Medicaid in New York: Fostering Equity During a Time of Crisis

United Hospital Fund Annual Medicaid Conference
GoToWebinar Live Webcast
July 15, 2020

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Presented with Support From The Commonwealth Fund

United Hospital Fund

Medicaid's Role in Advancing Health Equity

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United Hospital Fund (UHF) Medicaid Conference

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July 15, 2020

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

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Executive Director

Health Equity Solutions

Vision:

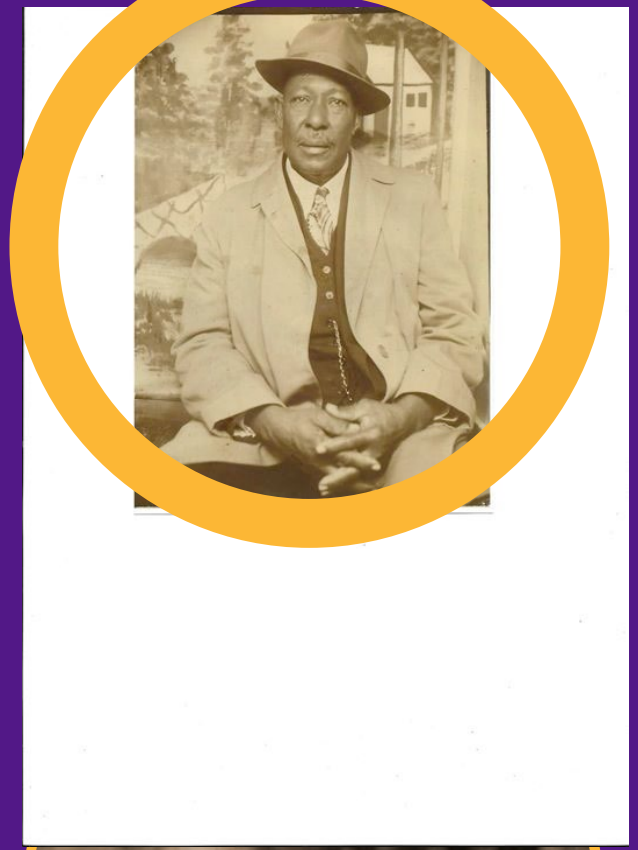
For every Connecticut resident to attain optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Mission:

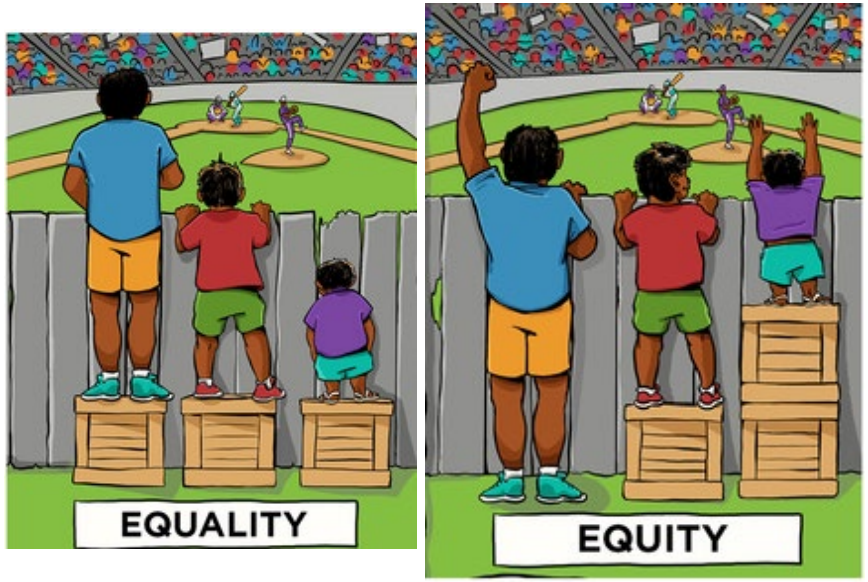
To promote policies, programs, and practices that result in equitable health care access, delivery, and health outcomes for all people in Connecticut

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

My Story, My Why



What Is Health Equity…



- Process
- Way of Being/Doing
- Endpoint Goal

Image from Story Based Strategy
http://www.storybasedstrategy.org/blog/the4thbox

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SDOH ≠ Health Equity

- Big focus on social determinants/drivers/influencers, BUT
  - health equity ≠ social determinants

