
FHCQ | Social Needs and Health Equity Steering Committee

Advancing Equity Workgroup
June 17th, 2022 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT

Abigail Berube, MPH, Washington State
Hospital Association

Sami Bailey, Washington Association of
Community Health

Karie Nicholas, MSc, Washington Association of
Community Health

Yogini Sharma, MBBS, MHA, Molina Healthcare

STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nick Locke, MPH, Bree Collaborative

WELCOME

Nick Locke, Bree Collaborative, welcomed the group to the first meeting of the Advancing Equity workgroup, an ad-hoc workgroup of the Social Needs and Health Equity Steering Committee. Members introduced themselves and their current interest in addressing equity in healthcare.

DISCUSS: WORKGROUP PRIORITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Mr. Locke shared the priorities for advancing equity that had been identified by the steering committee. Workgroup members were invited to provide comments and suggest additional priority areas.

- Beyond demographic data fields such as REaL, SOGI, and disability, workgroup members suggested other statuses/factors that affect equitable healthcare, including migrant status, housing status, occupational status, family makeup, geography (rural vs. urban), income, digital equity, and climate change.
 - These extra concerns are all an important part of “contextualizing care” – providing appropriate, patient-centered care for each individual
- Beyond recommending specific fields, it is important to address inaccuracies in demographic data. Hospitals especially will need best practices for collecting demographic data as part of upcoming reporting and metric requirements from NCQA
- Any interventions to ameliorate inequities will need to involve motivation or education about how to connect patients to existing resources and programs.
- Washington state’s governor’s office recently developed an Office of Equity which may overlap with our work.

BRAINSTORMING: ADDITIONAL OUTREACH AND POTENTIAL DELIVERABLES

Based on the discussion for priorities, Mr. Locke asked workgroup members who else should be invited to the table. Further outreach will be conducted to:

- Tribal Organizations as an important partner/voice in all of our social need/health equity workgroups
- The HCA/DOH as state representatives who set standards and collect large volumes of demographic data
- Front-line providers and hospital administrations who do the work of collecting demographic information.
- Community organizations as partners in achieving equity

- Before inviting community partners to the table, this group should have a good idea of what we are asking and what impact we may be able to make.
- Community partners can be drivers in the brainstorming process, but we must be mindful of how we solicit community feedback.
 - In addition to joining workgroup conversations, community feedback may look like focus groups or key stakeholder interviews about deliverables or an anonymous poll or survey.
- Workgroup members want to think more about next steps to determine what is in our sphere of influence before inviting new members to the table.

Following the recommendations for initial outreach, Mr. Locke also asked workgroup members to consider potential deliverables that could fill existing gaps. Workgroup members discussed:

- Developing best practices on data collection to build trust with patients into the process. Especially for Sexual orientation and gender identity data, providers are not currently comfortable
 - This group could consider how to ask questions: training on provider experience and awareness, training on how to ask questions (motivational interviewing/empathic inquiry), building workflows for demographic data collection, education for patients to help build trust, and engaging with patients/community organizations like Patient and Family Advisory Committees (PFACs)
- Beyond the data collection, workgroup members would like to think more about how to use data to contextualize care and advance equity.
 - Workgroup members note that data categories for equity are not always equitable (as in race categories that flatten in-group disparities) and want to think about how to use data more equitably.
 - This group may want to catalogue existing equity initiatives to understand current work as well as engage with institutions to gauge the willingness to engage in future work.
- Workgroup members would currently prefer to focus on data fields, the data collection process, and how to use/visualize data in the most equitable way.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Locke invited final comments, then thanked everyone for attending. The workgroup will plan on meeting every third Friday, with the next meeting to be held on Friday, July 15th from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.