

# HEALTH EQUITY EQUATION NEWSBRIEF

February 2017

## *The Health Equity Equation Newsbrief*

is intended as a means to share snapshots of some of the many equity related activities concurrently happening in DHHS. *Health Equity Collective Impact* is a phrase to describe how many partners working separately on similar initiatives and objectives related to equity might achieve alignment, reinforcement, and amplification of efforts through shared measures and mutually reinforcing objectives. Through this communication, we hope to learn more about each other, reduce redundancies, and grow synergies! The Health Equity Equation Newbrief is initially a trial project planned for six months' duration. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome!

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DHHS?

In the **Health Promotion Unit**, several program areas are growing a focus on social determinants of health, addressing equity, and training for cultural and linguistic, and health literacy, standards. These include the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Ryan White Program, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. For more information, contact Gwen Hurst at [Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov](mailto:Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov).

In the Division of Public Health, **Grants Management Community of Practice group**, draft guidelines are being considered for including the social determinants of health throughout all phases of contracting / sub-awarding processes. For more information contact Gwen Hurst at [Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov](mailto:Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov).

In the Women's Health Initiative, the **Women's Health Advisory Council** has a workgroup dedicated to Health Equity. For more information contact Tina Goodwin at [Tina.Goodwin@nebraska.gov](mailto:Tina.Goodwin@nebraska.gov).

In the **Division of Public Health Strategic Plan**, Equity has been named as one of the plan priorities for 2017 – 2021. Groups are forming now to strategize and develop action plans for the Equity. Also in the Division of Public Health, the State Health Improvement Plan for 2017-2021 also has launched, also with a priority to address Health Equity. These two activities engage many stakeholders from across the Division and, for the State Health Improvement Plan, partners from across the state and many organizations and groups. For more information on these two key initiatives, contact Maya Chilese at [Maya.Chilese@nebraska.gov](mailto:Maya.Chilese@nebraska.gov) or email [DHHS.SHIP@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.SHIP@nebraska.gov) for more information.

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## RESOURCE:

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS  
of HEALTH RESOURCES

## COMING EVENT:

2017 MINORITY HEALTH  
CONFERENCE

Share YOUR program  
updates on Equity  
activities here! Contact  
[mcahfeedback@nebraska.gov](mailto:mcahfeedback@nebraska.gov)  
with your updates for our  
next edition!

**Working Definition of “Health Equity”:** Health Equity is when people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives. Achieving health equity involves an underlying commitment to reduce—and, ultimately, eliminate—disparities in health and in its determinants, including social determinants.



In the **Division of Developmental Disabilities**, Nebraska is participating in a National Core Indicators project survey to assess the quality of life of adults receiving services from the Division. For more information contact Pam Hovis at [Pam.Hovis@nebraska.gov](mailto:Pam.Hovis@nebraska.gov).

In Lifespan Health Services, the **Maternal Child Health Block Grant** priorities and action plan for 2015-2020 include a focus on improving population health outcomes by addressing social and structural determinants of health that result in unequal consequences of ill-health. In order to grow a larger systems perspective on health and human services organizations address unequal outcomes, the Health Equity Collective Impact group has been convened. By looking at our equity work across the department through a collective impact lens, the goal is to better identify gaps, redundancies, places where shared work is reinforcing, and to identify performance measures for making progress on achieving equity. For more information, contact Kathy Karsting at [Kathy.Karsting@nebraska.gov](mailto:Kathy.Karsting@nebraska.gov).

Also in Lifespan Health Services, the **Infant Mortality CoIIN Social Determinants of Health state team**, is working on learning more about the use of maps to engage communities in discussions about equity, the use of organizational assessment tools to improve capacity for equity, and the advancement of Health Equity in all Policies. “CoIIN” stands for Collaboration and Innovation Implementation Network, a national learning and innovation network design for states applied not only to improving infant mortality, but also child injury prevention and adolescent health. For more information contact Mai Dang at [Mai.Dang@nebraska.gov](mailto:Mai.Dang@nebraska.gov).