    RATHER
  - How do we leverage current programs like Medicaid to advance health equity by addressing SDoH

- To fully achieve health equity, we need to:
  - Name the underlying problem/root cause
  - Examine how inequity is fostered
  - Use data to understand & address the gaps

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- Structural
- Institutional
- Interpersonal
- Internalized

Fostering Inequity & Injustice

Layer/Level	Examples
Language	• "The patient is non-compliant." • "I don't need to hear about equity. I treat all my patients the same."
Institutional Policy	• Not engaging Medicaid members • Treating people with one size fits all solutions
Systems	• Norming healthcare to White population (research studies/clinical trials/standards of care) • Reducing Medicaid eligibility
Health Delivery	• Implicit Bias/Unconscious Bias • Lack of cultural humility (individual & organization level) • Diagnosis without dialogue

Why is Medicaid poised to address equity?

- Medicaid is a lever for equity by design
- Provides coverage to significant population
- Building on past initiatives
- Leveraging partnerships

Opportunities for Advancing Health Equity

1. Equity and Inclusion
2. Improving and Streamlining Access
3. Promoting Equity in Outcome

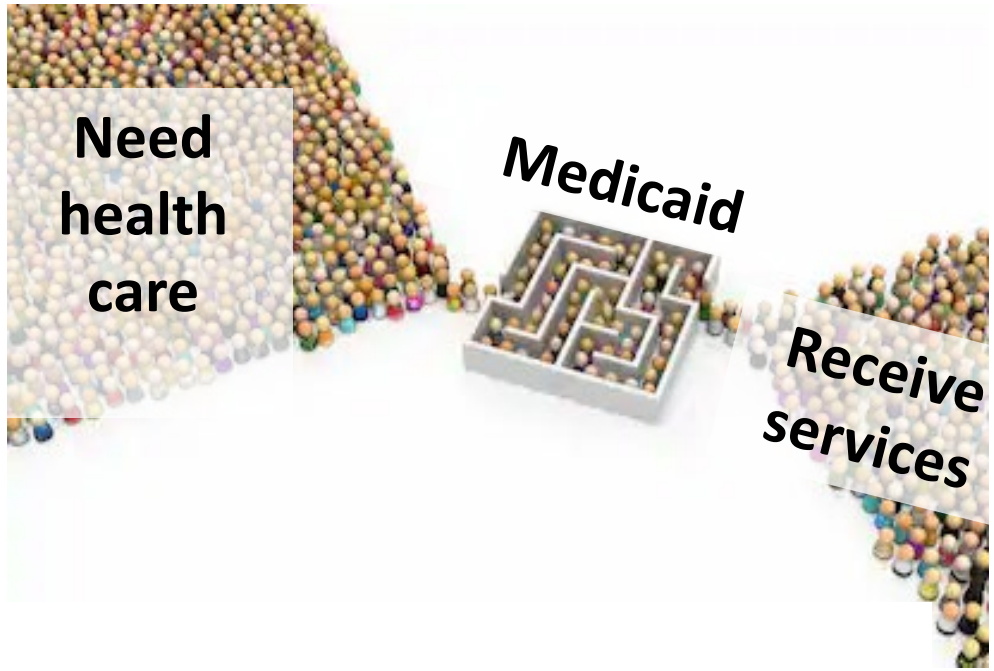
Promoting Inclusion & Embedding an Equity Lens

- Health Disparities Work Group (Medicaid Redesign Team)
  - 2011 Final Recommendations report

Looking forward:

- Standing equity group
- Authentic consumer engagement
- Evaluation and accountability
- Feedback loop

Improve & Streamline Access



- Streamline social services applications
- Telehealth access
- Equity audit on Medicaid
  (e.g. providers accepting new patients or practices limit members access)

