Using a Critical Health Literacy Framework to Take Action on the Social Determinants of Health to Achieve Health Equity

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Just Health Action
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Today

- Critical health literacy (CHL)
- JHA CHL framework
- CHL and power building
- Operationalizing CHL in the Duwamish River Valley
SDOH Model

Classism

Sexism

Racism

Social determinants of health equity

Living & working conditions

Unemployment

Water/sanitation

Health care

Age, sex, and hereditary factors

Individual behaviors

Social determinants of Health

Food

Housing

Education

Work environment

Overeating

No exercise

Risky sex

Illicit drug use

Social determinants of health equity

Adapted from Dahlgren & Whitehead (1991) and Jones et al. (2009)
three levels of health literacy

1. functional
2. interactive
3. critical

Nutbeam, 2000, Health Promotion International, Vol 15, No 3
JHA critical health literacy framework

- **tools**
- **compass**
- **knowledge**
- **action!**

Mogford, Gould, & DeVoght, (2010), Health Promotion International
Operationalizing JHA CHL framework

Participatory Action Research
Invited by community
- Health Impact Assessment
- Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis
- Environmental Justice analyses

“Education”
Invited by community
- Co-teaching
- Co-development curriculum
- Co-facilitation

Project examples
Invited by community
- Community science
- Green infrastructure
- Community Health Advocates
- Policy resolutions

Mogford, Gould, & DeVoght, (2010), Health Promotion International

knowledge

compass
tools

action!
Seattle, WA – Duwamish Valley
Duwamish River Then & Now

Light blue
river before
1909

Dark blue
current
waterway
Duwamish Valley Industrial Base and Superfund Site
Community Partners

- Duwamish River
- Cleanup Coalition
- Duwamish Valley Youth Corps
- Duwamish Infrastructure Restoration Corps
# Georgetown/South Park disparities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Georgetown/South Park Census tracts 109 and 112</th>
<th>Laurelhurst Census tracts 4100 and 4200</th>
<th>Seattle</th>
<th>King County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>73.3*</td>
<td>86.4*</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease death rate per 100,000</td>
<td>202.9#</td>
<td>89.6*</td>
<td>138.4</td>
<td>137.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Public Health Seattle & King County  
*p=0.05 from both KC and Seattle average  
#p= 0.05 for KC average only

Assets too!
JHA Power Building Model in the Duwamish Valley

CRITICAL HEALTH LITERACY
- Knowledge
  - SDOH
  - Root causes
  - Story telling

- Compass/Reflection
  - Power analysis
  - Advocacy mapping

- Skills/Tools (capacity building)
  - Monitoring
  - Facilitation
  - Public speaking

POWER BUILDING ("EMPOWERMENT")
- Tackle inequitable distribution of Power
- Improve Daily Living Conditions
- Create Healthy Public Policy
- Community Action for Health

COMMUNITY ACTIONS
- CBPR/Community Science
- Policy resolutions
- Green infrastructure
- Culturally relevant materials

GOAL
- Health Equity
JHA CHL project examples

- Education: Pedagogical Fririan exercises
- Duwamish Valley Clean Air Program
- Policy Resolution with the Port of Seattle
Critical Health Literacy Training Manual

Pedagogical Exercises Developed by Just Health Action
www.justhealthaction.org
2015 14th Avenue East, Seattle, WA

Train the Trainer

Bernallio County Training
Health Mapping
Root Causes:
Why is Jason in the hospital?

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/phdd/determinants/index.html#determinants
Community exercises

WE EXPECT:

**Equity**
Fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement for all people, while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. Improving equity involves increasing justice and fairness within the procedures and processes of institutions or systems, as well as the distribution of resources, human rights, and basic needs.

Who owns this phase?

Enpoderamiento Comunitario

- Juntar a la comunidad y transmitir información y conocimiento y herramientas para tomar acción, para lograr un objetivo.

13 years

City

We need more...
Clean Air Program

Factories cause pollution! Draw here.

Buses cause pollution too!
Clean Air Partners
Root Causes: Why does Sophia have asthma?
What Strategies for Action?

- **the cars**
  - indoor air quality - mold, rugs, landlords

- pollution by the big companies - disp. impact

- education

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**better policies!**

- Improve living standards & enforcement for landlords to ensure clean apartments that respect basic human rights and for equitable across the city

- Increase alternative routes/roads to divert traffic so there is less emissions

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**Better information**

- Decrease practices that emit hazardous particles to transition to clean energy (wind power, water) to decrease emissions

- Increase spending and investment in community capacity/education by responsible parties in order to protect the neighbors and understand how their actions will impact the community

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*Just Health Action*
YOUTH SCIENTISTS DISCOVER INDICATORS OF HEAVY METAL POLLUTION IN DUWAMISH VALLEY MOSS THROUGH A COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROJECT
Policy Change at the Port of Seattle
Port Community Action Team (PCAT)
Port of Seattle Commissioner Courtney Gregoire with PCAT
Port of Seattle Resolution 3767:
Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program
THANK YOU

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Acknowledgements