WePLAN 2020: The Forces of Change Assessment

Attending to the social determinants of health moves Cook County closer to assessing the fundamental foundations of health, not just disease.

Healthy People 2020, the 10-year agenda for improving the Nation's health, calls for addressing the root causes of diseases. It includes the social determinants of health for the first time. "Using a social determinants approach can reframe the way the public, policy makers, and the private sector think about achieving and sustaining health," writes Howard Koh, MD, MPH, Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2011. Prioritizing the social determinants of health in the US coincides with the Cook County Department of Public Health's mission "to achieve health equity" and its recognition that "health depends causally on its environmental, economic, technological, informational, cultural and political contexts."

For further reading:

Begun, James W. and Malcolm, Jan K. (2014). *Leading public health: A competency framework.* New York, NY: Springer. Link to Chapter 1 http://bit.ly/1dIb7sd
Cook County Department of Public Health: 2015 Strategic Plan Final Report. (2011) Free at bit.ly/1KGUAQj
Koh, H. K., Piotrowski, J. J., Kumanyika, S., & Fielding, J. E. (2011). Healthy people: A 2020 vision for the social determinants approach. *Health Education & Behavior, 38*(6), 551-557
National Association of County and City Health Officials. MAPP User's Handbook. (2013) Free online with log-in at bit.ly/1HN8uNN
National Association of County and City Health Officials. (2014). MAPP User's Handbook: Health equity supplement Free online with log-in at bit.ly/1dhoQGd

Forces of change: environmental forces – **factors**, **trends**, or **events**, that are or will affect the community and the local public health system

Social determinants of health: resources necessary for social and physical environments for good health for all

Housing * Money * Wealth * Education * Transportation * Health Care * Community Design * Food & Agriculture * Social Services * Employment * Working Conditions * Social Inclusion vs. Exclusion * Public Safety* Daily Living Conditions

Health: a dynamic state of complete, physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO 1998)

Health equity: the realization by all people of the highest attainable level of health (Troutman)

Questions to identify forces of change:

- **What has occurred recently that may affect our local public health system or community?**
  - What may occur in the future?
  - What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?
- **What patterns of decisions, policies, investments, rules, and laws affect the health of our community?**
  - Who benefits from these patterns?
  - Whom do these patterns harm?
- **Who or what institutions have the power to create, enforce, implement, and change these decisions, policies, investments, rules, and laws?**
  - What interests support or oppose actions that contribute to health inequity?