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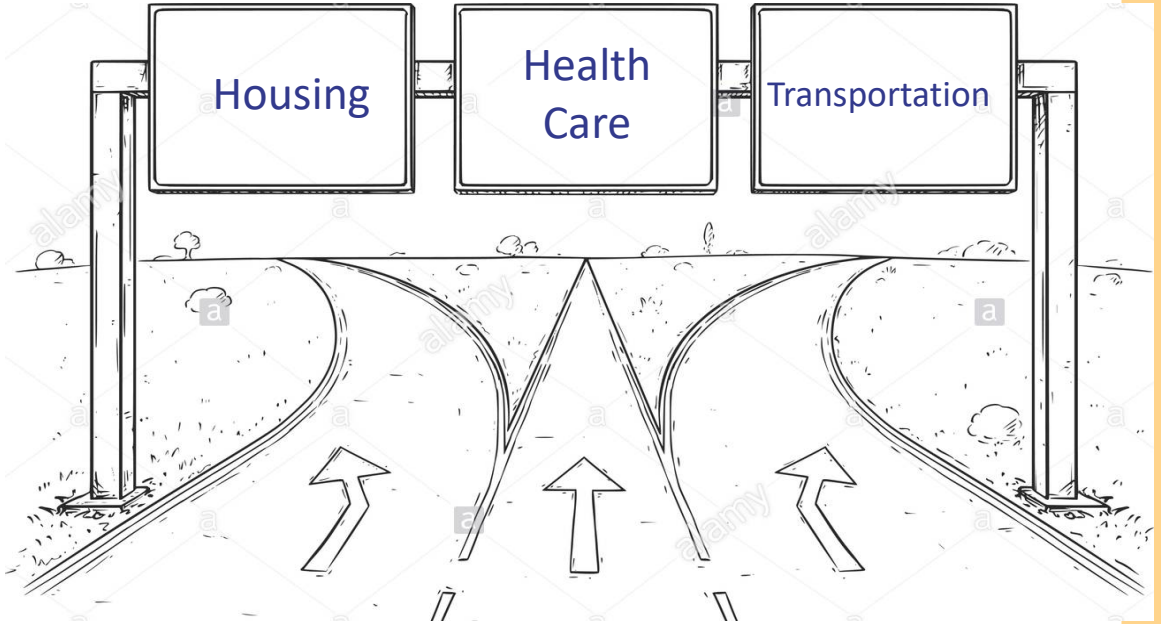
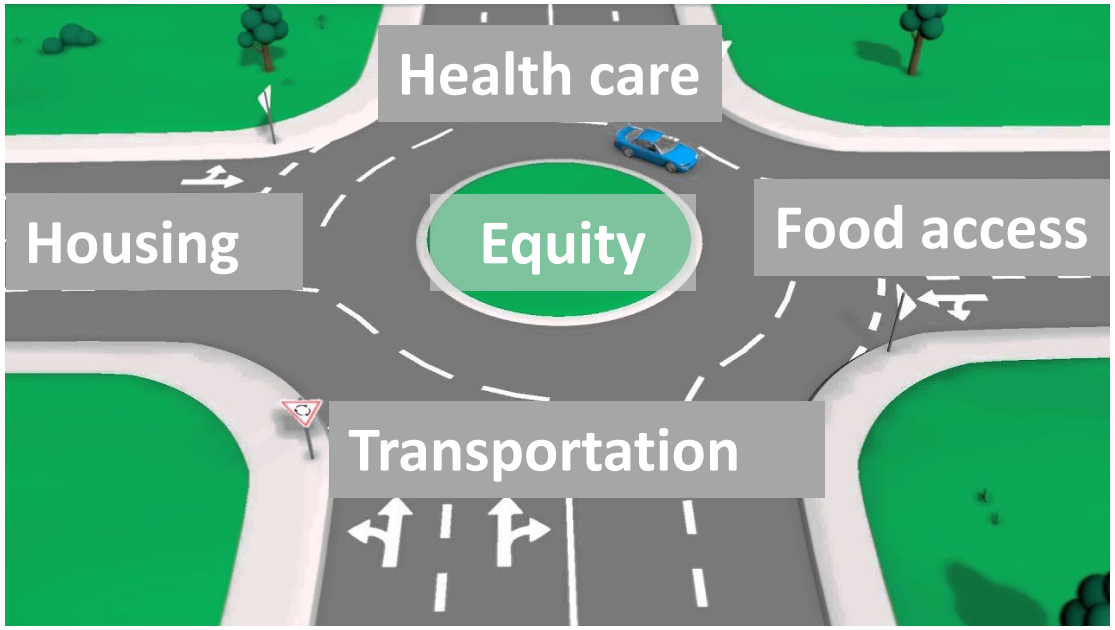
Equity in Outcomes

Look at data differently

Devise equity measures & drive toward meeting those outcomes

Institutionalizing learnings from DSRIP





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