Health Equity Learning Series

Health Equity and Community Engagement

Dedicated to Achieving Health Equity for All Coloradans
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ISAIAH and PICO

- **ISAIAH** is a faith-based community organization of 100 member congregations. ISAIAH is a vehicle for people of faith and communities of faith to act collectively and powerfully for racial and economic justice in MN.

- **PICO** (People Improving Communities through Organizing) is a national organizing network of 55 organizations in 19 states working for racial, social and economic justice.
Overview

- Define Our Collective Definition of Health
- Define Community Organizing
- Explore the intersection of Health and Organizing—Is organizing a viable strategy for reducing health inequities?
The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at a global, national and local levels.
Public health is what we, as a society, do collectively through organized actions to assure the conditions in which all people can be healthy.
Areas of Emphasis

Healthy Public Policy & Public Work
- Safer, Healthier Population (general protection)
- Vulnerable Population (targeted protection)
- Society's Health Response

Medical and Public Health Policy
- Primary prevention
- Secondary prevention
- Tertiary prevention

Democratic Self-Governance
- World of Transforming:
  - Deprivation
  - Dependency
  - Violence
  - Disconnection
  - Environmental decay
  - Stress
  - Insecurity
  - Etc...

- By Strengthening:
  - Leaders and institutions
  - Foresight and precaution
  - The meaning of work
  - Mutual accountability
  - Plurality
  - Democracy
  - Freedom
  - Etc...

Disease and Risk Management
- Afflicted without Complications
  - Developing Complications
  - Dying from Complications

- Afflicted with Complications

Seeing a Wider Set of Relationships

Diagram:
- Health
- Capacity to Act
- Living Conditions

Power and Politics

- **Power** is “The Ability to Act”
- Power operates in the public sphere, the realm of “politics”
- **Politics** derives from Aristotle’s definition of the “polis”—“The political community”
We are *political beings*: There is part of us that emerges only to the extent that we participate in public life

—Aristotle, Arendt, Adams, Friere, M. Luther King, etc.
Community Organizing

A set of **disciplined and strategic practices** to build democratic and collective power to assure the conditions in which a community or communities can thrive.
Core Strategies of Community-Based Organizing

- Grassroots Leadership Development
- Building Democratic, Sustainable and Community-Driven Organizations
- Theory of Change Grounded in Building Power to make change
Community Organizing

Grassroots Leadership Development

Building Democratic Community Organizations

Power is the Ability to Act
10,000 Voices
Shining The Light Event

1600 People from 110 Congregations
Gathered to Unveil a Racial Equity
Agenda for Minnesota: Health,
Transportation, Education, Jobs

SHINING the LIGHT
A FAITH GATHERING FOR MINNESOTA’S FUTURE

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center Ballroom

Working together to create a racially and economically just Minnesota.

10000Voices forOneMinnesota
A project of INMARI

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612.333.3260 | www.isaiah-minn.org
10000Voices@isaiah-minn.org
Faithful tell Dayton: Erase gaps

As the recount winds down, a coalition of church and religious groups urged the front-runner to work from the governor's office toward educational and economic opportunity for all.

By SERÓN MÁRQUEZ ESTRADA

All but declared the next governor of Minnesota, DFLer Mark Dayton on Sunday promised a gathering of more than 1,500 Minnesotans of faith to strive to make the state a place of equal opportunity for all.

"That's my commitment," Dayton said at the Minneapolis Convention Center to members and representatives of about 150 churches and religious organizations from around the state. "I share that vision with you. Now let's go do it."

Dayton's comments, which drew a standing ovation, came at an event that was part religious revival gathering and part political and economic forum.

Sponsored by ISAIAH, a Twin Cities religious coalition, the "10,000 Voices for One Minnesota" project was intended to bring...
Raising The Wage In MN:
Minnesota Department of Health
POVERTY WAGES
MINNESOTA
Power to Thrive: PICO Center for Health Organizing
POWER TO THRIVE

Coverage

Delivery

Equity
Core Mission: Unleashing the Capacity to Act

- Are we creating pathways for people to act with agency and power around their own interests and agenda?
- Who has the power to decide? How have we “set the table”? (Engagement vs. Sharing Power)
- How are we shifting the arrangements of power to change the “distribution of money, power and resources”? 
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Join the discussion…

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Thank you for joining us!

For more information, please visit www.coloradotrust.org