



Build Power for Health Equity: Strategic Practices for Local Health Departments

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Moderator

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Presenters

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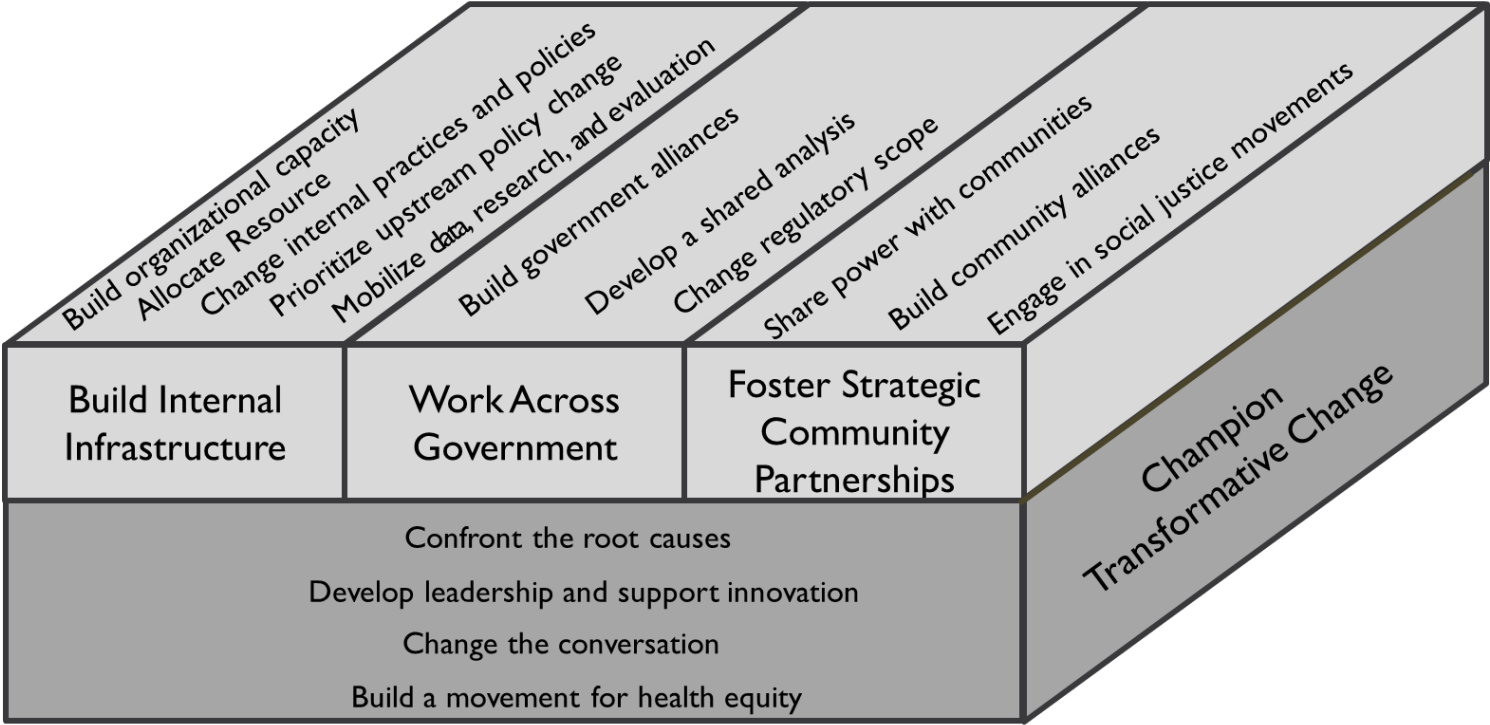
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Summary

Public health practitioners face numerous challenges in reducing health inequities, including risk-averse leadership, political pushback, perceptions of the limits of scope of public health practice, and lack of capacity and resources. Advancing equity, therefore, requires “inside” and “outside” strategies. On the inside, leadership and staff of health agencies must first build their understanding of equity, power, and oppression and then act on that understanding. But by itself a health agency will never have enough power to advance equity, so work outside the department is also necessary. Health agencies must build relationships and work closely with community groups and others that can use their democratic rights to advocate for change and hold the agency and others in government accountable to their needs. The Web Forum panel discussed their work employing “inside” and “outside” strategies.

- Health disparities are differences in health outcomes for different groups; health inequities are when those differences are systemic, avoidable, unfair and unjust
- Inequities are largely caused by inequities in the social determinants of health, which most often result from power imbalances and oppression in society
- Public health departments need inside/outside approaches to change: Internal work and across government and then outside work with community groups and share data with those groups
- Human Impact Partners reviewed papers to distill a list of 15 interconnected practices public health departments can implement to advance equity, in these four buckets of strategies:
 1. Build internal infrastructure
 2. Work across government
 3. Foster strategic community partnerships
 4. Implement transformative practices across the whole body of work



Resources from Build Power for Health Equity

General resources that discuss the 'causes of the causes' and what LHDs can do

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Role of the State and Territorial Health Official in Promoting Health Equity. 2013.
- Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative. Local Health Department Organizational Self-Assessment for Addressing Health Inequities: Toolkit and Guide to Implementation. 2010.
- Ehlinger, Ed. We need a Triple Aim for Health Equity. Minnesota Medicine. 2015.
- The California Endowment. Advancing Health Equity Awards: Reviewer's Packet. 2014.
- Health Resources and Services Administration and the Region V Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network on Infant Mortality. Foundational Practices for Health Equity: State Self-assessment. Forthcoming.
- Human Impact Partners. Public Health and Equity Cohort Curriculum. 2016.
- Iton, Anthony. Health Equity: Moving from the Margins to the Center. NACCHO Exchange. 2016.
- National Association of County & City Health Officials. Expanding the Boundaries: Health Equity and Public Health Practice. 2014.
- National Association of County & City Health Officials and the Ingham County Health Department. Tackling Health Inequities Through Public Health Practice: A Handbook for Action. 2006.
- King County Equity Impact Review Tool. Revised October 2010.

*Colorado's Checking Assumptions document and a handout on measuring equity efforts can be found here: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/suite-of-tools>.

*Other Colorado-specific tools: The guidance documents for environmental health staff and the health equity activities mapped onto the 10 essential services are not in a sharable format, but should be within the next 4-6 weeks. Folks can check back on the Colorado Office of Health Equity website or email Sarah.Hernandez@state.co.us in August 2017.

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department's Health Equity Assessment, Health Lens Analysis Tool, and Health Equity Infographic: <http://www.tpchd.org/health-wellness-1/health-equity/>

Power Analysis:

- <https://network.progressivetech.org/system/files/SCOPEpresentationonPA.pdf>
- http://www.ctbh.org/documents/Power_Analysis_Trainer_Training.pdf
- All from SCOPE: <http://scopela.org/our-work/training/>, who sells a toolkit called "Power Tools"