicare Part D
- Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Relief
- Social Security Reform
- Health Disparities Legislation

Major Public Policy Issues and Health Disparities Cont'd

- Living Wage
- Tax Cuts
- Criminal Justice
- Environmental Protection
- Farm Bill
- Immigration Reform
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

New Orleans: June 2006



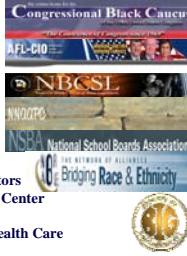
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Genesis of the Health Policy Institute Mission

HPI mission and strategic plan was developed using an environmental scanning process. This approach enabled HPI to both understand the external environment and the interconnections of its various sectors, and to translate this understanding into a strategic planning process. HPI consulted with a range of stakeholders including:

- Congressional Black Caucus
- National Bar Association (Judicial Council)
- National Caucus of Black School Board Members
- National Association of Black County Officials
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials
- Gregory Reeves, Blacks in Government
- Quentin Lawson, National Alliance of Black School Educators
- Michael Bird, National Native American AIDS Prevention Center
- Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive VP, AFL-CIO
- US Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, Ranking Democrat, Health Care Subcommittee, Finance Committee.
- NABRE Steering Committee



7 Areas of Focus Represent the Results of the Environmental Scanning Process

- Identifying and addressing the economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants that can lead to improved health outcomes.
- Increasing resource allocations for prevention and effective treatment of chronic illness.
- Informing the policy and practice of reducing infant mortality and improving child and maternal health.
- Reducing risk factors and supporting healthy behaviors among children and youth.
- Improving mental health and reducing factors that promote violence.
- Optimizing healthcare access and quality.
- Creating conditions for healthy aging and improving the quality of life for seniors.

Immediate Action in Three “Triage” Areas Through Three National Commissions

HPI established three national commissions to bring attention to three critical areas of concern to the health of minority communities, areas where communities of color are hemorrhaging in lost health and lost lives:

- persistent and seemingly intractable infant mortality rates,
- exponential growth in the incarceration of young men,
- disturbingly low levels of diversity in the healthcare workforce.

HPI intends for the three commissions to redefine the terms of these problems and leverage the participation of leaders with national visibility.

If these conditions can be ameliorated or improved, then these results will herald significant progress in creating more fair and equitable health outcomes.

**The Courage to Love Commission
Implications for Care, Research and Public
Policy to Reduce Infant Mortality Rates**

- The Commission is reviewing the history of infant mortality rate analysis and interpretation, redefining the problem, examining basic assumptions, and imagining new possibilities for action.
- Specifically, the Commission will focus on the new and promising research completed on the lack of social support and presence of unmitigated stress – *relationality* – as potentially contributing factors in preterm births and infant mortality rates.
- The intentional focus on *relationality* has potential implications for improved pregnancy outcomes, economic prosperity, and meaningful political participation for all women and women of color in particular.



**Dellums Commission
Better Health Through Stronger Communities: Public Policy Reform
to Expand Life Paths of Young Men of Color**

Many policies have had a negative impact upon young men from communities of color ranging from the abandonment of rehabilitation and treatment for drug users in favor of interdiction and criminal sanctions to the diversion of youth offenders to adult criminal systems to the imposition of zero tolerance policies in public schools in order to exclude youth with problems.

Cumulative effects have limited life options for young men of color (as indicated by increasing high school drop-out rates, declining enrollment in post-secondary education, and increasing rates of incarceration) creating devastating consequences for the health of communities, families, and individuals.

The Dellums Commission is analyzing the impact of key public policies on the physical, emotional, and social health and life options of male youth of color and their communities, and recommending ameliorative actions.



**Sullivan Alliance
Transforming America's HealthCare
Professions**

- The Sullivan Commission has already convened a broad cross-section of public leaders, held public hearings across the nation, and made several policy recommendations to expand the diversity of healthcare professions.
- Reports by both the Sullivan Commission and the Institute of Medicine offer comprehensive recommendations that, if implemented, will accelerate national progress toward a more diverse and culturally competent health care workforce.
- This Alliance is charged with monitoring the evolving diversity of the healthcare professions and promoting the transformation of the health care workforce to reflect the diversity of the nation and serve as a vital force in eliminating health disparities.

