SDOH Forward

Vision & Strategy for the Future of Academic Health Centers & the Social Determinants of Health

Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD
President/CEO
Outline

1. Setting the stage
2. Where has AAHC been?
3. Vision for the future: SDOH FORWARD
4. How will AAHC help achieve this vision?
5. How to be involved
1. Setting the Stage

- Increasing recognition that health care must go beyond medical care
- Game-changer for much conventional thinking
- Building on the foundations laid by “Beyond Flexner” and AAHC
Growing recognition that health care must go beyond medical care

A physician is obligated to consider more than a diseased organ, more than the whole man—he must view the man in his world.”

- Harvey Cushing

Inclusion of Social Determinants of Health in medical education can improve documentation of social questions and knowledge of community resources.

Socio-demographic factors can function as confounders in performance measures and should be accounted for in EHR, clinical practice, and research.


A game-changer regarding much conventional thinking

Take the healthcare workforce, for example:

- “Simply adding more doctors to the current mix is not a thoughtful solution to workforce challenges”\(^a\)
- “It is not possible to determine the future shape of healthcare delivery and to project the workforce needed”\(^b\)


Nasca TJ, Thomas CW. Medicine in 2015: Selected insights from ACGME’s scenario planning. *J Grad Med Ed*, March 2015, 139-142
Building on the foundations of “Beyond Flexner” and AAHC

- *Beyond Flexner* has a strong and necessary focus on the community in the context of health and well-being.
- AAHC strives to improve the alignment of all the mission areas of academic health centers (education, research, and patient care) with an additional focus on transformational leadership.
- Together we can enhance the integration of SDOH throughout the care delivery process at every level.
But before looking forward, where has AAHC been?

- **2010**
  - UNM and UC Davis approach AAHC about a national movement to address the social determinants of health

- **2011**
  - UNM, UC Davis and AAHC co-sponsor *Academic Health Centers and the Social Determinants of Disease: Measure our Success by our Population’s Health* in Albuquerque, N.M.

- **2012**
  - AAHC’s second meeting at the Medical University of South Carolina gathers together AHC leaders, state and local public officials
  - AAHC’s Board of Directors formally endorses the social determinants of health initiative
AAHC Board Resolution

The AAHC Board of Directors endorses AAHC’s commitment to advancing the focus of our member institutions on the social determinants of health. Because the social determinants of health play such an important role in overall health and well-being, the Board supports AAHC’s efforts to enhance the ability of academic health centers to respond to these critical factors in their education, research, and clinical programs.

- April 24, 2012
2. Where has AAHC been? (cont’d)

- 2014 – AAHC hosts third meeting at Georgetown University with 80 representatives from foundations, professional associations, academic health centers, public health agencies, the federal government and community organizations
- 2015 – AAHC releases the report *Academic Health Centers and the Social Determinants of Health: Challenge and Barriers, Responses and Solutions*
- 2015 – SDOH Forward Online Event March 18 with Paul Rodondi, Alejandra Gepp, Denise Koo, and Liz Tobin Tyler
AAHC Vision for the future: SDOH Forward

All academic Health Centers acknowledge the important role the Social Determinants of health play in the overall health and well-being of patients, populations, and communities and respond to these critical factors in their education, clinical, and research programs.
AAHC’s role in supporting transformational culture change

- Create a unified vision to guide and execute culture change within institutions
- Account for Social Determinants in all missions (education, research, clinical practice)
- Orient programs and reputation towards improving health and welfare of patients and communities
- Execute with alignment and coordination of institutional missions and programs
4. How will AAHC achieve the vision?

From the 2015 AAHC Report:

- Create a formal academic health center collaboration to:
  - Develop **best practices** for community partnerships
  - Translate these practices into a **strong, shared message**
  - Work closely with major **public/private stakeholders**
  - Help AHC’s **learn from each other** on how to incorporate social determinants into their missions
4. How will AAHC achieve the vision?

From the 2015 AAHC Report (cont’d):

Create a formal academic health center collaboration to:

- Develop **strategies** to overcome cultural biases
- Lead the way in developing **data sources, research tools, and metrics**
- Develop **cohesive messages** for use locally, nationally, and globally to increase awareness
## SDOH Forward Strategic Activities

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<tr>
<th>Strategy Area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership &amp; Partnerships</td>
<td>Form AAHC SDOH Steering Committee; Multi-year Strategy &amp; Objectives Development; Policy and Advocacy, Expand and Enhance Stakeholder Partner Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Collection &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>Development and Implementation of Research Instruments, Assessment of Data, Gather Examples of SDOH Programming, Determine Metrics Best Practice Evaluation</td>
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<td>Product Development</td>
<td>Development of Implementation Tools, Performance Metrics, Educational Materials, Development of Business Case &amp; Program Case Studies</td>
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<td>Communications &amp; Promotion</td>
<td>Promote Case Studies &amp; Best Practices, Share knowledge through Literature Reviewed and Professional Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Provide training (online/in person) to foster acknowledgment and implementation of SDOH in program missions</td>
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Solutions need to be implemented by transformational leaders

- Beyond Flexner and early adopter institutions have been leaders in acknowledging the important role Social Determinants of Health play in the overall health and well-being of patients

- The biggest challenge for AHC leaders is managing successful culture change to address SDOH in all phases of the tripartite mission
But there is an existential problem in achieving change.

‘Institutions [and individuals] seek to preserve the problem to which they are the solution.”

- Clay Shirky
How to be involved

This is an inclusive strategy and process

• Leadership and advisory roles
• Collaborative partnerships
• Sharing of best practices
• Participating in data collection and assessments
• Product and program pilots
• Sharing challenges, concerns, and solutions
• Following the initiative on Twitter via #SDOHForward and other communications
Want more information?

➢ Follow and engage with us on Twitter @aahcdc and #SDOHForward.