



2023 CMS HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

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September 2023



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INTRODUCTION

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted its inaugural Health Equity Conference on June 7 – 8, 2023. The conference was free for attendees and featured grand plenary sessions, breakout sessions, a poster hall, and a federal partner showcase. It brought together leaders in health equity from federal agencies, health provider organizations, academia, health plans, and community-based organizations. Participants were able to attend the conference in person at Howard University in Washington, D.C., participate online over Zoom, or watch the livestream on HHS Live.

Throughout the conference, CMS’s leadership discussed recent developments and updates on CMS programs, research on health equity, promising practices and innovative solutions, and community engagement efforts.

The conference focused on the five priorities for reducing disparities in health from the [CMS Framework for Health Equity 2022-2032](#):



Priority 1: Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data



Priority 2: Assess Causes of Disparities Within CMS Programs and Address Inequities in Policies and Operations to Close Gaps



Priority 3: Build Capacity of Health Care Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health and Health Care Disparities



Priority 4: Advance Language Access, Health Literacy, and the Provision of Culturally Tailored Services



Priority 5: Increase All Forms of Accessibility to Health Care Services and Coverage

Based on these priorities and the framework, attendees shared research, ideas, and initiatives that are measurably reducing disparities in CMS programs and increasing equity for all. Throughout this report, all breakout sessions listed are labeled with the specific priority area or areas they address.

CMS HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS



506
IN-PERSON
ATTENDEES



150
SPEAKERS
& MODERATORS



5,869
VIRTUAL ATTENDEES
VIA ZOOM EVENTS
& HHS LIVE



23
BREAKOUT
SESSIONS

ATTENDEE AFFILIATION

- 29%** HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL
- 18%** NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
- 14%** FEDERAL CONTRACTOR
- 12%** NON-CMS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
- 09%** INSURANCE PROVIDER
- 08%** CMS EMPLOYEE
- 05%** RESEARCHER
- 03%** COMMUNITY GROUP EMPLOYEE
- 01%** STUDENT



8 FEDERAL
AGENCY
EXHIBITORS



32
POSTERS



46
PROPOSALS

THEMES AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

BY PRIORITY AREA

The following section of this report presents key takeaways from the conference. Detailed information on the plenary sessions, breakout sessions, poster hall, and federal partner showcase can be found in the [Appendix](#).



Priority 1: Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data

Ten sessions focused on Priority 1 of the CMS Framework for Health Equity. Presenters explored the importance of different data collection methods and highlighted the crucial role of social determinants of health (SDOH) data in addressing health disparities. Their presentations encouraged individuals to embed proper data collection into their own work, driving attendees to expand their data tracking to include important factors like SDOH and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data.

In their remarks, speakers repeatedly emphasized the importance of using data to improve access to care and increase health equity across different sectors. Expanding access to quality, affordable health coverage and care is a key pillar of the [CMS Strategic Plan](#). CMS is working to advance this pillar through data-driven initiatives like the [Mapping Medicare Disparities \(MMD\) Tool](#), an interactive map used to identify areas of disparities between subgroups of Medicare enrollees (e.g., racial and ethnic groups) in health outcomes, utilization, and spending. The tool serves as a starting point for learning which populations may need additional support in accessing care. As conference sessions highlighted the importance of SDOH and SOGI data, CMS has an opportunity to expand the MMD Tool to include these data, while conference attendees can explore the tool to assist their own data reporting and analysis across their respective sectors.

Key Takeaway: Proper data collection and analysis can improve access to care and increase health equity across different sectors, and expanding data tracking to include SDOH and SOGI data can help address health disparities.

CMS Resource to Get Started: [Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool](#)

THEMES AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

BY PRIORITY AREA



Priority 2: Assess Causes of Disparities Within CMS Programs and Address Inequities in Policies and Operations to Close Gaps

Fourteen sessions emphasized Priority 2 of the CMS Framework for Health Equity. These sessions shared the perspectives of several CMS offices and centers, including: the Office of the Administrator, Office of Minority Health, CMS Innovation Center, Center for Medicare, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, and Federal Coordinated Health Care Office.

During their presentations, speakers discussed ongoing CMS efforts to reduce disparities in areas like maternal health, oral health, hospital readmission, data models, SDOH, diabetes prevention and care, and Tribal health. Of note, CMS highlighted its new diabetes strategy. Attendees at this session were driven to leverage currently available services, like diabetes screening and the [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program](#), to begin closing gaps in diabetes care. Also focused on reducing disparities, the CMS Maternal Health Strategy Panel on June 7 featured maternal health leaders from across CMS and highlighted programs already in place at CMS to advance maternal health. For example, the [Maternity Care Action Plan](#) strives to expand access and quality to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, particularly in Black mothers. Additionally, CMS's list of [Health Plans Committed to Using the Birthing-Friendly Designation](#) shows which health plans have committed to displaying a birthing-friendly icon in their hospital directories to indicate the hospital's commitment to improving maternal health equity.

