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PLACE MATTERS

A National Learning Community

*Reducing Health Disparities By Addressing
Social Determinants of Health*


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“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.


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PLACE MATTERS

- This initiative is a signature project of the **Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute (JC HPI)**
- Place Matters engages and supports communities in designing strategies to reduce/eliminate health disparities

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Joint Center's Mission

- The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is a national, nonprofit research and public policy institution.
- The organization informs and illuminates the nation's major public policy debates through research, analysis and information dissemination.

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Health Policy Institute's Mission

- The Institute's mission is to **ignite a "Fair Health" movement** that gives people of color the inalienable right to equal opportunity for healthy lives.
- The goal is to help communities of color identify short- and long-term policy objectives and related activities in seven key areas.


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HPI's Seven Key Areas

- 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.

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Selection Methodology

- JC HPI conducted research to identify the counties that would be best served through this initiative by using Census 2000 data and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

Key Selection Criteria

- A population of at least 50,000 and at least 50% of the population were minorities
- A population of at least 175,000 and at least 40% of the population were minorities
- A population of at least 250,000 and at least 25% of the population were minorities



Eligible Jurisdictions

- JC HPI identified 149 counties nationwide that fit the criteria
- From this group, 16 teams, 24 jurisdictions (across 22 counties and two cities) were selected as the pilot for the national learning community
- Since June of 2006, six (6) Design Labs have been convened to facilitate these teams' goals in addressing **social determinants of health** in their communities through **upstream approaches**.



What are Design Labs?

- The Design Labs catalyze participating sites to take strategic action focused on social determinants of health.
- The meetings serve as a “safe haven” and learning laboratory for team members to work, interact, and cross-pollinate ideas.

Social Determinants of Health:

- Refer to conditions of society that **reflect root causes of community and individual health and well-being.**
- Include but are not limited to quality and affordability of housing, availability of mass transportation, quality of education, chronic stress, racism, social exclusion, and poverty.




Levels of "Upstream-ness"

Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience

- Level 1: An activity that attempts to eliminate those things in the social structure that deny certain people voice, power, and political influence in society (e.g., class exploitation, racism, and gender discrimination).



"Upstream"


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Levels of “Upstream-ness”
Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience

- Level 2: An activity that directly attempts to give people access to the things that will help them obtain an equal footing with those who are currently privileged (e.g., quality education, low-interest loans, inclusion in social networks).

"Moderately Upstream"



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Levels of “Upstream-ness”
Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience

- Level 3: An activity that moves people from conditions that impede health into conditions that support health (e.g., secure and good-paying jobs, quality and affordable housing, access to transportation).

"A Little Upstream"



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Levels of “Upstream-ness”
Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience

- Level 4: An activity that relieves stress or changes unhealthy behaviors (e.g., support groups, smoking cessation campaigns, family planning education).

"Downstream"

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Place Matters Teams

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Our Place Matters

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Team Goals


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Current Project(s)

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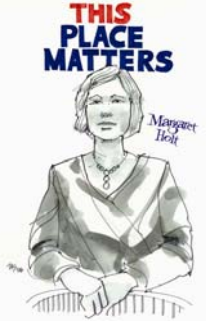
How you can help/join us...



 

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THIS PLACE MATTERS

Margaret Beil



Who Watches

By Albert M. Ward
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Who watches...
the makers of change,
holds them accountable
for their actions,
what standards of care
do they observe,
...who says they have say.
We who suffer,
We who hunger,
We who hurt,

Must...
Learn to forgive, trust
and build the capacity
to participate in our own
re-creation,
And, hold ourselves accountable,
responsible, dedicated
to creating hope
as the makers of change.
We must watch ourselves.
