

Promoting Health Equity

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Social Determinants of Health

Health equity is achieved when everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life, no matter who we are, where we live, or how much money we make. And while we can't currently ensure that everyone will be healthy, we can change the physical conditions in which people live, learn, work and play, one community at a time. These conditions are called the Social Determinants of Health and by improving these conditions we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential and improve their quality of life.

What Does It Mean to Be a Driver of Change?

*"Upstream inequity creates
downstream disparity"*
- Dr. Iton

At our March 27th event, we invited attendees to become a "Driver of Change." What does this mean? We invited everyone to be a part of changing the narrative and transforming our communities. A community where all people have an opportunity to thrive is a huge goal, and we want you to feel empowered knowing that we are making a difference and telling our stories of change in our communities can be a powerful force for transformation. Whether your passion is affordable housing, jobs that are safe and pay fair wages, clean air, safe parks, and access to health care, your ideas matter, your efforts matter and our collective energies to be leaders matter.



These efforts require the engagement of all sectors of a community. It takes a lot of hard work. But communities are

transforming in ways that put better health within everyone's reach. Being part of the solution means we commit ourselves to building healthier communities through individual, organizational and community wide effort and engagement.

Since COVID-19

Soon after the Social Determinants of Health event on March 27, the COVID-19 pandemic hit our county hard, and our communities have been impacted in ways that we never could have imagined. We need to reevaluate and adapt to these challenging times that we are living in. The predominance of news related to ethnic and racial disparities related to COVID-19 has been ongoing, and we continue to post these news updates to the [Social Determinants of Health website](#). We encourage you to follow Dr. Tony Iton on his social media pages and stay in touch with the efforts of The California Endowment.

Please see these articles as an example of daily updates on our website. They all highlight aspects of the racial disparities and health inequalities in our country because of COVID-19.

[How Race, Class and Place Fuel a Pandemic](#)

[The Great American Divide](#)

[To defeat COVID-19, don't only treat the patient, treat the neighborhood](#)

Dr. Tony Iton



Dr. Tony Iton, Keynote Speaker, presented his inspiring talk on “Tackling the Root Causes of Health Inequity” at the Social Determinants of Health, Building Healthy Communities event on March 27th.

Building Healthy Communities event
View:

www.healthequityvc.org/events/building-healthy-communities

Keynote Presentation: Tackling the Root Causes of Health Inequity, Tony Iton, MD, JD, MPH, The California Endowment

View: bit.ly/3eUvbbV

Featured Resources

Ventura County Health Needs Assessment 2019

The goal of this Ventura County Community Health Needs Assessment Collaborative (VCCHNAC) report is to offer a meaningful understanding of the most pressing health needs as well as to guide planning efforts to address those needs. VCCHNAC believes that “health starts long before illness, in our homes, schools and jobs; that all Ventura County residents should have the opportunity to make choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their income, education or ethnic background.” Special attention has been given to the needs of vulnerable populations, unmet health needs or gaps in services, and input from the community. Findings from this report will be used to identify, develop, and target the Ventura County CHNA Collaborative initiatives to provide and connect residents with resources to improve health outcomes and quality of life in Ventura County.

View: bit.ly/2KtKx96

Office of Minority Health

The Office of Minority Health is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.

View: www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/default.aspx

Driver of Change

Kay Wilson-Bolton is a Driver of Change in Santa Paula and the first Driver of Change highlighted in our new [Social Determinants of Health website](http://www.spiritofsantapaula.org). Kay was scheduled to be one of our panelists at our Social Determinants of Health event on March 27th. We did not get to hear from Kay personally but do visit her Spirit of Santa Paula website at www.spiritofsantapaula.org to learn more about how this Driver of Change is influencing lives, advancing health equity and transforming her community. Kay Wilson-Bolton is the heart of the Spirit of Santa Paula.

“SPIRIT of Santa Paula is a non-profit public charity, 501c3, formed in 2002 by six local business people to do “good things” for the community. Little did we know finding a homeless man dead in one of our churches on Christmas Eve 2008 would launch us in a direction we never dreamed. The bottom line of what we try to do here is give them hope. My goal is to be that warm fire that people are drawn to.”

- Kay Wilson-Bolton

The Spirit of Santa Paula website broadcasts its mission with the following quote:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

- John Wesley

Thank you Kay, to you and your Spirit of Santa Paula volunteers. You are transforming communities and making a difference! Follow [Kay Wilson-Bolton on Facebook](#).

Keep in Touch

Keep in touch with us and let us know how you can be a “Driver of Change.” As a follow-up to our March event, we hope to harness our local momentum and be inspired to create change in our communities. We will continue to feature the work that you are doing in your communities throughout Ventura County.

If you haven’t done so already, check out our Social Determinants of Health website at www.healthequityvc.org



STAY CONNECTED