In these sessions and others at the conference, attendees learned how to identify and address different causes of disparities in CMS programs and inequities in policies. Conference attendees can use the CMS tools and programs discussed to reduce disparities in their communities, and CMS has the opportunity expand these suites of resources to similarly address other inequities.

Key Takeaway: CMS provides tools conference attendees can use to reduce disparities in areas like maternal health, oral health, hospital readmission, data models, SDOH, diabetes prevention and care, and Tribal health.

CMS Resources to Get Started:

- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program](#)
- [Maternity Care Action Plan](#)
- [Health Plans Committed to Using the Birthing-Friendly Designation](#)

THEMES AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

BY PRIORITY AREA



Priority 3: Build Capacity of Health Care Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health and Health Care Disparities

Eleven sessions centered on Priority 3 of the CMS Framework for Health Equity. Presenters during these sessions described the components necessary for fostering diverse and inclusive health care environments in order to ultimately reduce disparities. Many emphasized that health care organizations are the direct link to patients, and their presentations encouraged attendees to take steps to build trust between patients and providers; to train their teams to engage diverse communities; and to use technology, including AI, to enhance health care accessibility.

Community collaboration was a common theme in these sessions, and CMS is actively working to build the capacity of health care organizations to reduce health care disparities through its partnership initiatives like the [Health Equity Technical Assistance Program](#). This program provides support to help health care organizations take action against health disparities. Offerings include personalized coaching and resources, guidance on data collection and analysis, assistance in [developing a language access plan](#) and [disparities impact statement](#), and resources on [culturally and linguistically tailored care and communication](#). Conference attendees have the opportunity to take their knowledge from these sessions and collaborate with CMS through the Health Equity TA Program to determine how to increase the ability of their organizations to reduce disparities.

Key Takeaway: As the direct link to patients, health care organizations can collaborate with CMS and communities to build trust between patients and providers, engage diverse communities, and use technology to enhance health care accessibility.

CMS Resource to Get Started: [Health Equity Technical Assistance Program](#)

THEMES AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

BY PRIORITY AREA



Priority 4: Advance Language Access, Health Literacy, and the Provision of Culturally Tailored Services

Five sessions highlighted Priority 4 of the CMS Framework for Health Equity. In these sessions, participants learned why developing a language access plan is important, how to collect language data, and how equitable communication can improve accessibility. Presenters at the conference highlighted the role community partnerships play in meeting the unique needs of individuals from various cultures, along with the benefits of incorporating culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) into health care.

Themes across these sessions included advancing equity and expanding access, which are key pillars for the CMS Administrator. As mentioned above, CMS is expanding access through programs like the [Health Equity Technical Assistance Program](#), which provides support to health care organizations through assistance in developing a language access plan and resources on culturally and linguistically tailored services. In addition, sessions relating to Priority 4 emphasized the importance of community partnerships, and there is an opportunity to address this within the [Coverage to Care \(C2C\)](#) initiative at CMS. C2C is a program that helps consumers understand their health coverage and connect to the primary care and preventive services that are right for them. A major component of C2C involves leveraging partnerships to bring the most pertinent information directly to communities who need it most, and to deliver this information in a way that resonates with each population served by offering resources in different languages and formats. CMS has begun expanding its community partnerships through the C2C Community Connections Tour, and there are further opportunities to disseminate the program to additional communities across the country. Additionally, conference attendees may explore opportunities to share C2C resources with health care providers in their communities to advance language access and health literacy for those they serve.

Key Takeaway: Community partnerships can help organizations meet the unique needs of individuals from various cultures through collaboration to develop language access plans, collect language data, and improve equitable communication.

CMS Resources to Get Started:

- [Coverage to Care](#)
- [A Practical Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards](#)

THEMES AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

BY PRIORITY AREA



Priority 5: Increase All Forms of Accessibility to Health Care Services and Coverage

Five sessions underscored Priority 5 of the CMS Framework for Health Equity. During these sessions, presenters spoke to the importance of expanding accessibility in all aspects of health care, addressing factors like SDOH, culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS), and evolving technology. One common theme among presentations emphasized the importance of diversity, representation, and communication to improve accessibility.

In line with this theme, CMS works to help its partners increase accessibility within their communities through a variety of resources. For example, the CMS Office of Minority Health offers several tools conference attendees can use to address accessibility in their organizations, including the [Improving Access to Care for People with Disabilities](#) webpage and [Getting the Care You Need: A Guide for People with Disabilities](#). Other accessibility-related CMS resources include trainings on the Medicare Learning Network, such as [Modernizing Health Care to Improve Physical Accessibility](#). Additionally, [A Practical Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards](#) addresses the CLAS standards highlighted in the conference presentations by outlining these standards and providing organizations with practical tools for implementing them to improve accessibility and equity. As highlighted by conference sessions, CMS has an opportunity to expand its accessibility-related offerings to include more information centered on SDOH and evolving technology, and attendees can use the CMS resources and trainings available to increase all forms of health care accessibility in their organizations.

