CENTERING HEALTH EQUITY

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Presentation for NC Public Health Leaders Conference
Vision:
All North Carolinians will enjoy good health regardless of race/ethnicity, disability or socioeconomic status.

Mission:
To promote and advocate for the elimination of health disparities among all racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations in North Carolina.
Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

North Carolina Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Health Equity Lunch and Learn Series
Community Health Ambassadors Program (CHAP)
Minority Diabetes Prevention Program
Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)
History and Equity Timeline, posted around the room.

Take 10-15 minutes to look at as much of the timeline and decades as possible.
MOMENTS IN TIME

- What were some of the moments that were memorable, were impactful or were new to you in the timeline? How do they impact your work?
WE ARE FAILING THE COMMUNITY!
Health equity is the opportunity for everyone to have good health.
HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020

“... a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with economic, social, or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic-status, gender, age, or mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.”
"Health equity means social justice in health (i.e., no one is denied the possibility to be healthy for belonging to a group that has historically been economically/socially disadvantaged)."
“Health equity is the principle underlying a commitment to reduce—and, ultimately, eliminate—disparities in health and in its determinants, including social determinants. Pursuing health equity means striving for the highest possible standard of health for all people and giving special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health, based on social conditions.”
Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.
KEY DRIVERS AND DETERMINANTS

- Education
- Health and Health Care
- Neighborhood and built environment
- Economic Stability
- Social and Community Context
- TRUST!
Health starts – long before illness – it starts in our homes, schools, and jobs.

All people should have the opportunity to make the choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their income, education or ethnic background.

Your identity, neighborhood or job shouldn’t be hazardous to your health.

Your opportunity for health starts long before you need medical care.
In order to advance health equity, there must be an unswerving commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. These values should be at the center of all programming and services, the core of the agency work and staff. Staff should have attunement skills that help them listen and observe with care to foster equity.
"Wise men build bridges, foolish men build barriers."
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