Dental Leadership in the Age of Social Determinants of Health

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SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
Public health is “what we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.”

The Future of Public Health, IOM 1988
“In order to eliminate disparities in health, we need leaders who care enough, know enough, will do enough and are persistent enough.”

Surgeon General David Satcher
Abundant Challenges

• $ - Budget deficits and severe cut-backs
• Elimination of programs and services
• Limitation of program monitoring and evaluation
• Awareness of outcomes of low health literacy
• More complex public health needs and demands
• Workforce needs
Unprecedented opportunities and visibility

- Healthy People 2020
- National Partnership for Action to Eliminate Health Disparities (and HHS Action Plan to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities)
- National Call to Action for Health Literacy
- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

- 2011 IOM Reports*
- Pew Children’s Dental Campaign
- Children’s Dental Health Project
- DHHS oral health initiatives
- US National Alliance for Oral Health

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

All in the Context of an Expanding Landscape of Health:
Death: Causes and Actual Causes

Causes: Cancer and Heart Disease

Actual Causes: Tobacco and Poor Diet
Social determinants – a fundamental rethink of public health issues and solutions
WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health: 
*Closing the Gap in a Generation* (2008)

- **Improve daily living conditions** — circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age

- **Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources** — structural drivers of these conditions of daily life — globally, nationally and locally

- **Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action** — develop a workforce trained in the social determinants of health and raise public awareness about the social determinants of health.
Oral health is the measure of a just society

“Can you imagine a time when we fully incorporate mental and dental health into our thinking about health? What is it about problems above the neck that seems to exclude them so often from policy about health care?”

Harvey V. Fineberg, MD, PhD
President, IOM
Annual IOM Meeting Address 10/12/2010
Where does one begin?
Health starts where we live, learn, work and play.

“Saying something simply can be a complicated process.”*

*A New Way to Talk About Social Determinants of Health, 2010 RWJF*
Health also starts where we go for our healthcare.
Preparing Health Professions for Oral Health

Advancing Oral Health in America (IOM 2011):

- Health literacy
- Interprofessional care and training
- Prevention


- Workforce capacity
- Essential health benefits
- Capacity of FQHCs for essential services
Team-Based Competencies

Shared vision for interprofessional education and care
Interprofessional Education Collaborative: 2011

• Values and Ethics for Interprofessional Practice
• Roles and Responsibilities for Collaborative Practice
• Interprofessional Communication
• Interprofessional Teamwork and Team-based Care
Lessons from Education of Health Professionals for the 21st Century

A Global Independent Commission

Julio Frenk
Commission Co-Chair
3 Generations of Education Reform

Science-based
• Scientific curriculum
• University based

Problem-based
• Problem-based learning
• Academic centers

Systems-based
• Competency driven: local-global
• Health and education systems

Education of Health Professionals for the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century

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“All health professionals in all countries should be educated to mobilize knowledge and to engage in critical reasoning and ethical conduct so that they are competent to participate in patient and population-centered health systems as members of locally responsive and globally connected teams.”

Systems, Information Technology, Health Literacy
FIGURE 1 Causal dynamics of dental health among older adults

http://www.systemswiki.org/index.php?title=Health_Care_System_Dynamics_Insights
Understanding & Benefiting from the System

Accreditation and Certification – Schools; Public Health Practitioners; Health Departments

Meaningful Use – 2009 HITECH Legislation

Health Literacy - navigating for success
“Meaningful use” and informatics needs assessment of local health departments
A Major Challenge is to:

• Address the mismatch between demands of the healthcare system and the skills of those using the healthcare system(s).
What’s the Problem?

• Health literacy varies by race, ethnicity, level of education, poverty level.
• The lower the health literacy the more likely the individual will have poor health, use fewer preventive procedures and use costly ER services.
• Less likely to manage chronic health conditions.

National Assessment of Adult Literacy 2003
Systems Changes need to made in context of Health Literacy

Simply put Health Literacy is a set of understandings and skills that contribute to health and wellbeing.
Health Literacy is:

the interaction between skills of individuals and demands of the healthcare system(s)

IOM Report 2004
Leadership
“Today, the need for leaders is too great to leave their emergence to chance.”

IOM Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health, 1988
Public Health Leadership Competency Framework
National Public Health Leadership Development Network (AJPH 2000;90:1202-1207)

• Transformational

• Political

• Transorganizational

• Team-building
Public Health Leadership Society
Foundational Ethical Skills

• Ability to identify an ethical issue
• Ethical decision-making
• Understanding full spectrum of determinants of health
• Understanding basic ethical concepts such as justice, virtue and human rights
• Building and maintaining public trust
Future of Public Health – 1988

• “Public health is in disarray.”
• Focus on enhancing infrastructure of government programs

Future of the Public’s Health – 2003

• “America: Falling short of its potential in health.”
• It takes more than government
“Everyone has a role in improving and promoting oral health. Together we can work to broaden public understanding of the importance of oral health and its relevance to general health and well-being, and to ensure that existing and future preventive, diagnostic, and treatment measures for oral diseases and disorders are made available to all Americans.”

American Academy of Pediatrics’ National Summit on Children's Oral Health: A New Era of Collaboration (11/08)

http://www.aap.org/ORALHEALTH/summit/index.cfm
ADA Summit on Improving Access to Dental Care (2009)

US National Oral Health Alliance (2011)

http://www.usnoha.org/
Incredible Advantages

• Transdisciplinary Teaming

• Transorganizational Teaming

• Visibility and roles in multiple systems

• Multisectoral Capacity
Where do we want to start?

Upstream - downstream interventions

‘Upstream’
Healthy Public Policy

National &/or local policy initiatives
Legislation/Regulation
Fiscal Measures
Healthy Settings- HPS
Community Development
Training other professional groups
Media Campaigns
School dental health education
‘Downstream’
Health Education & Clinical Prevention
Chair side dental health education
Clinical Prevention