

# HEALTH EQUITY EQUATION NEWSBRIEF

September 2018

## Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Health Equity Equation

### Health Equity Collective

#### Impact: are you on board?

The August Health Equity Collective Impact gathering was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19, 10:00 – 11:30am in room 3B at the state office building. All are welcome to attend. Here is our purpose statement: *To promote the exchange, acceleration, and amplification of efforts across divisions, programs, priorities, and plans to advance equity and address systemic causes of differential outcomes in the population. To create an outlet for the continuous communication that helps Collective Impact thrive where there are numerous different and mutually reinforcing activities.*

A very short survey is planned for early October for the purposes of inviting input and focusing on maximum value for those attending gatherings and reading the Health Equity Equation. We hope you will give us your input!

#### Resources:

Region 6 (Omaha) is bringing in Promotora Model training for behavioral health community workers. The behavioral health training, which is targeted to Hispanic families, is part of our System of Care efforts. More info, contact [Bernie.Hascall@nebraska.gov](mailto:Bernie.Hascall@nebraska.gov).

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DHHS?

In *the Division of Public Health*, the staff of the Maternal Child Adolescent Health Program (MCAH) infuse equity work into many aspects of addressing the population health priorities of women, infants, children, adolescents, and children with special health care needs. Oct. 1, 2018 marks the beginning of a new program year for the MCAH team, entering year four of a five-year cycle of identifying and addressing priorities of the population. In the coming period, several equity-related projects funded by the Maternal Child Health Title V block grant will be initiated or continued:

- Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce development: Title V will be sponsoring gatherings of Community Health Workers in four regional locations in the state in 2018-2019, in order to support networking and education of CHWs. This will be complemented by cross-sector stakeholder activities designed to accelerate consensus in the state on training standards for CHWs to establish consistent core competencies.
- Title V CLAS and Literacy Innovations project: In this project, partners convene from various sectors in a project to identify approaches to helping organizations adopt culturally and linguistically appropriate services and literacy standards to serve an increasingly diverse population and address disparities. An activity of the Title V CLAS and Literacy Innovations project has been to produce a table of known state-level equity-focused projects known to members of the project team. This “Alignment Chart of Equity-Focused Activities” can be viewed [here](#). Comments are welcome, as group members developing the chart are interested in others’ reactions.
- Title V partnership with CMS School Health Affinity Group: This cross-divisional group has been working to increase access of children at school to mental health and behavioral health services. One aspect of the project has been to write a short message for translation in six languages: Why Health Insurance is Important for Your Child. Other action steps have included mapping of tele-behavioral health services in Nebraska, and identifying community level partnerships with schools that help increase referrals and access to needed services.

For more info, contact Kathy at [Kathy.Karsting@nebraska.gov](mailto:Kathy.Karsting@nebraska.gov).

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## **NEXT HEALTH EQUITY COLLECTIVE IMPACT MEETING:**

**Monday,  
November 19<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:mai.dang@nebraska.gov).

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## **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.

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**Division of Public Health**, the Nebraska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) program, is starting a health equity work group, identifying PRAMS (or related) data that can be used to create a product that aims to reduce health inequities. PRAMS is in the early stages of developing the group and has not yet identified a product to develop or an audience for the product. New members or suggestions for projects are welcomed. Contact Jessica Seberger at [Jessica.Seberger@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jessica.Seberger@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.
- 403 regulations were posted on 7/16/18.
- Currently drafting updates to Title 404 regulations to meet the Governor’s vision of brevity, support new waivers, and compliment new 403 regulations.
- DD is continuing to improve the public website and is working with CLS on the system-wide redesign, including simplifying language and eliminating excess or unused items.
- This month Director Courtney Miller will start the 3rd annual state-wide “Let’s Talk” town hall meetings to share what has been happening in DD and to gather input and feedback from DD staff, participants, families, and interested public stakeholders.

For more info, contact Pam Hovis, [Pam.Hovis@nebraska.gov](mailto:Pam.Hovis@nebraska.gov).

**Right here in Lincoln**, we are in the midst of two significant community-level projects working to improve population outcomes and equity. One is Prosper Lincoln (<https://www.prosperlincoln.org/>) Prosper Lincoln is working on three key strategic determinants of health: early childhood education, employment skills, and building the economy through entrepreneurship and innovation. The other is the South of Downtown Community Development Organization (<http://lincolnsouthdowntown.org/>) which works to change outcomes for residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods in Lincoln through community development, collaboration, and economic development. Both project emphasize community engagement. These projects provide unique opportunities to observe the social determinants of health in action, designed for impact on physical and social environments, on families and generations.