The Story of PA 17-74 (SB 126)

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**Vision**
For every Connecticut resident to obtain optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

**Mission**
To promote policies, programs, and practices that result in equitable health care access, delivery, and health outcomes for all people in Connecticut.
The HES Approach

Education
Awareness
Policy/advocacy
Partnerships
Coalitions
Planning

OUR TOP INITIATIVES

1. Community Health Workers: Support a path for integration & sustainability for CHWs in Connecticut
   - Educate policymakers on the importance of CHWs from the health equity perspective
   - Advocate for reimbursement of CHWs through Medicaid

2. Create a strategic plan for health equity in Connecticut
   - Work with stakeholders to develop a solutions-based plan to address health equity in Connecticut
   - Follow the SIM-CHW Advisory Board efforts

3. Health Equity in All Policy:
   - Develop a tool to evaluate/assess the health equity impact of legislative, policy, and budget decisions in Connecticut
   - Review existing models and adapt to Connecticut
   - Test and refine the tool
   - Educate policymakers on the value of health equity impact statements

4. Mental & Behavioral Health Access:
   - Assess mental & behavioral health access for communities of color across Connecticut
   - Engage partners to assess the gaps in access to mental and behavioral health services in CT
   - Develop policy solutions to address the gaps

WORKING WITH OTHERS TO SUPPORT

1. Health Insurance Literacy:
   - Increase health insurance literacy in the state (especially among marketplace consumers)

2. Cultural Competence:
   - Advance cultural competence training for health professionals
   - Support Connecticut’s Health Equity Act legislation for cultural competence training for dental hygienists

3. Medicaid:
   - Protect the program from cuts in eligibility, services, and access
   - Work with the Medicaid Strategic group
HES has developed and delivered 5 workshops centered around the necessity of incorporating health equity into everyday practices and policies. The workshops include:

- Health Equity – The Basics
- Social Determinants of Health
- Advocacy 101 & 102
- Asset Based Community Development
- Storytelling for Advocacy

All workshops can be modified to address the needs of the organization, community, or group of individuals requesting our training.
HES’ policy model is simple and straightforward:

1. **Identify what works**
   - Source the best policy and programmatic solutions within Connecticut as well as nationwide.
   - Conduct policy analyses and research to educate, as well as inform.
   - Engage diverse partners to identify solutions.

2. **Shape solutions for maximum impact**
   - Shape and influence policies and regulations.
   - Monitor the implementation of legislation.
   - Provide regulatory feedback.

3. **Accelerate their adoption**
   - Convene public forums.
   - Implement campaigns and other messaging.
   - Engage in media advocacy.
   - Actively participate on related coalitions and committees.
Partnerships and Coalitions

During the 2017 legislative session, HES took the lead on introducing and successfully passing our first piece of legislation centered on Community Health Workers (SB 126). This momentous achievement could not have been done without the support of our partners.

HES believes that true health equity cannot be achieved without collaboration and coalition building.
What’s Next?

• Currently examining what certification means for CT
  • Who, what, when, where, how

• Advocacy for integration, recognition, and sustainability of CHWs
  • Regardless of payment system (FFS or otherwise)
  • Medicaid (beyond SIM)

• Serving as a collaborator and friend for the CT Association of CHWs
Questions?