HPI Strategic Partnerships Main Vehicle for Enabling and Catalyzing Fair Health Movement Change

HPI Approach of Using Strategic Partnerships has many Strengths Including:

- build on important work of others
- create alliances for greater strength
- catalyze more innovative thinking
- thru collaboration
- plant/nourish seeds of fair health movement

Examples:

√ May 2004, HPI in partnership with PolicyLink, hosted a forum on community-based approaches to reducing health disparities.

√ HPI collaborates with Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) to develop national directory of local and state organizations working to promote better understanding and effective policy responses to health disparities.

Results of HPI Phase One Work

**Translating Mission and Seven Foci Into Action
Establishing a Critical Voice for Neglected and
Marginalized Populations in Health Policy Debates.**

HPI Seven Areas of Concern	Focus for Action	Strategies for Action & Change	Progress To Date
I Identifying and addressing the economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants that can lead to improved health outcomes	Need to Redefine Terms for Describing Problem Need to Establish Link between Health & Human/Civil Rights	Fair Health Movement Health as a Civil/Human Right Tools to Enable New Leadership Communities Own Means to Protect/Promote Health Communication/PR to Unite & Mobilize Activists/Change	Established HPI National Advisory Committee & 3 Commissions Formed Alliances with Rights and Advocacy Groups and Minority Public Interest Groups Sponsored/disseminated notable related research & publications Developed related National Database

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II Informing the policy and practice of reducing infant mortality and improving child and maternal health.	Need to Focus on Geographic Areas and to Engage Communities in New Solutions Need to Redefine Problem	Courage to Love Commission University of Michigan Partnership	Established Commission Finalized related UCLA Partnership with NIH Funded "Roadmap Initiative" at University of Michigan School of Medicine

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III Reducing risk factors and supporting healthy behaviors among children and youth.	Need to Redefine Issues Need to Engage Communities And Mobilize Leaders & Activists	C-SNAP PolicyLink on Community Health NSBA Research on Youth Obesity	Convened Community Leaders Forums Project Proposal on Youth Obesity Reduction submitted to BMS Collaboration with NSBA
IV Improving mental health and reducing factors that promote violence	Need to Redefine Problem Need to Improve Availability & Access to Mental Health Support/Resources	Deltums Commission Research Activities	Established Commission Convened Public Forum and National "Call to Action" Commissioned seven background research papers

New Direction for Health Policy Institute in Phase Two Work 2006-2010



"Health is the place where all the social forces converge...the fight against disparities in health is also one against the absence of hope for a meaningful future."

US DHHS, *Eliminating Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Health* 1998



"Greater emphasis is needed on public health interventions that involve communities, with the goal of collectively identifying resources, needs and solutions... Individuals and families are embedded within social, political and economic systems that shape behaviors and constrain access to resources necessary to maintain health."

Institute of Medicine, *Committee on Health and Behavior* 2001

New Orleans: June 2006



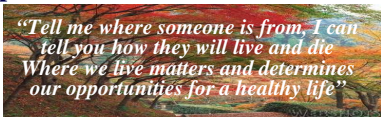
Role of Social Determinants of Health: Strategies for Eliminating Health Disparities by Addressing Conditions of Inequality

“At the outset, it must be clear that the strategies for eliminating disparities in health care and health status will, by necessity, be different... it is widely known that less than one-quarter of our health status is attributable to health care; rather, our health—or lack thereof—is primarily determined by social factors such as unhealthy practices, poverty, unemployment and underemployment, racism and discrimination, housing, transportation, and other neighborhood environmental conditions... Further research and study about community-based approaches to advance health promotion and disease prevention in communities wracked by poverty, racism, and other adverse environmental conditions is critical.”

From the Foreword of March/April 2005 issue of *Health Affairs*, the leading US health policy journal



Place Matters Centerpiece HPI Initiative in Phase Two Work



Place Matters will enable state and local health officials/administrators and community leaders to engage in data-driven disparities reduction initiatives and to benchmark their activities in a coordinated effort.