Key Takeaway: Promoting accessibility in health care includes addressing factors like SDOH, CLAS, and evolving technology, along with expanding diversity, representation, and communication.

CMS Resources to Get Started:

- [Improving Access to Care for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Getting the Care You Need: A Guide for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Modernizing Health Care to Improve Physical Accessibility](#)
- [A Practical Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards](#)

CONCLUSION

“Attending this conference reinforced my commitment to being an #agentofchange.”

— Conference attendee via LinkedIn

HEALTH
EQUITY
CONFERENCE



The inaugural [CMS Health Equity Conference](#) attracted more than 500 people in-person at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and more than 5,000 people virtually via Zoom Events and HHS Live. Attendees convened to learn about health equity from a variety of different speakers from government, private sector, academia, community organizations, and more as they highlighted the five priority areas of the CMS Framework for Health Equity 2022-2032.

The 2023 CMS Health Equity Conference received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with attendees indicating it energized them and renewed their motivation for action and change to improve health equity. As the plenary speakers reminded attendees, the health equity space is at a critical inflection point, and we must take advantage of this historic moment. In moving toward a more equitable future in health care for all Americans, CMS looks forward to continuing to work with our stakeholders to pave the path forward using the Framework for Health Equity to help guide the way.

We encourage attendees to carry the lessons, data, and practices from the conference into their work to help CMS drive the next decade of health equity.

APPENDIX

PLENARY SESSIONS



Day 1 Opening Remarks & History of Health Equity

To kick off the inaugural CMS Health Equity Conference on June 7, Dr. LaShawn McIver, the director of the CMS Office of Minority Health, welcomed attendees and introduced speakers including CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, ADM Rachel Levine, Dr. Andrea Hayes Dixon, Benjamin Smith, and Mayor Stephen Benjamin.



OMH Director's Panel

At this panel, directors of various Offices of Minority Health from across the Department of Health and Human Services shared health equity initiatives across their respective agencies. The conversation included Dr. LaShawn McIver of CMS, Roslyn Moore of HHS, Christine Ramey of HRSA, Tenly Pau Biggs of SAMHSA, RDML Richardae Araujo of FDA, and Kisha Coa of AHRQ.



CMS Maternal Health Strategy

CMS OMH's Acting Deputy Director, Pamela Gentry, introduced the CMS Maternal Health Strategy panel. Dr. Dora Hughes, Jean-Moody Williams, Dr. Aditi Mallick, and Tequila Terry represented three CMS offices and discussed efforts on CMS' coordinated maternal care strategy.

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CMS Health Equity Conference Day 1 Closing Remarks

Dr. LaShawn McIver's closing remarks on the first day of the CMS Health Equity Conference recapped presentations from CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, ADM Rachel Levine, Dr. Andrea Hayes Dixon, Benjamin Smith, and Mayor Stephen Benjamin.



Day 2 Opening Remarks, CMS Introductions, and Future of Health Equity

Pamela Gentry and Dr. LaShawn McIver started the second day of the CMS Health Equity Conference by introducing the Future of Health Equity plenary session speakers including Jelani Williams, Dr. Daniel Dawes, and Dr. Brian Smedley. Additionally, Dr. Dora Hughes, Dr. Douglas Jacobs, Jean Moody-Williams, Dr. Aditi Mallick, and Jeff Wu represented CMS leadership and discussed health equity in their respective offices.



CMS Health Equity Conference Day 2 Closing Remarks

At the end of the two-day conference, Dr. LaShawn McIver thanked the attendees and speakers for joining CMS in its first ever Health Equity Conference.

APPENDIX

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

An Introduction to the Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index: Priority Area 1

Jasmine Lusane (Public Health Analyst, Division of Policy and Data; HHS Office of Minority Health) and David Rickless (Lead Technologist, Booz Allen Hamilton) presented on *the Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index (Minority Health SVI), an extension of the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (CDC SVI)*. Building upon the CDC SVI, the Minority Health SVI adds two new themes: Health Care Infrastructure and Access, and Medical Vulnerability.

Inclusive Healthcare: Re-imagining Provider Networks, Addressing Disparities, and Empowering the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Workforce by Advancing Equity in Underserved Communities: Priority Area 1, 3

Art Jones, MD (Clinical Advisor, Wellness West) and Lillian Davis (Senior Program Manager, Wellness West) presented on *A West Side Story: Re-imagining the Provider Network and Healthcare Workforce Aimed at Reducing Social Drivers of Health*. Lucia Flores (Chicago Director, Partners in Health US) and Angie Grover (Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, Metopio) presented on *Addressing Disparities and Empowering FQHC Workforce with Data*. Kate Paris (Vice President, Policy & Advocacy; UnitedHealthcare Community & State) and Amanda Pears Kelly (Executive Director, Association of Clinicians for the Underserved), presented on *Improving Equity in the Workforce by Serving the Underserved*. Moderator: Vacheria Keys (Director of Policy & Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Community Health Centers).



