Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of Hennepin Healthcare’s Health Equity highlights!

The purpose of this (monthly) briefing is to provide news on the vital topic of Health Equity. We are dedicating this first issue to sharing how we are currently promoting health equity with our organization and our plans for the future.

Introducing Health Equity at Hennepin Healthcare!

Who we are: Health Equity Department

In the beginning of 2021, our organization committed to furthering equitable care for all with the creation of the Health Equity Department. Led by Dr. Nneka Sederstrom, this department is made up of existing and new team members from a variety of backgrounds, all dedicated to advancing health equity. Team members include:

- Dr. Nneka Sederstrom | Chief Health Equity Officer
- Aida Strom | Health Equity Program Coordinator
- Kentral Galloway | Program Manager, Next Step
- Dr. Talee Vang | Health Equity and Education Director
- Shelly Nauert | Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Program Manager
- Jim Peters | Performance Improvement Advisor
- Christine Haushill | Public Relations and Health Equity Specialist

We invite all Hennepin Healthcare team members to join us in furthering equity by making changes to our policies and practices that will create a safer and more inclusive care setting for our patients and their families. We welcome collaboration with all departments and support your goals.

What we're currently working on

- Developing education for team members such as implicit bias training, empathetic medicine, etc. provide tools to better serve our diverse patient population
- Community vaccination clinics in partnership with MVNA
- Expanding the Next Step violence prevention program to Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- Responding to the Hennepin Healthcare Board of Directors’ equity resolution from 2020 to track our progress on achieving the health equity goals outlined within the resolution
- Implementing an organization-wide anti-racism policy
- Share stories and experiences from patients and employees that further health equity
- A health equity dashboard measuring clinical metrics focused on reducing racial disparities
- Much more!

Hennepin Healthcare’s Official Statement on Health Equity

We at Hennepin Healthcare believe equity is essential for optimal health outcomes. We are committed to partnering with our entire community, both internal and external, in achieving their fullest health potential by actively eliminating barriers due to racism, or any other consequence of social position or socially influenced circumstances experienced by Black, Indigenous, and people of color. We will strive to accomplish this through:

- Collaborating with our community leaders
- Developing strong government relations
- Establishing equity-focused public policy
- Abolishing barriers due to systemic racism
- Improving access and quality of care
- Building trust through transparency
- Leveraging technology
- Creating a diverse workforce and addressing pay equity
- Ethical research
- Creating and retaining a healthcare workforce that embraces cultural responsive and trauma-informed care strategies for all team members

Connect With Us

Send questions and comments to our team through the Health Equity Inbox. We want to hear what is on your mind! healthequity@hcmed.org