Place Matters will help establish a much needed set of indicators specific to each county designed to identify and monitor progress toward health disparities reduction/elimination.

Place Matters will rely on scientific research findings demonstrating that altering the social determinants of inequities in health can modify patterns of health, illness and health disparities

Place Matters will Promote Seeing What is not Seen

“What is not seen is the way in which the underlying structure of racial oppression and class exploitations, which are relationships among people, not between people and things, shape the ‘environment’ of the groups created by these relations. [We must] see the causes of disease and the environment in which they exist as a historical product... constructed by society...The same virus may cause pneumonia in blacks and whites alike, just as lead may do the same physiologic damage, but why the death rate for flu and pneumonia and why blood lead levels are consistently higher in black as compared to white communities is not addressed [we need a view that can] comprehend the all-important assemblage of features in black life”

Krieger, N. “The Health of Black Folk: Disease, Class, and Ideology in Science” in S. Harding (ed.) The Racial Economy of Health Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993

Fair Health Movement Principles Provide Foundation for Place Matters

Fair Health Movement premise as the guiding approach involves redefining the terms of health disparities and linking health with civil and human rights

Place Matters Will Link Conditions of Inequality with Poor Health



To make progress toward eliminating health disparities, action strategies must rest on incisive/informed understanding about the local context and social determinants of health. Activists can then avoid confusing symptoms with causes and designing ineffective interventions.

HPI approach to reducing health disparities is premised on the need to (1) identify clearly the underlying factors, i.e., social conditions of inequity, of health disparities and (2) develop strategies informed by this knowledge.

Place Matters will support:

- concerted work to reframe and redefine health disparities issues
- collection and integration of data to inform practical interventions
- development and dissemination of tools to catalyze community leadership in implementing these interventions
- strategic leadership to inform and influence policymakers, public officials, and legislators about strategies to eliminate health disparities.

How a problem is defined inexorably shapes the intervention/solution.



Fair Health Movement Principles Require Community Leadership for Change

- HPI approach to reducing and eliminating health disparities also presumes that change must and can begin at the local and community levels.
- HPI has built on Joint Center’s unparalleled connections with elected and appointed officials and communities of color to promote the catalysts for this kind of change.
- HPI approach depends on building and supporting critical partnerships so that the strengths and accomplishments of individual community efforts can be leveraged to more concerted action strategies.

Renewed HPI Partnership with Public Health: Establishing Policy and Program Priorities for Improved Social Conditions for Healthy Lives

“When the history of public health is seen as a history of how populations experience health and illness, how social, economic and political systems structure the possibilities for health or unhealthy lives, how societies create the preconditions for the production and transmission of disease, and how people, both as individuals and social groups, attempt to promote their own health or avoid illness, we find that public health history is not limited to the study of bureaucratic structures and institutions but pervades every aspect of social and cultural life.”

Noted public health historian Elizabeth Fee in her introduction to George Rosen’s A History of Public Health 1993.

Renewed HPI partnership with Public Health benefits from public health’s traditional approach to population health by addressing social, economic and ecological conditions.

Place Matters Relies on State, County and Public Health Partners



- National Organization of Black County Officials

- National Association of County and City Health Officials

- National Association of Counties

- International City/County Management Association



- National Black Caucus of State Legislators

Beyond the HealthCare Safety Net : Toward a Health Safety Net

- Identifying and promoting the concept of a *health safety net* emerges as a key component of the HPI work in Phase Two.
- Recognizing the crucial role played by social determinants in health status means that the healthcare safety net alone is not sufficient to ameliorate health disparities.
- Beyond the healthcare safety net, a *health safety net* encompasses all of the social conditions necessary for achieving healthy lives such as affordable and safe housing, clean environments, safe neighborhoods, good schools, and health-promoting community services.



