An Ode to Thee:

“To all the women and men who go to work each day and bring their humanity with them.

They make a contribution to their organization by doing what they do, and they make a contribution to the world by being who they are while they do it.”

Stephen Lundin & Bob Nelson
Pursuing Equity through Public Health and Community Collaboration

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Health Policy Institute of Ohio
Feb 28, 2017
Sawabona:
Yo te respeto, yo te valoro y tú eres importante para mí

Shikobaba:
Entonces yo existo para ti
Community

In the context of what creates health
I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture of their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Norway, 1964
Community
In the context of what creates **equity**
Pursuing Equity: What is the Goal?

Health Inequity

“Differences in population health status and mortality rates that are systemic, patterned, unfair, unjust, and actionable, as opposed to random or caused by those who become ill.” Margaret Whitehead

Health Equity

A fair, just *distribution* of the social resources and social opportunities needed to achieve well-being.
Health Equity - A fair, just distribution of the social resources and social opportunities needed to achieve well-being.
Social Justice - The absence of unfair, unjust advantage or privilege based on race, class, gender, or other forms of difference.

- Seeks out what is unfair in order to reverse or avoid it
- Aspires to apply justice in serving individuals and families
- Recognizes the impact of social resources on the care and behavior of individuals and families
- Identifies and facilitates social opportunities for individuals and families to readily/easily attain well-being
If we have a LENS, Where do we Focus?
Reclaim public health’s history of addressing health inequity through social justice (by addressing the root causes of health inequity)

Transform public health practice from a strictly categorical orientation to its true bio-psycho-social foundation

- Institutional Racism
- Class Oppression
- Gender Discrimination and Exploitation
“Public health problems pose special challenges. They are generally enormous in scale, stem from numerous and highly complex causes, play out in the public, impact a vast array of stakeholders, and require unusually long-term solutions.”


And this is the context in which we seek collaboration...
So what are we to do…?

Leaders in Public Health are:

• Generally driven by a profound and fundamental sense of mission.

• A sense of purpose motivates them to leave the comfort of the sidelines and wade into controversy.

The Conundrum of Community

- Unanticipated negative consequences:
  - Community as “othering”
  - Community as problematizing
  - “No decisions about us without us”
“Don’t nobody bring me, no bad news”
• Community as resilience
• Community as solidarity
• Community as power
The Opportunity of Community

- Community is defined more by relationship than radius
- Community is defined more by values than locale
- Community is defined more by affinities than vicinities

The Narrative we weave...
collaboration
kəˌlabəˈrāSH(ə)n/
noun: collaboration; plural noun: collaborations

1. the action of working with someone to produce or create something.
   "he wrote on art and architecture in collaboration with John Betjeman"

2. traitorous cooperation with an enemy.
   "he faces charges of collaboration"
null
Authentic Collaboration

• Intent vs Impact
• Increase Comfort with Discomfort
• Both/And Thinking
• No Buts about it
• Perception is Reality
Truth vs Fact:
Seeing is Believing...
The Power of Relationship & The Relationship of Power!

The Keys to Authentic Collaboration

- One to One’s
- Agitational Dialogue
  - Smaller group
- The Meeting before the Meeting
- The Meeting after the Meeting
- “Off the Record” opportunities
- Take Risks
### Questioning the Questions: (“Have you stopped beating your wife?!”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Option B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What <strong>interventions</strong> can address health disparities?</td>
<td>What <strong>generates</strong> health inequity in the first place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What social <strong>programs and services</strong> are necessary to address health inequity?</td>
<td>What types of <strong>social change</strong> is necessary to confront health inequity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can <strong>individuals</strong> protect themselves against health problems?</td>
<td>What kind of <strong>collective action</strong> is necessary to confront health inequity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can we promote <strong>healthy behavior</strong>?</td>
<td>How can we <strong>democratize land use</strong> policies to ensure healthy spaces and places?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do we <strong>treat the consequences</strong> of health inequity?</td>
<td>How do we <strong>act on root causes</strong> of inequality to meet human need?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Richard Hofrichter, PhD, NACCHO
I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture of their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Norway, 1964
“If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupery
Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season, you will reap if you faint not.

The Apostle Paul