



Moving *Upstream* Together: Strategies to Address Social Determinants of Health

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield Minnesota Foundation

November 13, 2006

- Rough Cut Footage -

**Hidden Epidemic:
Is Inequality Making Us Sick**

Overview

- **Hidden Epidemic**
- **About the Joint Center**
- **Joint Center Strategies**
- **Moving Towards a National Framework**

About the Joint Center

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

- Established in 1970
- Research and public policy organization
- Designed to provide training and support to new Black elected officials
- Currently recognized as one of the nation's premier African American think tanks concerning issues of minority populations

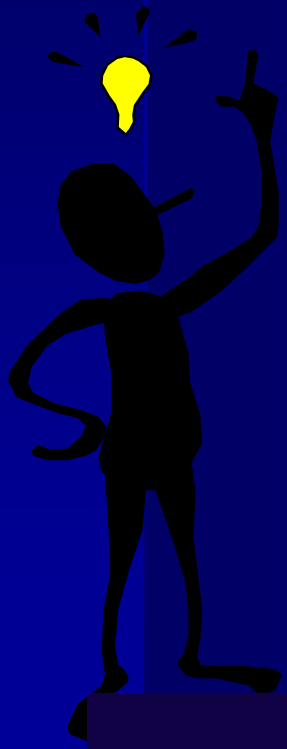
About the Joint Center

■ Health Policy Institute

- Director – Dr. Gail Christopher
- Established – 2002 with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- One of the Joint Center's fastest growing institutes

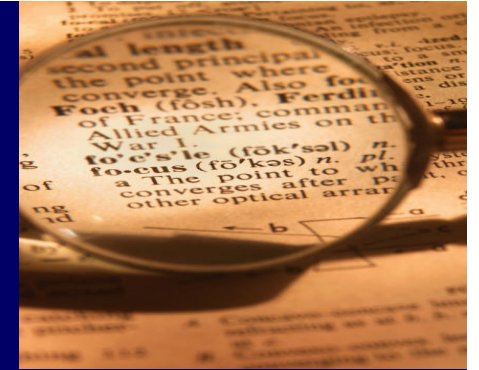
Mission Statement

To build a “Fair Health”
movement that gives people of
color the inalienable right to
access and opportunity for
healthy lives.



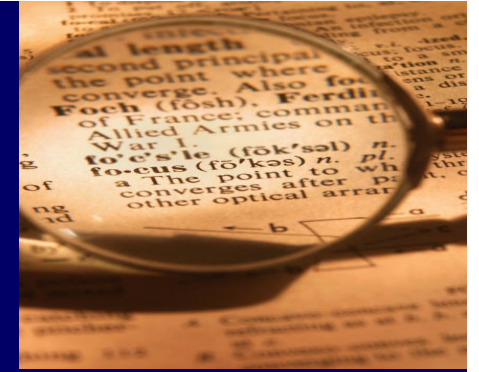
Health Policy Institute

Focus Areas



- **Economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants**
- **Prevention, wellness and health promotion as well as effective management of chronic illness**
- **Infant mortality and maternal and child health**

Focus Areas



- **Healthy behaviors among children and youth**
- **Mental health and violence**
- **Healthcare access and quality**
- **Healthy aging and quality of life for seniors**

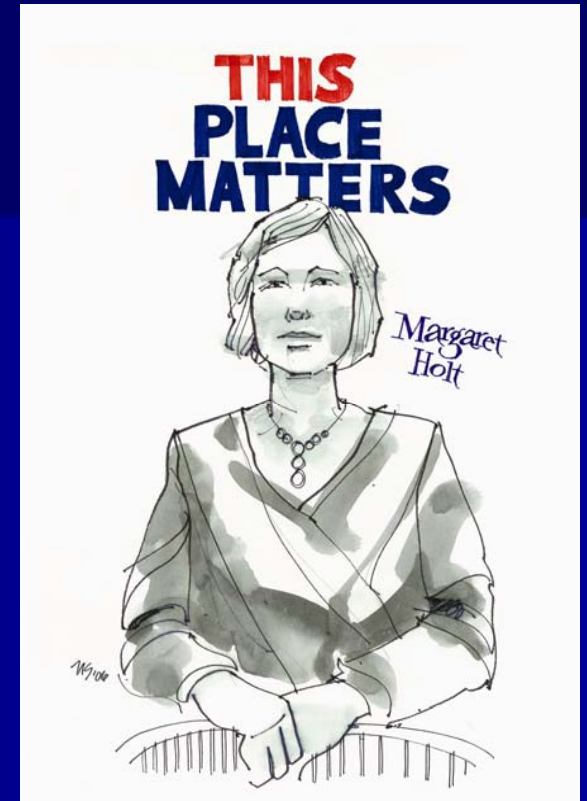
Strategies to Improve Health: Joint Center Commissions

