

Full Membership Call Notes

Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Participants: C. Aklin, R. Ballard, L. Kettel Khan, L. Klesges, L. Liburd, K.A. McGeary, T. Orleans, S. Srinivasan, H. Walters, H. C. Yu

FHI 360/Coordinating Center: E. Arkin, H. Fricke, A. Maragh-Bass, T. Phillips, J. Podlaski, A. Samuels, A. Yaroch

Roll Call and Agenda Review

- E. Arkin welcomed call participants, reviewed the call agenda, and asked participants to share their further thoughts and ideas on health equity research opportunities since the successful July meeting.
- E. Arkin noted that the Planning Committee conducted its first call, and that others are welcomed to join.

Reflections Since the July Meeting

- T. Orleans reflected on the July meeting; how it generated many ideas for how the Collaborative can advance the health equity work already happening across the United States.
- T. Orleans recognized the many directions the Collaborative's work can take. Identifying similarities in work would allow the Collaborative to focus on commonalities and dive deeper into select health equity issues.
- T. Orleans highlighted resources available to the Collaborative, such as access to outside experts; she acknowledged the benefit of in-person meetings.
- L. Kettel Khan also reflected on the July meeting; her meeting highlights were well received by her CDC colleagues. Figuring out where the Collaborative fits into the larger field would help create and move forward a health equity agenda.
- L. Liburd suggested the Collaborative develop a shared understanding of the breadth of health equity to help identify pathways to pursue its work.
- E. Arkin recapped the key themes discussed during the July meeting. The Collaborative's priorities may differ from those of its stakeholders (e.g., affected populations, experts, and researchers); it is important to identify ways the collective work can intersect. Also important is creating a shared understanding of health equity to help generate political will.
- L. Liburd suggested the Collaborative prioritize creating evaluation criteria to assess the programs that are already underway to address health equity. Evaluation findings would help generate evidence-based strategies and add more rigorous evaluation methods to the evidence base. Creating political will is necessary for sustaining the Collaborative's work.
- K.A. McGeary said that before the Collaborative focuses on generating political will, it should work to change the narrative around health equity (i.e., not about reducing disparities, but about giving everyone the opportunity to live the healthiest life possible). Strengthening research methods is also important.

Update from the Planning Committee

- E. Arkin reviewed the next steps from the July meeting, including creating a Planning Committee. Although the Planning Committee conducted its first call, others are still welcomed to join.
- L. Kettel Khan recapped the key themes discussed during the September 15 Planning Committee call; they aligned to the priorities discussed during the July 15 meeting. These themes illustrate common interests between the groups and among the organizations.
- L. Kettel Khan highlighted the Coordinating Center. FHI 360 has experience launching and supporting successful collaboratives; the organization's expertise can support efforts to change the narrative around health equity. Healthequity.fhi360.org is a resource for the Collaborative and the health equity field. Send materials for the website to Amanda Samuels (asamuels@fhi360.org).
- T. Orleans suggested creating an advisory board of experts who can help the Collaborative craft messages that resonate with policymakers.
- L. Kettel Khan supported the idea of an advisory group. She reviewed the next steps from the Planning Committee call and reiterated the benefit of in-person meetings.
- H. Cao Yu agreed with the areas of interest discussed during the Planning Committee call, especially the idea of shifting the emphasis from measuring health disparities to addressing inequities from multiple social determinants of health.
- A. Yaroch suggested the Collaborative chose one or two areas of interest and then define concrete next steps to mobilize the group.
- R. Ballard said the Collaborative should not expand too rapidly until the current group defines its areas of interest. Insights from the July meeting research panel can help the Collaborative better understand the gaps/needs within the field. An in-person meeting is a useful way to discuss these priorities.
- L. Kettel Khan asked the group to share examples of good collaboratives or characteristics of good collaboratives with A. Samuels (asamuels@fhi360.org).
- L. Liburd noted the challenge of bringing more than two sectors together to discuss improving health equity. It will be important to document a process for multi-sectoral engagement (and eventual implementation). This priority should be added to the Collaborative's running list.

Updates from Your Organizations and Next Step

- R. Ballard suggested the group draft key definitions and that each organization identify any work that complements the Collaborative's areas of interest before meeting in person.
- H. Walters said The Kellogg Foundation is in the process of implementing a five-year strategic plan that focuses its health work on health equity and how to build alignment across their program areas. He is interested in how to build strategic partnerships.
- T. Orleans said the Coordinating Center is developing a survey/checklist to get a high-level understanding of each organization's work.
- E. Arkin closed the meeting by reviewing next steps (see below). The Planning Committee is starting to talk about mission and vision statements for the Collaborative and will develop materials to help facilitate a future in-person discussion.

Next Step Shared with the Collaborative on the Webinar

- Determine a call/meeting schedule.
- Complete the checklist to indicate your organization's priority funding areas.
- Send lessons learned and other health equity resources to FHI 360.
- Move toward developing a mission and vision for the Collaborative.