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Inclusive Insights: Illuminating Data, Bridging Disparities, and Advancing LGBTQIA+ Health through Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) Data: Priority Area 1

Madelene Zale (Health Equity Program Manager, ChristianaCare) and Alex Waad (Health Equity Program Manager, ChristianaCare) presented on *Enhancing the Collection of SOGI Data to Improve Health Status of LGBTQIA+ Populations*. Dr. Jennifer T. May (National Clinicians Scholar and Postdoc Fellow, Duke University) and Dr. Michael Cary, Jr. (Associate Professor, Duke University) presented on *A Call to Action to Improve the Completeness of Older Adult Sexual and Gender Minority Data in Electronic Health Records*. Meghana Chandra (Research Scientist, NORC at the University of Chicago) and Mollie Hertel (Senior Research Scientist, NORC at the University of Chicago) presented on *Kidney Disease Disparities Among Older LGBT+ Adults on the BRFSS Survey: Implications for Health Equity*. Moderator: Meghana Chandra and Mollie Hertel.

Oral Health Disparities Through the Lifespan: Challenges and Opportunities: Priority Area 2

Dr. Natalia Chalmers (Chief Dental Officer, CMS Office of the Administrator) presented on *Oral Health Services Utilization Before Birth in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program*. Dr. Alex Sheen (Fellow, CMS Office of the Administrator) presented on *The Impact of the COVID-10 Pandemic on Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Dental Rehabilitation Under General Anesthesia*. Dr. Carla Shoff (Senior Advisor to the Chief Dental Officer, CMS Office of the Administrator) presented on *Rural-Urban Difference in Dental Opioid Prescribing Among Adolescent/Young Adult and Adult Medicaid Beneficiaries*. Moderator: Dr. Shondelle Wilson-Frederick (Chief Engagement Officer; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute).

Advancing Health Equity at the CMS Innovation Center: Priority Area 1, 2, 3

Laura McWright (Deputy Director, Seamless Care Models Group; CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation) presented on *How to ACO REACH and Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Models Promote Equity*. Noemi Rudolph (Group Director, Research & Rapid Cycle Evaluation; CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation) presented on *Evaluating Model Impact on Health Equity*. Tequila Terry (Director, State & Population Health Group; CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation) presented on *Screening and Addressing Social Needs: The Path Forward*. Kate Davidson (Director, Learning and Diffusion Group; CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation) presented on *Increasing Safety Net Participation in Accountable Care*. Nora Fleming (Senior Advisor, CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation) presented on *Health Equity Data Reporting*. Dr. Sarah Fogler (Acting Director, Patient Care Models Group; CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation) presented on *Investing in Primary Care to Advance Equity*. Dr. Susannah Bernheim, MD, MHS (Chief Quality Officer/Senior Advisor, CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation), presented on *Using Quality Measurement to Advance Health Equity*. Moderator: Dr. Dora Hughes (Chief Medical Officer, CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation).

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The Power of Data: Revolutionizing Health Care Outcomes through Collection and Exchange: Priority Area 1

Dr. Albert Taylor, II (Medical Informatics Officer, HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology) presented on *United States Core Data for Interoperability: Advancing Interoperable Use and Alignment of Health Equity Data*. Lauren Riplinger (Chief Public Policy and Impact Officer, American Health Information Management Association) presented on *Social Determinants of Health Data: Survey Results on the Collection, Integration, and Use*. LCDR Réna McClain, PharmD (Lieutenant Commander USPHS, Senior Health Insurance Specialist; CMS Office of Burden Reduction and Health Informatics) and Samantha Richardson (Director, Governance and Impact Analysis Group; CMS Office of Burden Reduction & Health Informatics) presented on *Health Equity Insights from OBRHI Stakeholder Engagement Initiatives*. Moderator: Akin Demehin (Senior Director, Quality and Patient Safety Policy; American Hospital Association).

Center for Medicare Health Equity Actions: Priority Area 2

Dr. Douglas Jacobs (Chief Transformation Officer, CMS Center for Medicare) and Molly Turco (Senior Advisor, CMS Center for Medicare) presented on *leveraging Medicare to advance health equity through the collection, reporting, and analysis of standardized data and using that data to address inequities in policies and help close gaps*. Moderator: Dr. Douglas Jacobs.



