

California Department of Public Health

Office of Health Equity

DRAFT: Key Elements of Future Direction

INTRODUCTION

The Advisory Committee of the California Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity (OHE) has begun to develop the strategy for achieving health equity in California. As a starting point, it has drafted statements of several key elements of future direction – including mission, vision, central challenge, and strategic priorities.

The **mission** states why OHE-led efforts exist, their reason for being and fundamental purpose. A mission is an enduring statement that usually remains the same for many years, providing long-term continuity and direction.

Vision articulates the long-term outcome or end-state that OHE-led efforts will make a definitive contribution to achieving.

Strategy outlines what the OHE-led efforts need to do in the next three years. It is more focused and time bound than mission and vision.

- The **central challenge** is the focal point for the strategy; it focuses on what OHE-led efforts need to do in the next three years to support the mission and vision.
- The central challenge is supported by several **strategic priorities**. Strategic priorities are the few critical things OHE-led efforts must do in order to meet the central challenge. The number of strategic priorities can vary, but it is never fewer than three or more than six.

The Advisory Committee has developed the following draft statements for achieving health equity in California.

KEY ELEMENTS OF FUTURE DIRECTION

Mission of OHE-Led Efforts to Achieve Health Equity in California

Promote equitable social, economic and environmental conditions to achieve optimal health, mental health and well-being for all.

Vision for OHE-Led Efforts to Achieve Health Equity in California

Everyone in California has equal opportunities for optimal health, mental health and well-being.

Central Challenge Facing OHE-Led Efforts to Achieve Health Equity in California

Mobilize understanding and sustained commitment to eliminate health inequity/achieve health equity and improve the health, mental health and well-being of all.

Strategic Priorities Supporting the Central Challenge

The Advisory Committee's initial discussion of strategic priorities surfaced the following possible strategic priorities to support the central challenge.

- Partnership/collaboration/engagement (cross-sector)
- Data
 - Research
 - Monitoring
- Policy/advocacy/health in all policies
- Services/culturally and linguistically appropriate services
- Community engagement/empowerment
- Leadership
 - Sustainable leadership commitment
 - Mobilization
- Resources
- Institutional accountability LIST
- Capitalize on the Affordable Care Act
- Drivers of inequity
- Incentivize the benefits of equity
- Infrastructure for action
- Communication, education, call to action

Using the above list as input, TSI Consulting Partners developed the following synthesized list of strategic priorities for the Advisory Committee's consideration.

- Build awareness and understanding of the drivers of health inequities.
- Develop and implement health in all policies.
- Expand culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
- Empower communities to achieve their health improvement goals.
- Mobilize/incent institutional leaders to improve the social determinants of health.
- Secure/align the needed financial resources.
- Expand stakeholder engagement, building key partnerships/cross-sector collaboration (a cross-cutting strategic priority)