Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Through Equitable Laws & Policies

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Welcome to the Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Series
Episode 1: Health Equity  (April)
Building healthy, equitable communities through equitable laws and policies

Episode 2: Healthy Children & Families  (May)
Building healthy, equitable communities through supports for working families

Episode 3: Food Systems  (June)
Building healthy, equitable communities through a just food system

Episode 4: Built Environment  (August)
Building healthy, equitable communities through comprehensive city planning

Episode 5: Schools  (September)
Building healthy, equitable communities through transforming the school climate

Bonus Training: Preemption  (October)
Preemption, public health, and equity - the search for local solutions

Episode 6: Community Power  (October)
Building healthy, equitable communities through community-driven solutions
What you can expect from our episodes:

**Blog Post**
10 Local Laws That May Be Doing More Harm Than Good

**Webinar**
Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Through Equitable Laws & Policies

**Expert Panel**
Continued Conversation About Health Equity (April 26)
Welcome!

Aysha Pamukcu  
Senior Staff Attorney  
ChangeLab Solutions

JayVon Muhammad  
Chief Executive Officer  
Marin City Health & Wellness Center
RACISM & GENTRIFICATION
A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

JayVon Muhammad
Social determinants of health for the *healthy* community

**Connection, Community & Culture:** Elders & rules

**Access to Education:** High performing schools

**Quality Housing:** Options to own or rent

**Access to Good Health Parks / Outdoor Space:** Accessible recreation & exercise

**Marriage:** Functional relationships

**Economics:** Small business opportunities

**Access to Good Health Care:** Longer lives & less disease

**Environment:** An environment free of environmental toxins
Social determinants of health for the *poor black* communities

**Gentrification:**
Families are forced to move out of their community

**Underperforming Schools:**
Teachers afraid of students, medicated children, Special Ed, school-to-prison pipeline

**Public Housing / Little-to-no Opportunities to Own Homes:**
Unsafe housing, Red-Lining, discrimination

**Lack of Clean, Safe Places to Play:**
Fewer tax dollars mean less resources/amenities

**Lack of Healthy Marriages / Single Mom-led Households:**
Healthy relationships not being modeled and/or revered

**No Black-Owned Business Community:**
Cannot qualify for loans, young people don’t learn entrepreneurship

**Few Doctors Take Medi-Cal:**
Lack of Black practitioners, distrust, family-only health coverage

**Environment:**
Environmental Justice issues, toxic waste zones, limited access to clean land/water
Since being brought to the United States through Slavery, “Black people have always had to play DEFENSE... But, OFFENSE wins games.”

– Sis Ava
The Result of Slavery was a “made” people who had their memories erased, were trained to distrust and hate one another and taught that everything white is right...white people were superior, smarter, prettier, more powerful... even Jesus is White, right?

The most important thing that could be taken from a person was taken in Slavery – **IDENTITY**, the connection to Language, Culture, Ancestors and Religion.
ALWAYS ON THE DEFENSE
1865: Civil War ends; Black Codes begin
1866: KKK forms
1867-1877: Reconstruction
1877-1928: Convict leasing
1877-1950s: Jim Crow
1921: Black Wall Street
1923: Rosewood
1954-1968: Civil Rights Movement
1954-1968: Civil Rights Movement

1971: Co-in-tel-Pro FBI program

1980s-90s: Crack introduced to Black communities (cocaine elsewhere)

Prison-Industrial Complex

Gentrification

1960's & 1970s Fillmore, Marin City, etc...
What kept us sane, connected and alive?

COMMUNITY

- The building of a culture from nothing
- Survival skills
- Cooperative Economics
- Support
- The importance of education, good manners, marriage and family, and work

AND THEN CAME...
CRACK COCAINE

Pre-crack:
- Rosewood, Black Wall St., Fillmore District
- Working families in Marin City / Bayview Hunters Point shipyard jobs
- Intact families stay together & sacrifice for the community
- Black excellence, home-based businesses

Post crack:
- Families broken
- Death
- Child “Protective” Services
- Community breakdown
- Gangs
- Fatherless homes
- Prison
No recovery since crack

Loss of Community & Family Structure + Loss of Black Business Districts

= Prime environment for Gentrification
How white “norms” affect SDOH in poor black communities

Culture:
White “gentrification” trumps Black culture; displaces Black families for the sake of diversity (weaponized), changes the fabric of the community & creates the Willie Lynch syndrome

Schools:
Lack of culturally appropriate curriculum that models Black leaders, education fails to make leaders

