

Intro (00:00):

Welcome to Partners for Advancing Health Equity, a podcast bringing together people working on the forefront of addressing issues of health justice. Here we create a space for in-depth conversations about what it will take to create the conditions that allow all people to live their healthiest life possible.

Caryn Bell (00:28):

Welcome to the Partners for Advancing Health Equity podcast. I'm your host, Caryn Bell, and I'm thrilled to have you join us for this introduction to Policy and civic engagement and their critical intersection with health equity. This episode is part of our quarterly learning journey, a dynamic series designed to equip individuals and organizations with comprehensive insights and tools to drive meaningful progress and health equity. Each quarter we focus on a specific topic offering a series of learning engagements curated to enhance knowledge and skills.

Through this, we explore effective strategies, share success stories, and identify opportunities for collaboration. By focusing on a one-quarterly topic and including several other learnings, participants can gain practical knowledge and become activated for action. Today's episode begins our understanding of the complex ways in which politics shape the health of our communities. We will uplift voices from our past learnings that speak to how policy and civic engagement affect the lives of everyday people.

(01:45):

Whether you're an advocate, a policymaker, or simply someone passionate about creating a equitable world, this podcast is for you. Our objectives here are simple but powerful to engage, to inform and to inspire. We aim to create a space where you can learn from thought leaders, discover new perspectives, and understand how you can contribute to shaping a healthier, more equitable future for all. To kick off today's episode on policy and civic engagement to advance health equity, I want to share a thought-provoking quote from a past webinar with Philip Alberti, a leader in this space. He said; "All policy is health policy. It all contributes to health or detracts from health." This powerful statement reminds us that every decision made in the political arena, whether it's about housing, education, the environments, or even tax policy, has the potential to impact health. Dr. Alberti elaborates on his method of using evidence to equip individuals with the necessary information for making informed decisions.

Philip Alberti (03:01):

One of the ways that I, as a scientist in the center, try to contribute to this conversation is to think about the evidence that individuals, that politicians would need to make choices, to make votes, cast votes that would actually create that health opportunity.

Caryn Bell (03:16):

We also heard from Ella Green-Moton of the American Public Health Association, she emphasized the significance of fostering opportunities for diverse voices to be heard and acknowledged. When sharing evidence to inform policy,

Ella Green-Moton (03:35):

We still have to reach back and pull others in and make sure that we're making space for those folks and understanding that their struggle might not be our struggle and we have to listen and understand how to deal with their struggles as well.

Caryn Bell (03:52):

To hear more of these conversations, check out the Politics of Health Equity and the Partners for Advancing Health Equity Resource Library where you can find the webinar video and synthesis through other partners' learnings, we explore how advocacy and activism are keys to sculpting, politics and policy. Denise Hyater-Lindenmuth emphasizes the importance of involving grassroots partners to bring lived experiences to the forefront, making issues more tangible and relatable.

Denise Hyater-Lindenmuth (04:26):

If there is a partner, a grassroots partner that you can bring to the table to help articulate the issue, to help bring life, to help bring a lived experience, that's key. Lived experiences I think are the best way to articulate an issue because it makes real.

Caryn Bell (04:47):

Building on this idea, Adam C. Alexander highlights the reciprocal nature of partnerships, reminding us that to gain the commitment of others, we must also invest our time and effort in understanding and meeting their expectations.

Adam C. Alexander (05:04):

If you want people to invest time in what you're passionate about, whatever issue, you have to invest time in them as well. I think often we go in with a lot of expectations of our partners, but they have expectations of us as well.

Caryn Bell (05:17):

In today's context, it is crucial to acknowledge the historical and systemic roots of the inequities we encounter now and we'll continue to face in the future if we don't make drastic changes. To enhance health equity through policy initiatives. Sinsi Hernandez Cancio, a leader in health equity policy and advocacy elaborates here.

Sinsi Hernandez Cancio (05:40):

We need to understand that our healthcare system, and in fact, our society was designed for the purpose, that it's perfectly designed for the outcomes that it has, and that means that we have to understand that this is really not new. What we are seeing is a continuation of 500 years of colonization, of enslavement, of the kind of society that was built on the premise that not every human is actually human.

Caryn Bell (06:13):

To learn more about actionable steps on overcoming threats to health equity, check out our webinar on this topic and our blog articles on climate change, predictive technologies, health insurance, access and adverse childhood experiences in the Partners Resource Library. Finally, we'll conclude with the power of art as activism. Art toward a equitable future, whether literature, visual art, film, poetry, or other media can provide visions of futures we can aspire to.

(06:48):

Joy Williams speaks to the importance of art and its potential to be a driving force for creating change. She says; "When we talk about art being able to inspire change for health equity, humans run systems, and when art or an experience and creativity can change us as humans,

and we as humans are driving these systems, we then get the opportunity change, whether it is our personal health or community health or whatever, power lies within our hands."

(07:20):

To learn more about actionable steps on art and health equity, see the arts as activism for Health Equity Action webinar video, and Synthesis in the Partners for Advancing Health Equity Library.

(07:34):

In this episode, we only began to explore the intricate dynamics of policy and civic engagement to advance health equity, featuring insights from various leaders and community advocates actively working in the field.

(07:48):

For a deeper exploration of the topics covered, as well as the insights and events mentioned, you can find links to ghost resources in the episode overview on podcast platforms. And as always, we'd love to hear from you, so leave a comment and be sure to follow us so you don't miss the next episode. Thanks for listening.

Outro (08:10):

Thank you for joining us for this episode of Partners for Advancing Health Equity. Be sure to visit our website and become a member of our collaborative at [partners for health equity.org](https://partnersforhealthequity.org). That's partners the number four health equity.org. Follow us on your favorite social media platforms and be sure to subscribe wherever you enjoy your podcasts. Partners for Advancing Health Equity is led by Tulane University. Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is part of the Tulane Health Equity Institute and is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Until next time.