



Project Overview

The Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center (TCC) for Health Disparities Research is an institution-wide, health equity-focused health policy research center at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Led by Dr. David Satcher, Director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI), TCC exists as a comprehensive and meaningful approach to the development, advancement, and implementation of health policy that harnesses the power of collaboration to bolster innovation, cost reduction, and health equity. The ultimate goal of the TCC is to emerge as the preeminent, national health policy center and “collaborator of choice” in leading-edge health policy research focused on health equity. TCC is also poised to train the next generation of leaders in health policy research and expand the diversity of the health policy workforce. TCC and its partners across HHS Region IV will significantly impact the health outcomes of participating communities through policy development and implementation.

Specific Aims

The TCC aims to: 1) Establish a transparent and participatory governance model that shares technology and resources in order to collaboratively design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate innovative transdisciplinary programs of health policy research; 2) develop and refine, with the input and active engagement of TCC collaborative partners, meritorious research projects in four health policy areas; and 3) implement and disseminate a regional model for health policy research that will serve as a national resource for adaptable policies on health equity.

The TCC strategic approach to addressing health disparities:



TCC addresses health disparities in HHS Region 4 (Southeast U.S.A)

TCC supports research using a multidisciplinary core infrastructure and shared resources:





Project #1: Collaborative Action For Child Equity (CACE) (PI: Cassandra Bolar, PhD)

The mission of CACE is to reduce disparities in health, wellbeing and school readiness for every child age 0-5 years, in order to advance health equity. To that end, TCC engages 13 partner states across HHS Region IV and the CDC REHDAI network to: 1) evaluate the extent to which a culturally-centered, peer-mediated parenting leadership program, Smart & Secure Children (SSC) impacts healthy child development; and 2) evaluate how state and local policies ensure that every child receives quality parenting and early child development through supportive programs and public service delivery systems with community participation in decision-making. Further, CACE strives to ensure that parents are actively engaged in informing and influencing early childhood policy formation and program implementation.



Project #2: Project Thrive (PI: Kisha Holden, PhD, MSCR)

This research study seeks to add to the existing, yet limited body of literature concerning integrated healthcare models to help address depression and selected co-occurring chronic health conditions. THRIVE is strategically positioned to design, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of a culturally centered integrated healthcare model among underserved ethnically and culturally diverse adults in primary care settings. Additionally, THRIVE will explore Medicaid data to: 1) determine where Medicaid enrollees receive treatment for depression; and 2) determine if racial health disparities in access and treatment of depression exist for Medicaid enrollees in Region IV.



Project #3: Leveraging Health Information Technology (HIT) Policy To Eliminate Health Disparities (PIs: Dominic Mack, MD, MBA; Priscilla Pemu, MD)

This research study will use shared learning to enhance academic/community partnerships by leveraging Health Information Technology (HIT) to develop, and inform public policies consistent with the health equity agenda of the Affordable Care Act. The TCC HIT Policy investigators conduct policy research in five priority areas: electronic health record (EHR) adoption; demographic data collection; patient engagement; telemedicine; and health information exchange. In addition, investigators will collaborate with an accountable-care organization network to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a patient-centered, HIT-driven chronic disease management and care coordination intervention and to improve clinical outcomes of diabetes among high risk patients. Website: www.healthpolicymatters.org & www.health360x.com

The Satcher Health Leadership Institute



Project #4: Health Policy Leadership Needs & Impact

(PIs: Carey Roth Bayer, EdD; Harry Heiman, MD, MPH)

This study proposes to understand, share, and implement effective strategies and techniques for training leaders, from a cross section of the community with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and positions, in health policy. In order to develop, implement, and change health policy to address disparities in health, leaders need to be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and experiences. Currently, health policy leadership training opportunities focused on the elimination of health disparities are limited and the impact of such training programs is unknown. This project is designed to help gain a greater understanding of the role health policy leadership programs play in the quest to eliminate health disparities.

TCC Pilot Project Program: The goal of the pilot project program is to sustain the active participation of current TCC partners, and identify additional partners to expand the reach and scope of TCC's health policy research portfolio. Each year TCC employs a competitive request for applications (RFA) process to select a cohort of academic and community-based investigators for two grantee award mechanisms; Pilot Project Awards, and Developmental Seed Awards. The pilot project program will create regional partners that model best practices in health policy research innovation. For more information visit www.msmtcc.org/pilot

Healthy Policy To Practice Forum Series: On a quarterly basis, TCC convenes a multi-sector audience of researchers, practitioners, clinicians, and community stakeholders to engage in thoughtful dialogue on relevant health policy issues impacting the health of historically underserved and under-resourced populations in the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TCC: Jammie Hopkins, DrPH, Project Director, 404.756.8923, email: jhopkins@msm.edu

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