

Boston, Massachusetts Place Matters Update

The Boston Health Equity Initiative:
An Action Plan for Addressing Racial and Ethnic
Health Disparities

Design Lab 7
New Orleans
March 3-5, 2008



www.bphc.org/disparities

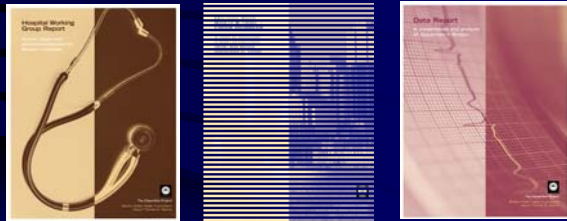
Boston Team

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- Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Commissioner, BPHC

Social Determinants of Health

- Social and Economic
 - Schools
 - Neighborhoods
- Physical Environment
 - Places for recreational opportunities
 - Safe communities
- Discrimination and Racism
 - Cultural competency trainings
 - Anti-racism trainings

Boston's approach to addressing disparities in health

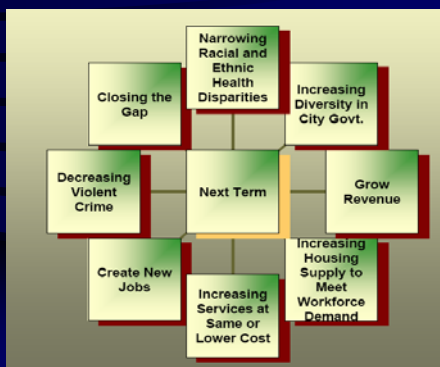


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Multilevel Approach to Address Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

- Data collection, analysis and dissemination
- Community capacity building and coalition development
- Disparities considered as a central issue and elimination strategies are integrated into core public health functions
- Policies on data collection and use, training & licensure requirements, anti-discrimination measures
- Funding to support efforts to eliminate disparities

8 Priorities in Mayor's New Term



State Disparities Commission

- Co-Chaired by Senator Dianne Wilkerson and Representative Peter J. Koutoujian



- Final Report August 2007 - Recommendations across 4 key areas:
 - Social Context: Inequities and Environment
 - Access to Care
 - Health Service Delivery: Quality of Care & Services
 - Workforce Development & Diversity
- Creation of a permanent Disparities Council

Disparities Project

- \$2 million investment to 54 community and health institutions to address health disparities
- Key Project Areas: Data Collection, Health Systems, Raising Public Awareness, Workforce Diversity, Patient Education, Violence Prevention and Trauma Response, and Food Access and Obesity Prevention



Boston Data Collection Regulation

- Passed in June 2006
- Requires all hospitals and community health centers to:
 - Collect race, ethnicity, preferred language and highest level of education
 - Report individual patient data to BPHC
 - Later, to report on quality measures
- Hospitals begin reporting to BPHC March 1, 2008
- Convene a Health Equity Committee, with representatives from hospitals and health centers to:
 - Discuss how initial data should be reported and shared
 - Review and establish system for integrating and reporting quality measures by race, ethnicity, preferred language and education to target quality improvement efforts
 - Plan and provide recommendations on phase two of the regulations applying the data regulations to all Boston community health centers

REACH US – Center for Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities

- BPHC designated as a CEED by CDC: 5-yr \$4M award will focus on addressing the disparate outcomes in breast and cervical cancer and cardiovascular disease experienced by people of African descent and to share our disparities action plan with partners across New England

- The Center of Excellence will provide education and training to health care providers, public health practitioners, and community health workers



Addressing racism

- Organizational commitment: moving towards becoming an anti-racist organization
- Creation of an Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
 - 16-17 BPHC staff members
 - External facilitator
 - Undoing racism trainings
- Review and revise BPHC internal policies, systems, and processes

Unnatural Causes: Boston's premiere and call to action

- Internal BPHC screenings
- Screenings within other city agencies
- Boston Premiere – March 27, 2008: co-hosted by BPHC, MA DPH, WGBH and CA Newsreel
- Neighborhood screenings planned by community leaders
- Development of series curricula: Boston public schools, undergraduate programs, professional schools, hospital grandrounds
- Cross-sector dialogues for a unified health equity agenda

Policy and Advocacy

- Lead sponsor on three legislative bills:
 - Violence Prevention Bill
 - Chronic Disease and Overweight Prevention Bill
 - Re-entry Bill
- Strong state partnership with Disparities Council, Governor Patrick administration, and Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Co-sponsor with Health Care For All on Disparities Bill
- Continued partnership with MA DPH, MGH Disparities Solutions Center and MA Hospital Association on state-wide training for new data collection regulations

Challenges

- Securing resources
- Building sustainable change
- Increasing public awareness of efforts
- Coordinating work with partners
- Discussing race, all levels of racism and discrimination as a root cause of disparities in health
- Defining the evolving role of a health department in “non-traditional” arenas
 - Public safety
 - Public education
 - Housing
 - Neighborhood development and investment
 - Food systems/production

Strategies in motion

- Create a public health equity campaign
- Provide grants to Boston community-based organizations to address the social determinants of health
- Establish multi-year partnership to develop/ support disparities elimination strategies in 6 New England states
- Place Matters logic model = Boston’s health equity agenda



Questions?
