DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Part 1 of Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series

May 18, 2021

YOUR FACILITATORS TODAY

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**TODAY’S GUESTS**

Renée Canady  
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Equity Research & Program Manager  
Office on African American Affairs  
Milwaukee County

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**MEET CHR&R**

DATA  
EVIDENCE  
GUIDANCE  
STORIES
MATCH develops and deploys programs and resources and engages in collaborative partnerships that support strategic community-driven efforts.

Through a field building approach, we work to evolve practice, focus priorities and shift power to support collective action on root causes of health and equity.

- MATCH does this through 3 “hubs”:
  - Training
  - Alignment
  - Engaged Research and development

*RACISM*

- Can be interpersonal and structural (e.g., interacting with others negatively based on racist beliefs or institutionalized.)
- Prevents those affected by it from attaining their highest level of health, and consequently, affects the health of our entire nation.
HOW DOES RACISM INFLUENCES HEALTH?

Racism prevents opportunity to improve factors that influence health.

CDC DIRECTOR DECLARES RACISM A 'SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT'

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH
National Public Radio April 8, 2021
FORBES: MAY 16, 2021

BREAKING | 17 hours ago:

Fauci: Coronavirus Pandemic Unveiled The ‘Undeniable Effects Of Racism’ In U.S.

“Righting this wrong will take a decades-long commitment,” Fauci said Sunday.

By Carlie Porterfield | Forbes Staff

JOIN US FOR MORE DISCUSSION – TODAY!

‣ **When:** Immediately following the webinar

‣ **What:** Interactive learning experience, opportunity to share ideas and ask questions

‣ **How:** Videoconference and/or phone via Zoom

‣ **Why:** Deepen the webinar learning, allow further exploration

Photo by Chris Montgomery on Unsplash
NOT JUST STRATEGISTS, WE ARE CATALYSTS

10 Essential Public Health Services
https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/publichealthservices/essentialhealthservices.html

Original Essential Public Health Services Framework
https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/publichealthservices/originalseentialhealthservices.html

COMMUNITY

- Considers accessibility
- Requires honesty and transparency
- Includes dialogue and listening to understand
- Those most impacted by decisions are at the center of their own solutions
- Everyone feels heard and valued
- Humility, acknowledging mistakes and apologizing

#NothingAboutUsWithoutUs

COMMUNITY
ROOT CAUSES

RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS SYNOPSIS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY LIFTS DECLARATION

Signing of the Declaration of Racism as A Public Health Crisis at the Office on African American Affairs
May 20, 2019


MILWAUKEE COUNTY’S INEQUITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

“By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest County in Wisconsin”

Source: Countyhealthrankings.org
TRANSACTIONAL VS TRANSFORMATIVE

Transactional approaches
- Issue-based
- Help individuals negotiate existing structures
- Solutions “transact” with institutions
- Short-term gains for communities, but leave the existing structure in place

Transformative approaches
- Cut across multiple institutions
- Focus on policy and organizational culture
- Alter the ways institutions operate
- Shifting cultural values and political will to create racial equity

DECLARATION OPERATIONALIZED

- **Fix Policies**
  - Assess internal policies and procedures to make sure racial equity is a core element of the county.

- **Increase Diversity & Inclusion**
  - Work to create an inclusive organization and identify specific activities to increase diversity.

- **Educate & Equip Employees**
  - Incorporate inclusion and equity, and offer educational training to expand employees’ understanding of how racism affects people.

- **Advocate**
  - Advocate for policies that improve health in communities of color.

- **Spread the Word**
  - Encourage other local, state and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

- **Strategic Plan Development**
- **Countywide RE Normalization**
POLICY CHANGES


The ordinance commits all of Milwaukee County employees, departments and municipalities to support reaching our vision.

POLL

- My understanding of how a declaration of racism as a public health crisis can support changes in practice and policy has
  - Significantly improved.
  - Moderately improved.
  - A little improved.
  - Not improved.
CHR&R’S EQUITY ACTION LEARNING GUIDES

- Blend of guidance, tools, and hands-on practice to help you get started and support community change
- Topics include:
  - Promoting health and equity
  - Understanding root causes of inequity and
  - Partnering with residents

MATCH’S RACISM DECLARATION ACTION TOOLKIT

MATCH developed a toolkit is to provide and lift up resources that aid organizational action to advance racial equity.

This includes resources that can support your organization in signing on to the Racism Declaration, as well as resources organized into categories based on the action steps listed in the Declaration.

The Action Toolkit can be found on the MATCH website under the Sign-On tab.
QUESTIONS?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
TRANSFORMING NARRATIVES TO CREATE RACIAL AND HEALTH EQUITY

T. Gonzales
Director
Center for Health Equity
Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness

Jonathan Heller
Senior Health Equity Fellow
University of Madison Population Health Institute

Paula Tran
Director
Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health

Registration available at www.countyhealthrankings.org/webinars

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TALK TO A TEAM MEMBER!

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
COUNTYHEALTHRANKINGS.ORG/ABOUT-US/CONTACT-US
visit us at www.countyhealthrankings.org

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*Webinar Discussion Group*
THANK YOU!