Prioritizing equity and community wellbeing in the wake of catastrophic events

April 13, 2021

PREVENTION INSTITUTE
We acknowledge that we are located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place and for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on traditional homeland of the Ramaytush. We wish to pay their respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.
Polling Question: Who is in the audience today?

A. City/county government
B. CBO/nonprofit
C. K-12 education
D. College/university
E. Funder/foundation
F. Healthcare
G. State or federal government
H. Tribal organization
I. Faith-based organization
J. Other/not applicable
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This project is supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 6 NU38OT000305-02-03 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The views and information provided in this web conference do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Health and Human Services or the CDC.
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Objectives

• Use the Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience (ACE|R) framework to **think about equitable community-level recovery** and systems change that supports wellbeing in the long term.

• **Identify actions agencies and organizations have taken** before or during periods of disruption such as the COVID-19 pandemic to create protective environments, strengthen economic supports, and advance other suicide and trauma prevention strategies.

• **Discuss what actions are needed moving forward** to further community wellbeing, prevent suicide and trauma, and intentionally address racial and other inequities.
Text chat question: What does prioritizing equity and community wellbeing mean to you in this moment?
In order to rebuild, we have to address the underlying inequities that made us so vulnerable to the pandemic in the first place

Melissa Boteach, vice president for income security and child care/early learning at the National Women’s Law Center
New opportunities for communities

American Rescue Plan Provides More Relief to Local Governments

March 17, 2021 by Eric Lowell
Category: Revenues, COVID-19

APA Praises Inclusion of Mental Health Funding and Provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Key strategies from best available research

- Strengthen economic supports
- Lessen harms and prevent future risk
- Create protective environments
- Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity
- Promote connectedness
- Ensure a strong start for children
- Teach skills
- Identify and support people at risk
Today’s peer learning forum

- Applying the Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience framework, with Dr. Howard Pinderhughes
- Examples of prioritizing equity and community wellbeing
- Learnings from Houston with Deborah Moore and Sheila Savannah
- Peer exchange
Community Trauma

• Trauma manifests at the **community level** -- not just the aggregate of individuals in a neighborhood who have experienced trauma.

• Community trauma is the impact of **chronic adversity** (e.g., violence and structural violence) across a community.

• Trauma is a **barrier to effective solutions to promote health, safety and well-being**.

• There are manifestations, or **symptoms, of community trauma** in the social-cultural, physical/built and economic environments.
THRVIE Clusters and Factors

People

Place

Equitable Opportunity
Sample Symptoms of Community Trauma

Community trauma symptoms are the manifestations of the impact of experiencing adversity (structural violence and/or violence) across a community.
Text chat question: How have you seen your community show resilience during the past year?
Making Connections for Mental Health and Wellbeing Among Men and Boys
Simultaneous Community Solutions
Note: The systems listed are examples of the types of systems across which we need to work to address community trauma.
Actions agencies and organizations have taken before or during periods of disruption
People
The relationships between people, the level of engagement, and norms.

- Social networks & trust
- Participation & willingness to act for the common good
- Norms & culture
Social capital and the COVID-19 pandemic

Social infrastructure

**Trusted** local groups and institutions that serve as connection points to meet community needs

Photo courtesy of Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, Honolulu, HI
Participatory Budgeting in St. Louis

https://stlouiscardinals.mogov/st-louis-county-departments/public-health/recast/
Place
The physical/built environment in which people live, work, play, and go to school.

- Look, feel, & safety
- Parks & open space
- Getting around
- Housing
- What’s sold & how it’s promoted
- Air, water, soil
- Arts & cultural expression
“Physical spaces that provide resources and capacity to promote social cohesion and everyday resilience (e.g., economic, health, environmental), as well as disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.”

RYSE Center, Richmond, CA

From *Resilience Before Disaster* by APEN, SEIU California, and BlueGreen Alliance
COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

Housing Stabilization Policies

Image: National Low Income Housing Coalition
Equitable Opportunity
The level and equitable distribution of opportunity and resources as reflected in the economic environment.

- Living wages & local wealth/assets
- Education
Strengthening care infrastructure nationwide

- Universal long-term services and support
- Universal childcare
- Paid leave for all
- Support for family and sandwich generation caregivers
- Ensuring dignity for domestic workers and all care workers
- Innovations to prepare for the future

Creating a healing-centered school district: Chicago

The Healing-Centered Framework for Chicago Public Schools

Our Commitment to a Trauma-engaged and Culturally-responsive School District

https://www.cps.edu/strategic-initiatives/healing-centered/
Florida Power & Light Company partnered with the County to donate 1,000 utility poles, enabling internet access for distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our efforts to strengthen the broadband and infrastructure will last well beyond this pandemic for future generations of students.”
- Palm Beach County Schools Superintendent Dr. Donald Fennoy

https://www.palmbeachschools.org/news/what_s_new/december_2020/f_p_l_donates_1_000_utility_poles
Perspectives on recovery from Houston, TX
Discussion questions

• What actions have community networks, organizations or local government taken during the past year to support wellbeing? How do those actions center equity?

• What does equitable recovery from the pandemic mean to you in this moment? What needs to be sustained?

• How do we build community networks and connectedness in advance of disasters?
Text chat question:
What would be most helpful to you in terms of next steps?
Resources
CDC Technical Packages

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/communicationresources/pub/technical-packages.html
NLC Report: Advancing Systems Change for Equity in Triple Crisis

COVID-19 Policy Playbook

Including a section on “Legal Strategies for Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic”

https://www.publichealthlawwatch.org/covid-playbook-ii
Beyond Screening: Achieving California's Bold Goal of Reducing Exposure to Childhood Trauma

Need Help? Know Someone Who Does?

Online Lifeline Crisis Chat: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/