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

From Crisis to Equity: Addressing COVID-19's Impact on Health Disparities and Building Equitable Access to Care During Medicaid Unwinding: Priority Area 2, 3

Dr. Jess Maksut (Technical Director, CMS Office of Minority Health) presented on *Disparities in Hospital Readmissions Among Individuals with Medicare Discharged to Skilled Nursing Facilities*. Charlene Phelps (Program Manager, Trenton Health Team) and Jamila McLean (Senior Healthcare Policy Manager, Benefits Data Trust) presented on *Better Together: Working Cross-sector to Prepare for the Medicaid Unwinding*. Kelly Kikuchi (Executive Director, Financial Counseling & Financial Assistance; Providence) and Haley Maier (Director, Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives, Population Health; Providence) presented on *Increasing Equitable Access to Health Care Coverage and Services in Preparation for Medicaid Unwinding*. Moderator: Alexa McKinley (Regulatory Affairs Manager, National Rural Health Association).

Close the Health Care Gap by Unlocking the Power of Data to Advance Collection and Analysis: Priority Area 1

Dr. Lauren Amos (Deputy Area Director, State and Local Human Services; Mathematica) and Dr. Brittany McGill (Senior Social Science Analyst, HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation) presented on *Advancing Equity in Data Collection and Analysis*. Lisa Sloane (CEO, More Inclusive Healthcare) and Adrienne Gerlach (Vice President, Quality and Safety; South Shore Health) presented on *Practical Approaches to Increase Organizational Capacity to Collect Standardized Demographic Data within Complex Healthcare Environments*. Andrea Moore (Health Equity Specialist, Quality Insights) and Dr. Amber Paulus (Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University) presented on *Unlocking the Power of Data: A Comprehensive Approach to Improving Health Literacy in the Dialysis Practice Setting*. Dr. Alena Baquet-Simpson (Executive Medical Director, Aetna/CVS Health) and Shannon MacKenzie (Lead Director, Transformation PMO; Aetna/CVS Health) presented on *Closing the Care Gap: A Multifaceted Approach for Diverse Medicare Advantage (MA) Populations*. Moderator: Vacheria Keys (Director of Policy & Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Community Health Centers).

Health Equity in Diabetes Prevention and Care: Priority Area 2, 3

Dr. William Mayer (Expert Consultant, CMS Fellow, Health Insurance Specialist; CMS Federal Coordinated Health Care Office) and Dr. LaShawn McIver (Director, CMS Office of Minority Health) presented on *CMS Diabetes Strategy Development*. Tracy Carver (Senior Director, Community Health; Comagine Health) and Ana Matiella (Chief Storyteller, Matiella Health Communications) presented on *A Culturally Tailored Approach to Support and Train Promoters and Community Health Workers to Engage and Enroll Hispanic and Latino Individuals in the National Diabetes Prevention Program*. Kristine Rochotte (Manager, Ambulatory Care Coordination; Northwestern Medicine) and Alesia O'Daniel (Manager, Outreach; Northwestern Medicine) presented on *Advancing Healthy Outcomes through Reduced Disparities in Diabetes Care*. Moderator: Dr. William Mayer.

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Race and Ethnicity Data Imputation in Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP: Priority Area 1

Dr. Nancy Chiles Shaffer (Technical Director, CMS Office of Minority Health) presented on *Medicare Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (MBISG)*. Meagan Khau (Director, Data Analytics & Research Group; CMS Office of Minority Health) and Kimberly Proctor, PhD (Chief Data Officer, Data and Systems Group; CMS Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services) presented on *Race and Ethnicity Data Imputation in Medicaid and CHIP*.

Promoting Health Literacy and Advancing Language Access within Marketplace: Priority Area 2, 4

Leigha Basini (Director, Division of Benefit & Marketplace Analysis & Policy; CMS Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight) presented on *Furthering Health Equity Through Standardized Plans and Essential Health Benefits*. Christine Monahan (Assistant Research Professor, Center on Health Insurance Reforms at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy) and LeAnn Blanco (Health Equity Manager, Washington Health Benefits Exchange) presented on *Advancing Language Access Through Health Insurance Marketplaces*. Moderator: Alexa McKinley (Regulatory Affairs Manager, National Rural Health Association).

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Measure What Matters: Examining Variation in Health Equity Tracking and Measurement Practices Across Healthcare Systems in the U.S.: Priority Area 1, 3

Kristen Azar (Scientific Director, Sutter Health Institute for Advancing Health Equity; Sutter Health); Whitney Haggerson (VP, Health Equity and Medicaid; Providence); Karyl Kopaskie, PhD (Principal, Vizient); Shonalie Roberts (System Director, Health Equity, Main Line Health); and James S. Williams, Jr. (Vice President, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; University of Chicago Medicine, Urban Health Initiative) presented on *Measure What Matters: Examining Variation in Health Equity Tracking and Measurement Practices Across Healthcare Systems in the U.S.* The goals of the survey study were to assess the current state of measurement at a system and executive level, inventory existing system level operations, and identify barriers and facilitators to implementation. Moderator: Alexandra Bryden (Technical Director; CMS Office of Minority Health).