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Place Matters Initiative

Place Matters – Designed to assist communities of color in identifying short- and long-term policy objectives and related activities



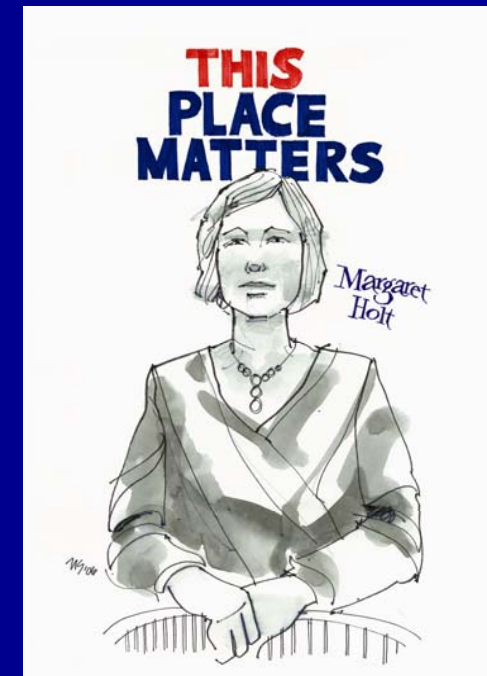
- Goal: Redress the *upstream* social conditions associated with health inequities, therefore reducing health disparities

Place Matters Initiative



Place Matters Initiative

- **Upstream Focus Areas**
 - **Increased Political Representation**
 - **Neighborhood Disinvestment**
 - **Environmental Hazards**



Infant Mortality Commission: *Courage to Love*

- **The Courage to Love:** To investigate and recommend care, research, and public policy reforms to reduce African American infant mortality rates
- **Co-chairs:** Dr. Ronald David
UCLA, School of Public Affairs
- **Final report due:** *February 2007*

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Dellums Commission

- **Dellums Commission** – To investigate and recommend local, state and Federal policy and programs to promote stronger communities and expand healthier life paths of young men of color
- **Co-Chair: Mayor-elect Ronald Dellums**
- **Final Report and Rollout: *November 15, 2006***



Dellums Commission

■ Recommendations

- Workforce and Economic Development
- Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- Higher Education
- Media

■ Corresponding Multi-sector Commitments

- Labor Sector – AFL-CIO
- Higher Education



Moving Toward A National Framework

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Moving Upstream

	Protective Factors	Risk Factors
Economic	Living-wage jobs Home Ownership Commercial presence	Low-wage jobs/Unsafe conditions Disinvestment
Social	Common cultural values Social capital / social supports Improving neighborhoods Civic Engagement	Racism/ language barriers Lack of support and models “Bad” neighborhoods Hampered Development

Moving Upstream

	Protective Factors	Risk Factors
Physical	<p>Policies/Practices for clean, healthy environments</p> <p>Affordable, high quality housing, recreation & safe workplaces</p> <p>Police/Fire protection</p>	<p>Exposure to toxics and pollution</p> <p>Exposures to led paint, pest infestation, etc.</p> <p>Violence that breeds fear & isolation</p>
Services	<p>Accessible, culturally sensitive health care</p> <p>Quality support services</p>	<p>Lack of access; poor quality health care</p> <p>Unavailable services; Undependable/poor quality</p>

Additional National Activity

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Place-based focus to strengthen communities
- McArthur Network
 - “Solid Facts” for the United States
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 - Commission to study social determinants of health disparities in the United States

For more information, please visit:
www.jointcenter.org

Thank you.