Housing:
Laws that prohibit Blacks from owning property

Language:
Inferiority complex, liberal microaggressions

Lack of Marriage:
No longer considered important

Work for Others:
Blacks taught to get a job vs. starting businesses/building local Black economies and Blacks lack access to resources

Healthcare:
Continued medical experimentation, lack of cultural competence
To survive, Blacks have become “functioning white people”

MENTAL HEALTH
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Disassociation & Self Hatred

PHYSICAL HEALTH
- Hypertension & Cardiac Diseases
- Diabetes
- Obesity

Young Black people are showing up different. But to prove that nothing has “really” changed; That White people still have to have the controlling voice and set the expectation...that Black people have still not been freed up to heal and repair their broken experience

– Colin Kaepernick
This is why the MCHWC mission of African American health equity is so important and so difficult.

African immigrant women have the same reproductive health outcomes as White women

So why is an African American woman born and raised in the U.S. nearly 3 times as likely to die in the year surrounding childbirth than a White woman?
A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth...and say “This is not just.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

“A Time to Break the Silence,” Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967
Our Ask

What happens when we value a community?

Gay Marriage*
Sanctuary Cities*
Recreational Marijuana*

*All were against the Federal Law
CONTACT US

BayviewClinic.org
MarinCityClinic.org
MarinBirth.org
415-339-8813

JayVon@MarinCityClinic.org
Healthier communities for all through better laws & policies
Disclaimer

The information provided in this discussion is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute legal advice. ChangeLab Solutions does not enter into attorney-client relationships.

ChangeLab Solutions is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that educates and informs the public through objective, non-partisan analysis, study, and/or research. The primary purpose of this discussion is to address legal and/or policy options to improve public health. There is no intent to reflect a view on specific legislation.

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AGENDA

- What do we mean by health equity?
- How can policy promote health equity?
- How can we shift the narrative?
- What’s the role of local government?
- How do we sustain equitable change?
What do we mean by health equity?
What is equity?

Health equity = “the state in which everyone has the opportunity to attain full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or any other socially defined circumstance.”

(source NAS)
You say health equity, I say...

Fairness / Justice / Opportunity

The goal is for health equity efforts to be effective.
Racism must be addressed to achieve health equity
Addressing the root causes of poor health
How can law & policy promote health equity?
Efforts to remove resources—even unhealthy ones—from already under-resourced communities may not be received well.
Focus on health-promoting community resources
Supporting community resilience

Understand the effects of trauma on a community

Work to build resilience
Community-directed policy
Community Power + Policymaking Process = Improved Health Outcomes
How can we shift the narrative for health equity?
Setting the historical context of health equity
Acknowledging past harms to create a more just future

Shift the frame to systems thinking and away from the idea that individuals bear the responsibility for poor health caused by decades—or centuries—of systematic harm.
Systems thinking is important for health equity
Changing the frame
Using traditional data & community experience
Consider the trade-offs in how you use data.
What’s the role of local government in promoting health equity?
There is an opportunity for different fields to come together to produce & protect equitable local innovation in policy.
Local governments can & should be effective partners in addressing community priorities
Preemption often appears as a hurdle to equitable changemaking.
Preemption is a legal tool that can be used to stifle equitable policy or to protect it.
How do we sustain policy that promotes health equity?
Change takes...

- Time
- Commitment
- Effort
- Relationship building
- Financing
- Stability
Policy can be messy
Equitable policy change requires shifting the power base without leaving people behind
Issues in equitable funding & financing

- Lack of infrastructure and services
- Lack of funding & resources to make changes
- Siloed funding streams
Strategies to equitably direct resources

Direct resources to undeserved communities & policies that address their needs

Invest & divest

Use existing funding streams more flexibly
Effective implementation & accountability
Ensure equitable enforcement to improve policy impact
Evaluation is essential to ensure that policy is working.
Troubleshooting for unintended consequences

- School discipline policies
- Tobacco “PUP” laws
- Occupancy standards for rental housing
- Criminalizing food sharing
Whose perspective do you still need?
Thank you! Questions?

Join our expert panel for **Continued Conversation About Health Equity** on April 26, 11am - noon PT

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Want more health equity?

Next up, Episode 2! Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Through Supports For Working Families

• Blog: May 1
• Webinar: May 17
• Expert Panel: May 22

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Stay tuned for resources:

- Blueprint for Collective Action
- Guide to Equitable Enforcement

For these and other resources, visit us at changelabsolutions.org
Keep the conversation going

Aysha Pamukcu: apamukcu@changelabsolutions.org
JayVon Muhammad: jayvon@marincityclinic.org

For questions about the series, Sophia Pennella: spennella@changelabsolutions.org