

HEALTH EQUITY EQUATION NEWSBRIEF

June 2018

Welcome to the 12th edition of Health Equity Equation

We encourage you to sign up for a variety of **90-day projects for the Public Health Division's Strategic Plan**, sent out by DPH Director Williams recently. If you are interested in contributing, or just want to learn more, please fill out that survey, and you will be contacted with more details! Contact for more questions at: DHHS.DPH.stratplan@nebraska.gov

Resources:

[ASTHOConnects: In Health Matters, Place Matters -The Health Opportunity Index \(HOI\)](#)

[What Racism Looks Like](#)

Save the date:

Healthy Youth NE 2018

Addressing Risks, Resiliency & Barriers to Success

**Tuesday,
September 18th, 2018**

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DHHS?

Division of Behavioral Health (DBH): In the System of Care work, a recommendation was made by our DBH CLAS (*Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services*) Lead to start a CLAS work group for the System of Care. Recruitment has begun for that work group. We also have the CLAS survey results (we used the same survey public health a few years back). A brief has been prepared with some recommended next steps.

For more info, contact Bernie Hascall, Bernie.Hascall@nebraska.gov.

Division of Medicaid and Long-term Care (MLTC): Budget requests have been submitted for Community Health Worker reimbursement, coverage of prenatal genetic testing for all pregnant women, SBIRT (*Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment*) substance abuse screening, and MAT (*Medication-assisted Treatment*) for Methadone clinics.

MLTC is also working on implementing a Health Management Plan and Care management for our Fee-For-Services members with chronic diseases. Members enrolled in our Managed Care Organizations can receive care management/coordination services.

Although all of these are in their preliminary stages, if passed and implemented they have the potential to increase health equity for our NE Medicaid population.

For more info, contact Laura Stang, Laura.Stang@nebraska.gov.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD):

- DD continues to draft the Policy Guide on DD regulations, home and community-based waivers, and "how-to" processes for information and guidance for the public. When completed, the DD Policy Guide will be posted on the public website.
- Currently drafting updates to Title 404 regulations to meet the Governor's vision of brevity, support new waivers, and compliment drafted new 403 regulations.
- A Second Public Hearing on Title 403 draft held on 5/17/18 and 403 regulations went to the Governor's office on 6/6/18.
- DD is continuing to improve the public website and is working with Communication & Legislative Services on the system-wide redesign, including simplifying language and eliminating excess or unused items.
- CMS (*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*) State Transition Plan for HCBS Final Settings Rule is out for Public Comment until 6/20/18.

For more info, contact Pam Hovis, Pam.Hovis@nebraska.gov.

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NEXT HEALTH EQUITY COLLECTIVE IMPACT MEETING:

**Monday,
August 13TH 2018**

10 - 11:30 AM, NSOB 3B

All are welcome!

For more info about **the Health Equity Equation**, and *the Health Equity Collective Impact* group that meets quarterly, contact Mai Dang at mai.dang@nebraska.gov.

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.

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Division of Public Health recently participated in the **ASTHO Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey**, which is facilitated nationally across state health departments. The Division had an impressive 72% response rate – way to go! Our results reflected that 79% of DPH staff respondents felt our agency should be somewhat or very involved in affecting health equity. What a powerful statement! If you are interested in learning more about health equity, contact Kathy at karthy.karsting@nebraska.gov, or participating in equity-focused activities with DHHS, contact Julie at Julie.Lubisi@nebraska.gov.

As an outcome of the **2013-2016 Division of Public Health Strategic Plan**, a [Disparities Demographic Data Recommendation Report](#) has been published. This report provides recommendations for the collection of a minimum data set of health disparities data within the Division of Public Health, and will be useful for Nebraska stakeholders interested in advancing health equity efforts within their organization. We would like to invite you to assist us in supporting this effort by encouraging your program to consider adapting these recommendations and to also share the recommendation report with other stakeholders with whom you work. Contact Josie Rodriguez for more info at josie.rodriguez@nebraska.gov.

A small cross-division workgroup has been busy with a **CMS Affinity Group for school health services**, representing a Nebraska State Team among eight other states selected to work with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The goal of the Affinity Group is to improve child health outcomes through increased collaboration and coordination between public health, Medicaid, and schools. The Nebraska Team also includes the Division of Behavioral Health. The team is producing a short, health-literate flyer on the topic “Why Health Insurance is Important for Your Child.” The team plans a total of five translations in addition to English, along with simple graphics, for use in schools and by others working to improve child health outcomes. The project team is led by Jennifer Irvine of the Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care. For more info, contact Jennifer Irvine at Jennifer.Irvine@nebraska.gov.

One of the activities of the **Title V CLAS and Literacy Innovations Project** is to create a cross-walk of systems-level equity activities that are known to members of the project team. The purpose of such a crosswalk is aligned with the principles of collective impact: identify mutually-reinforcing activities; avoid unnecessary duplication; identify partners. So far the group has named seven entities in addition to the Title V CLAS and Literacy Project: The Regional Health Equity Council; SHIP Equity Priority Group; DPH Strategic Plan Equity Priority Group; Behavioral Health System of Care; Society of Care; Refugee Health Promotion Grant; and a category for HD Accreditation – Equity Measures. It is exciting to see the many ways systems-level partners are mobilizing to carry out work in the areas of changing access to opportunities to lead health lives, improve adoption of CLAS standards, address the determinants of unequal consequences, and involve consumers and families at every step of the way. For more info on the Systems Crosswalk of Equity-Focused Activities, contact Kathy Karsting.

The purpose of the Health Equity Equation is to enhance continuous communication across DHHS Divisions about our equity-focused work.