Health Reform: Implications for Health Equity

Daniel E. Dawes, J.D.
Associate Professor, Complex Health Systems
Author, 150 Years of ObamaCare

American University Washington College of Law
October 27, 2017
“Once you begin a great movement, there is no telling where it will end”

President Ronald Reagan
Mental Health

1854 Bill for the Benefit of the Indigent Insane
1980 Mental Health Systems Act

Minority Health

1865 Freedmen's Bureau Act
1990 Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act

Universal Health

1935 Social Security Act
1965 Medicare/Medicaid
1997 Children's Health Insurance Program

The Affordable Care Act
Implementation of the ACA

- Expanded coverage
- Data collection & reporting
- Prevention & wellness
- Comparative effectiveness research
- Delivery system reforms
- Payment system reforms
- Workforce development
- Attack fraud and abuse
Selected ACA Health Equity Provisions

• Health Insurance Exchanges (incentives, navigators, and notices)
• Data Collection & Reporting
• Comparative Effectiveness Research
• Elevating Health Equity in the Federal Agencies
• Cultural Competency in Health Care Workforce
• Prevention and Public Health Fund
• Nondiscrimination
• Quality Measures
National Strategies to Address Health Disparities

• HHS Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities
• National Quality Strategy
• National Prevention and Wellness Strategy
• National Health Literacy Strategy
• Federal HIT Strategy
• National HIV/AIDS Strategy
• CMS Health Equity Plan
Comprehensive Health Reform in America: Advancing Health Equity

21st Century Cures Act

MACRA

ACA

ARRA
Marching Toward Health Equity, but the Struggle Still Continues, … Intensifying
The ACA’s 11th and Most Fatal Brush with Death?

The health reform law has had its major brushes with death and continual blows over the last 8 years, but this election proved to be the one that is putting the ACA in extreme peril.
Impact of ACA Repeal Proposals on Health Equity

Some Key Health Equity-related Programs in Jeopardy

Public Health Fund (REACH grant in jeopardy)
Offices of Minority Health
Comparative Effectiveness Research
Data Collection and Reporting
Section 1557 (Nondiscrimination)
Personal Responsibility Education
Beyond the ACA: Other Challenges and Opportunities

The President’s 2018 Budget proposes major organizational changes and 2) funding reductions of 17.9% for HHS. Reorganization of NIH’s Institutes and Centers to focus on highest priority research and training activities.

New “draft strategic plan” for HHS negates references to health equity and the health disparities among minority groups … negates racial and ethnic, LGBT, etc.
Public Comments due October 27, 2017

CMS plans to lead the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation “in a new direction.”
Interested in testing models in the following eight focus areas—increased participation in Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs); consumer-directed care and market-based innovation models; physician specialty models; prescription drug models; Medicare Advantage (MA) innovation models; state-based and local innovation, including Medicaid-focused models; mental and behavioral health models; and program integrity.
Public Comments due November 20, 2017
Health Equity in America
Special Book Series

Johns Hopkins University Press
HEALTH EQUITY FOR ALL!

For more information, please contact Daniel E. Dawes, J.D.
@danieledawes / www.150yearsofobamacare.com

Join HELEN – the Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network
www.healthequitynetwork.org