Amplifying Lived Experiences and Frontline Findings to Foster an Inclusive Healthcare Environment: Priority Area 2, 3, 4, 5

Denise Hoffman (Principal Researcher, Mathematica) and Laura Erickson (Social Science Analyst, HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation) presented on *Improving Accessibility to Health Care with Equitable Communication*. Dr. Kentrell Liddell (Founder and Board President, Test-Taking Solution Foundation) presented on *Lived Experiences & Front-Line Findings: A Jackson, Mississippi Community Perspective of Health Equity*. Lindsey Galli (Vice President of Programs, PFCCpartners) and Naomi Williams (Patient Family Engagement Specialist, PFCCpartners) presented on *Unlocking Diversity in Patient Family Engagement for Equity: An Inclusive Environment for All*. Dr. Hoangmai H. Pham (President and CEO, Institute for Exceptional Care) and Dr. Teal Benevides (Associate Professor, Augusta University) presented on *Standardization Does Not Equal Equity: Supporting Health Outcomes That Matter Most to People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities*. Moderator: Mackenzie Marshall (Senior Federal Relations Associate, Families USA).

State and Federal Collaboration to Address Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) for Medicaid Enrollees: Priority Area 2

Dr. Richard Cho (Senior Advisor for Housing and Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), Jacey Cooper (Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Health Care Services), Shavana Howard (Senior Advisor for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services; U.S. Department of Agriculture), and Dr. Gary Sing (Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, MassHealth) presented on *State and Federal Collaboration to Address Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) for Medicaid Enrollees*. Moderator: Dr. Aditi Mallick (Chief Medical Officer, CMS Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services).

APPENDIX

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It Takes a Village: Multifaceted Approaches to Improving Maternal Health Equity & Excellence: **Priority Area 2**

Ebony Marcelle (Director of Midwifery, Community of Hope), Dr. Kalpana Ramiah (Vice President of Innovation, America's Essential Hospitals), and Dr. Ellen-Marie Whelan (Chief Population Health Officer, CMS Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services) presented on *Multifaceted Approaches to Improving Maternal Health Equity & Excellence*. They shared key strategies for improving clinical maternal care, strengthening the maternal health workforce, partnering with community experts, and advocating for policies that reduce mental health inequities. Moderator: Sinsi Hernández-Cancio (Vice President for Health Justice, National Partnership for Women & Families).

An Overview of CMS-Developed Indices Measuring Health and Health Care Equity/Disparity Performance: **Priority Area 1, 2, 3, 4**

Dr. Sarah Gaillot (Deputy Director, Division of Consumer Assessment and Plan Performance; CMS Center for Medicare), Dr. Jess Maksut (Technical Director, CMS Office of Minority Health), and Dr. Vinitha Meyyur (Deputy Division Director, CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality) presented on *An Overview of CMS-Developed Indices Measuring Health and Health Care Equity/Disparity Performance*. Moderator: Dr. Jess Maksut.

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Community Powered Health: Igniting Change through Engagement and Community-Led Solutions:

Priority Area 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Melissa Fox (Chief Operating Officer, Acenda Integrated Health) and Dr. Melissa Clarke (CEO, BHE Group) presented on *The Important Role of Community-led Solutions in Reducing Health Disparities*. Desiree Collins Bradley (Patient Engagement Network Lead, ATW Health Solutions) and Dr. Neelum T. Aggarwal (Professor, Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center; Rush University Medical Center) presented on *Community Engagement in Stroke Preparedness Before and During COVID-19 the Road to Public Policy*. Katie Ettman (Food and Agriculture Senior Policy Manager, SPUR) and Erika Hanson (Clinical Instructor, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School) presented on *Building Capacity in Healthcare: Partnering with Communities to Address Social Determinants of Health*. Lynn Mertz, PhD (Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, AARP) and Theresa L. Edelstein, MPH, LNHA (Senior Vice President, Center for Partnerships Transforming Health; New Jersey Hospital Association) presented on *LEAD Collaborative Takes on Health Disparities Together*. Dr. Gretchen Susi (Assistant Vice President of Community Development, Maimonides Medical Center) and Jeffannie O'Garro (Master of Public Health Student, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health) presented on *Reducing Health Disparities through Healthy Housing: An Approach Informed by Participatory Action Research*. Moderator: Aaron Plotke (Senior Policy Analyst, Families USA).

“The Conference was so well orchestrated and full of meaningful and actionable information.”

– Conference attendee via feedback survey

The Medicare Value-Based Care Strategy: Alignment, Growth, And Equity: Priority Area 2, 3

Dr. Lee Fleisher (Chief Medical Officer, CMS/Director, CCSQ; CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality), Dr. Liz Fowler (Deputy Administrator and Director, CMS Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation), and Dr. Meena Seshamani (Deputy Administrator and Director, CMS Center for Medicare) presented on *The Medicare Value-Based Care Strategy: Alignment, Growth, and Equity*. Moderator: Dr. Lee Fleisher.