Key HPI Strategic Initiative:

Economic Impact of Health Disparities

- Economic initiative responds to the need for credible and persuasive evidence demonstrating the economic necessity of eliminating health disparities
- Current daunting national economic circumstances present critical needs for creative and innovative macroeconomic analyses. These analyses will develop new knowledge, language and leadership that can support innovative changes in funding health policies and programs.
- Effort to assess and quantify the economic and social costs of health disparities could have a catalyzing effect for immediate action to eliminate health disparities and to allocate substantial resources for strategies designed to ameliorate the fundamental causes of health inequities

HPI Phase Two Work 2006-2010

4 Strategic Areas Encompass Mission and Seven Areas of Concern

- *Establish the Place Matters Initiative.*
- *Continue Fair Health Movement strategies by disseminating the legal, public policy and programmatic tools, catalyzing activism, and mobilizing new community-based leadership.*
- *Establish Economic Impact of Health Disparities Initiative.*
- *Integrate the findings from HPI partnerships, commissions and research into Place Matters and Fair Health Movement strategies; Inform HPI partnerships, researchers and commissions with data and findings from the Place Matters and Fair Health Movement activities.*

HPI Phase Two Work 2006-2010
Four Strategic Areas Encompass
Mission and Seven Areas of Concern

Defining the Problem/ Challenge	HPI Ongoing Seven Areas of Concern	Focus for Action	Strategies for Action & Change
Social Determinants are Multi-Dimensional, Interconnected, Invisible in Their Effect on Health Social Determinants Are So Embedded That They Are Difficult to Measure or Easy to Overlook	Reduce risk factors & support healthy behaviors for child youth. (Healthy Children/Youth from Healthy Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities]	Need to Promote New Measurement/Analyses Need to Enable New Leadership Based in Community Action Need to Promote Action from Local Community Up to State & National Levels <i>Establish Health Safety Net</i>	I Place Matters <i>Design Laboratories</i> <i>Research Fellows</i> <i>County Officials Forum</i> <i>Data Management</i> <i>Training</i> <i>Program Monitoring</i> Elements of Health Safety Net

HPI Phase Two Work 2006-2010
4 **Strategic Areas Encompass**
Mission and Seven Areas of Concern

Defining the Problem/ Challenge	HPI Ongoing Seven Areas of Concern	Focus for Action	Strategies for Action & Change
Social Determinants of Health More Influential than Health Care Services Roots of Health Disparities lie in Social Determinants Social Determinants Linked to Political History of Discrimination/Exclusion	Identifying and addressing the economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants that can lead to improved health outcomes	Need to Redefine Terms for Describing Problem and Making Change Need to Establish Link Between Health & Human/Civil Rights Need to Link with Public Health Need to Create/Enable Environment for Change Need for Health Safety Net	II Fair Health Movement Senior Scholars in Residence Senior Research Scholars Policy Internships Community Leaders Forum Pre/Post-Doctoral Fellows Concept of Health Safety Net

HPI Phase Two Work 2006-2010
4 **Strategic Areas Encompass**
Mission and Seven Areas of Concern

Defining the Problem/ Challenge	HPI Ongoing Seven Areas of Concern	Focus for Action	Strategies for Action & Change
Most Resources Directed at Health Care Services Not Enough Resources Directed at Social Conditions that Determine Health Status	Increasing resource allocations for prevention and effective treatment of chronic illness Optimal healthcare access-quality	Need to Follow the Money & How Money is Used Need to Redefine Terms for Acceptable & Appropriate Spending on Health & the Health Safety Net	III Economic Impact of Health Disparities Initiative <i>Costs of failing to support the Health Safety Net</i> <i>Value of supporting the Health Safety Net</i>

HPI Continues to Provide National Leadership at a Critical Time for Communities of Color

HPI has successfully established both the conceptual and strategic framework for change with its Fair Health Movement.

HPI presents a unique voice and critical vision for eliminating health disparities at this time of substantial dissatisfaction with the US healthcare system and unprecedented opportunities for change and reform.

HPI will influence US health policymaking by demonstrating that the effects of social determinants and inequitable social conditions on health must be the central focus for strategies to reduce health disparities.

HPI approach to achieving health reform as well as healthcare reform relies on community-focused, public health and prevention-oriented strategies. These strategies will improve the health of communities of color and the health of the nation.
