Public Health Nurses’ Role in Promoting Health Equity: Opportunities for States

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Presenters

Mary Ann Cooney
Chief, Health Systems Transformation

Zenobia Harris
Director of the Arkansas Birthing Project and Diversity and Social Equity Committee Chairperson, Association of Public Health Nurses

Jennifer Cooper
Assistant Professor of Nursing, Hood College
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Presented December 13, 2016

By
Zenobia Harris and Jennifer Cooper, Association of Public Health Nurses

Contributors
Lisa Campbell, APHA Public Health Nursing Section
Susan Coleman, APHA Public Health Nursing Section
May Dobal, APHA Public Health Nursing Section
Outline of Presentation

• Introductions

• Objectives

• Health Equity Background

• State Public Health Collaborative Efforts with Public Health Nurses

• References & Publications/Resources

• Contact Information & Questions
Zenobia Harris
DNP, MPH-C,
BSN
APHN
Jennifer Cooper
DNP, RN, APHN-BC
APHN
Susan Coleman
MPH, BSN, RN

APHN, APHA- PHN
Section
Lisa Campbell
DNP, RN, APHN-BC

APHA-PHN Section
May Dobal
PhD, RN

APHA-PHN Section
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Objectives of this presentation

• Highlight the involvement of selected Public Health Nurse leaders in promoting health equity in various initiatives and programs of national significance.

• Illustrate the significant role of public health nurses in identifying and improving social, economic, and environmental conditions that shape health and promote health behaviors.

• Demonstrate how State and local public health can utilize the experience, knowledge and skills of PHNs in promoting health equity and a Culture of Health.
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What is Public Health Nursing?

“Public health nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences” (APHA, PHN, 2013).
Health Equity Defined

• APHN defines *health equity* as an ideal state marked by fairness and the achievement of optimal health and well-being for all populations, where disparities in health status are eliminated across populations by race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geography, disability, religion, sexual preference and mental status.

• Health equity may be viewed as an equal and fair distribution of health and well-being.
Health in All Policies

“Housing policy is health policy. Educational policy is health policy. Anti-violence policy is health policy. Neighborhood improvement policies are health policies. Everything that we can do to improve the quality of life of individuals in our society has an impact on their health and is a health policy.”

-Dr. David Williams (2008)
APHN Position Paper: The PHN: Necessary Partner for the Future of Healthy Communities

“PHNs are an educated, highly skilled, and cost effective partner and well able to lead population health strategies into the Future” (APHN, 2015).
APHN’s Committee on Diversity and Social Equity”

- In 2015, APHN updated the White Paper on “The PHN’s Role in Achieving Health Equity.” It is “A call to public health nurses across the globe that we may find our voices, renew our commitment to the elimination of health inequities, and help build durable public policy that promotes and protects health for all and assures conditions that support safe and healthy communities.”
APHA - PHN Section’s Vision

“Public health nursing leads the way in building healthy communities, achieving health equity and social justice and improving quality of life for all communities.”

Public Health Nursing Section strategic priorities include:

- Ensuring social justice and eliminating health disparities.
- Strengthening the public health workforce.
- Actively engaging students.
- Promoting environmental health.
APHA - PHN Sections’ Diversity and Social Justice Committee

Works in conjunction with PHNs, APHA and other disciplines to promote health equity by

• Assisting the Membership Committee in efforts designed to increase the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among members of the PHN Section.

• Planning and conducting activities to increase **opportunities** for PHN Section members to develop knowledge and skills related to diversity and inclusion, for academic and practice settings (for example, through annual meeting sessions, newsletters, or other educational venues).

• Planning and conducting activities to increase **knowledge and skills** in PHN Section members for addressing issues of inequity and social justice (for example, through annual meeting sessions, newsletters, or other educational venues).
The Costs of Health Disparities

• Disparities in health cost $60 Billion Annually (Turner, 2013).

• Of all the forms of inequity, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane because it often results in physical death.

• No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws (U.S. Congress, 1866, June 13 | 1868, July 9).
Equality vs Equity

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State Public Health Collaborative Efforts Involving Public Health Nurses

• Environmental Health
• Million Hearts
• Health Disabilities Management
• HIV /AIDS Outreach
• RWJ Public Health Nurse Leaders
• Public Health Preparedness
• Nurses On Boards
Environmental Health

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment at Georgetown University

Air Quality Flag PROGRAM
Know Your Air Quality to Protect Your Health
Environmental Health Collaborative Effort:
EPA Air Quality Flag Program

Laura Anderko, PhD, RN
Environmental Health Collaborative Effort:
EPA Air Quality Flag Program
Million Hearts

Jennifer Cooper, DNP, RN, APHN-BC
ASTHO Million Hearts State Learning Collaborative

APHN Partnerships: ASTHO, NACCHO, NACDD, National Forum on Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

• Practice  - Community Assessment
  - Health Monitoring & Coaching

• Leadership  - Community-Clinical Linkages
  - Practice & systems change

• Advocacy  - For the PHN role
  - For Population Health
Breast Cancer Management

• AAHD DC Breast Cancer Prevention Project
  ▪ In partnership with: American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD), Susan G Komen National Capital Region (NCR)
  ▪ Focused on women with disabilities in Washington, D.C. wards 2, 5, 7 and 8
  ▪ Provides educational workshops on breast health
HIV/AIDS Community Outreach - Leveraging Resources: Program Development
“Organic” Partnerships on HIV/AIDS Community Outreach

LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS
Public Health
Mayo Clinic
Victoria County Public Health Department
Regional Resource Network Program
REGION VI
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Nursing
Robert Wood Johnson
Public Health Nurse Leaders
RWJ PH Nurse Leaders
Public Health Preparedness
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)

• The Mission of ANHE: Promoting healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.
Nurses on Boards - Strategic Influence on Health

TEXAS TEAM
Advancing Health through Nursing Initiative on the Future of Nursing

NURSES ON BOARD

Accomplishment Culture
PURPOSE DRIVEN INDIVIDUALS & TEAMS
Other Opportunities for Collaborative Partnerships

- Public Health Preparedness
- Environmental Health
- Community Health Center Services
- School Health
- Parrish Health
- Home Health/Elder Health
- Maternal and Child Health
Health Equity is an Economic Necessity and a Moral Imperative in Creating a Culture of Health

• Communities need the full economic, social, and creative contributions of all their people.
• Our youth of today will be the taxpayers and “doers” of tomorrow. Their ability to be successful will shape all of our futures.

Healthy People 2020 Social Determinants of Health

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Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment. Retrieved from https://Kidsandenvironment.georgetown.edu


Publications

• The Role of Public Health Nurses in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery: A Position Paper by the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) Public Health Preparedness Committee. September 2013

Publications on PHN Practice in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

• Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Response Core model. 2010.
  http://www.asph.org/userfiles/PreparednessCompetencyModelWorkforce-Version1.0.pdf

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Zenobia Harris, DNP, MPH, BSN
zharris@prodigy.net

Jennifer Cooper, DNP, RN
jencooperrn@gmail.com

Questions?
THANK YOU!

If you have additional questions or comments, contact:

Doug Kershner
Senior Analyst, Primary Care
dkershner@astho.org
571-318-5422