Transforming Tribal Health: Addressing American Indians and Alaska Natives Health Disparities and CMS's Approach to Health Equity for Tribal Communities: Priority Area 2, 3

Leslie Short (Integrated Services Administrator, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System) presented on *Using Innovative Care Coordination/Care Management Strategies to Address Health Disparities Among American Indians/Alaska Natives*. Carrie Field (Policy Analyst, National Indian Health Board) presented on *Health Equity in Indian Country: Rethinking How CMS Approaches Health Equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives*. Moderator: Dr. Susan Karol (Chief Medical Officer, CMS Division of Tribal Affairs).

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Harnessing the Power of AI & Innovative Technologies for Enhanced Healthcare Accessibility:

Priority Area 3, 5

Arden Haselmann (Manager, Google) presented on *How Google's AI Makes Healthcare More Accessible*. Laura Kopp (Account Executive, Oak Ridge Associated Universities) and Brenda Blunt (Senior Director, Health Policy; Oak Ridge Associated Universities) presented on *Building the Capacity of Healthcare Organizations and their Workforce to Reduce Health Disparities in Rural and Marginalized Populations: A Multifaceted Approach with Innovative Technologies*. Jaclyn Martin (Manager, Strategy and Implementation; Medical Home Network) and Melanie Tan, (Vice President of Strategy and Growth, Medical Home Network) presented on *Advancing Health Equity Through Building an Embedded Care Management Workforce in FQHCs*. Moderator: Kamala Green (Social Drivers of Health Program Manager, National Government Services).

Promoting Health Literacy through Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS):

Priority Area 4, 5

Kay Miller Temple, MD (Physician Journalist and Health and Medical Writer, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Rural Health) and Dr. David Schmitz, MD (Professor and Chair, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences) presented on *University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences: Targeted Rural Health Education Project*. Leandra Olson (Policy Team Lead, HHS Office of Minority Health) and Darci Graves (Technical Director, CMS Office of Minority Health) presented on *The National CLAS Standards: A Framework for Advancing Language Access, Health Literacy and the Provision of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services*. Dr. Hirah Mir (Chief Diversity Officer, NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities) and Regina Rodriguez Sisneros (Director of Equity Initiatives and System Innovations, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services) presented on *Community Partnerships and Data Advocacy for Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Developmental Disabilities*. Moderator: Darci Graves.

Improving Health Equity for People with Disabilities through Inclusive and Accessible Health Care:

Priority Area 5

Amber Christ (Managing Director of Health Advocacy, Justice in Aging) and Teresa Nguyen (Director, Community Living Equity Center; Brandeis University) presented on *An Equity Framework for Evaluating and Improving Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services*. Andy Burstein (Chief Executive Officer, Accessible Pharmacy Services) presented on *Medication Management for People with Disabilities and Refugees*. Dr. Madeleine Shea (Principal, Health Management Associates) and Dr. Erica Reaves (Senior Consultant, Health Management Associates) presented on *Priorities for Housing Services and Supports Identified by Georgians With I/DD and Their Caregivers*. Moderator: Akin Demehin (Senior Director, Quality and Patient Safety Policy; American Hospital Association).

APPENDIX

POSTER HALL

1. [*The role of individual-level socioeconomic status measured by the HOUSES index on nursing home placement accounting for neighborhood characteristics*](#) by Dr. Euijung Ryu, Mayo Clinic
2. [*Updating Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards at Vanderbilt University Medical Center*](#) by Autumn Montgomery-Hayes, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
3. [*Meeting the Moment: Ending Cancer as We Know It*](#) by Michael Holtz, Oak Ridge Associated Universities
4. [*Creating Equity in Hospital at Home Programs: Eliminating Social and Clinical Barriers to Participation*](#) by Christian O’Keeffe, Oregon Health and Science University
5. [*Bridging the Gap of Healthcare Inequities in the Rio Grande Valley: A Healthcare System’s Integrated Health Equity Framework*](#) by Lauren Trifunovich, DHR Health
6. [*Wait Times and Processes for Autism Diagnostic Evaluations: A First Report Survey of Autism Centers in the U.S.*](#) by Dr. Colleen Kraft, Cognoa, Inc.
7. [*Expanding Medicaid providers to advance health equity initiatives: Lessons from California’s CalAIM program*](#) by Sara Ansari, A1M Solutions
8. [*Medicaid Reimbursement for Doula Services: Definitions and Policy Considerations*](#) by Ethan Bradley, Booz Allen Hamilton
9. [*Empowering Patients to Prioritize Their Health with Culturally-Competent Community-Based Programs*](#) by Dr. Yashika Watkins, Chicago State University
10. [*Relationship Between Post-Acute Care Setting, Social Determinants of Health, and Hospital Readmission Rates*](#) by Tanya Balsky, Deloitte
11. [*Helping Increase Access to Care: The Doctors and Clinicians Profile Pages on the Medicare.gov Compare Tool*](#) by Lauren Mercincavage, Westat
12. [*Evidence-Based Practices to Reduce Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity among People in Need of Behavioral Health Services*](#) by Alina Ghobadi, NORC at the University of Chicago
13. [*Modeling Disparities in Cost of Care Based on CMS Coverage Options and Social Determinants of Health*](#) by Dr. Kasey Morris, Accenture Federal Services
14. [*Evaluating a Collaborative LegalHealth Clinic Model in Brooklyn*](#) by Khalil Hayes, Maimonides Health
15. [*A Communication Framework for Building the Pandemic Response Capacity of Communities Disproportionately Impacted by COVID-19*](#) by Michelle Schaur, Oak Ridge Associated Universities

