

Social Need and Health Equity Steering Committee 2022-2023 Workgroup Priorities

Problem Statement

The Foundation for Health Care Quality's Social Need and Health Equity steering committee works to turn existing recommendations on addressing and assessing social need and health equity into action. To address the broad scope of social need and health equity activities, the social need and health equity steering committee will convene smaller workgroups on specific topics. Currently planned workgroups include:

- Advancing Equity
- Storing and Sharing Data
- Social Need Screening
- Social Need Intervention

In addition to their own scope of work, all workgroups will be partner with all health stakeholders including providers, patients, plans, employers, public health, and communities.

Advancing Equity

Aim: To improve equitable health care access, quality, and outcomes by collecting patient demographic data through ethical infrastructure and acting on that data to reduce inequities.

Goals:

- Recommend strategies to improve equity and reduce implicit bias as well as structural discrimination within organizations.
- Draw on existing resources and institutions (Gravity Project, WA DOH, Office of Equity, etc.) to recommend data fields for race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability data.
- **Recommend best practices for demographic data collection and education for both patients and providers**
- **Consider other status and factors that affect equitable healthcare beyond demographic and social need data**
- Develop guidelines for partnerships between health, social sector, and community organizations **and to contextualize individual care**
- Identify strategies to intervene where disparities are identified **including connecting patients to existing resources and programs.**

Duties & Structure of Workgroups

Each workgroup will:

- Research evidence-informed and expert-opinion informed guidelines and best practices (emerging and established).
- Maintain an equity lens while developing recommendations and interventions
- Research evidence, solicit expert opinion, and draw from emerging programs to develop recommendations and action steps
- Identify current barriers and future opportunities for implementing new action plans
- Recommend data-driven and practical implementation strategies including metrics or a process for measurement
- Present findings and recommendations in written reports
- Post draft report(s) and meeting material on a publicly available website

- Revise this charter as necessary based on scope of work

Each workgroup will consist of individuals confirmed by the FHCQ Social Need and Health Equity Steering Committee. Each workgroup will hold meetings monthly or as necessary. FHCQ staff will conduct meetings, arrange for the recording of each meeting, and distribute meeting agendas and other materials prior to each meeting.