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“Health equity is so important and having CMS lead with this inaugural event is priceless. Thanks for all the hard work in making it happen. Great job!”

– Conference attendee via feedback survey

16. [*Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion \(JEDI\) workforce development needs in the aging care pharmacy landscape*](#) by Dr. Jing Wu, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
17. [*National TeleOncology and the “Close to Me” Treatment Access Point Solution*](#) by Dr. Vida Almario Passero, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
18. [*Geographic Measures of Structural Racism for Health Equity: A Scoping Review of the State of Play in the Literature*](#) by Amatallah Saulawa, Auburn University
19. [*Impact of Continuous Improvement and Quality Improvement Methodologies on Behaviors and Attitudes of Healthcare Personnel Providing Care to LGBT+ Patients within a Health Plan*](#) by Sami Noor, Medical University of South Carolina
20. [*Health System Dashboard Metrics: Intersectional Approach to Making Health Equity Gaps Visible and Actionable*](#) by Kristen Azar, Sutter Health
21. [*Innovative Ways State Medicaid Programs Can Address the Health Equity Aspects of Climate Change*](#) by Dr. Paul Shattuck, Mathematica Policy Research
22. [*Social Determinants of Health Data: Survey Results on the Collection, Integration, and Use*](#) by Lauren Riplinger, American Health Information Management Association
23. [*Whole-Person Care Begins with a Consumer-Centered Assessment*](#) by Tiffany Hogan, Commonwealth Care Alliance
24. [*Evidence-Based Practices to Reduce Health Disparities and Achieve Health Equity in Chronic Disease Prevention and Management*](#) by Meghana Chandra, NORC at the University of Chicago
25. [*Addressing Tele-behavioral Health Policy Barriers through Strategic Facilitation: CMS Behavioral Health and Telehealth Learning Collaborative*](#) by Nathan Caulk, CMS Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight

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26. [Applying the Public Health Critical Race Praxis Framework to Understand Racial Disparities in Access to Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorders](#) by Rebecca Perry, RTI International
27. [Social Risk Factors among Medicare Beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias](#) by Dr. Daniel Weinberg, Westat
28. [Environmental Health Communication Strategies for Rural Southern Black/African American Communities in North Carolina](#) by Autumn Saffore, CommunicateHealth, Inc.
29. [Emerging Practices of Telehealth to Advance Health Equity of Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Treatment in Medicare and Medicaid Programs](#) by Dr. Jennifer Doyle, Deloitte
30. [Building Research Capacity Across an Established Network of MSIs to Reduce Health Disparities](#) by Laura Kopp, Oak Ridge Associated Universities
31. [We Ask Because We Care: An enterprise-wide effort to improve race and ethnicity data collection to better understand and address the root causes of health inequities](#) by Whitney Harris, New York-Presbyterian
32. [Leveraging Quality Measurement to Drive Equitable Care for Transgender Individuals](#) by Tess Donckels, Real Chemistry



APPENDIX

FEDERAL PARTNER SHOWCASE

SAMHSA Office of Behavioral Health Equity

The SAMHSA Office of Behavioral Health Equity aims to advance behavioral health equity and promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, provide treatment, and facilitate recovery for racial, ethnic, and sexual and gender populations.

USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through its programs, USDA Rural Development helps rural Americans in many ways.

HHS Office of Minority Health

The HHS Office of Minority Health is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs.

HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce

HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce strengthens the health workforce, connecting skilled health care providers to underserved communities. The Bureau of Health Workforce offers scholarship and loan repayment programs, and grants.

FDA Office of Minority Health and Health Equity

The FDA Office of Minority Health and Health Equity serves to promote and protect the health of diverse populations through research and communication of science that addresses health disparities.

CMS Office of Minority Health

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health works with local and federal partners to eliminate health disparities while improving the health of people from all minority populations through its health equity initiatives.

CMS Health Equity Technical Assistance Program

The CMS Health Equity Technical Assistance Program offers health equity technical assistance resources aimed to help health care organizations take action against health disparities.



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