



PLANETREE  
INTERNATIONAL

A PERSON-CENTERED  
HEALTHCARE ENCOUNTER

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VP ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



# Why Are We Here

## MARTIN LUTHER KING

**Of all the forms of inequality,  
injustice in health care is the  
most shocking and inhumane.**

Speaking before the Second National Convention  
of the Medical Committee for Human Rights.  
Chicago, Illinois. March 25 1966.



# Implicit and Explicit Bias



## Implicit

Subconscious feelings, emotions, prejudices that have developed from previous mental imprints. Hostility does not need to exist to have implicit bias.



## Explicit

Aware of the prejudices, bias, and thoughts regarding an individual, a group of individuals, or situations based on our mental maps.

# Objectives

## Describe

Describe how to design and implement a person-centered care encounter.

## Demonstrate

Demonstrate how to use person-centered communication techniques to reduce bias and judgement while increasing compassion and empathy.

## Identify

Identify how a person-centered health care encounter can assist in addressing the social determinants of health.



# The Intersection of Bias



# Three Aspects of a Healthcare Encounter

Access

Interactions

Care



# Mental Health and Social Determinants

**Economic Stability**

**Neighborhood/Physical Environment**

**Education**

**Food Security/Insecurity**

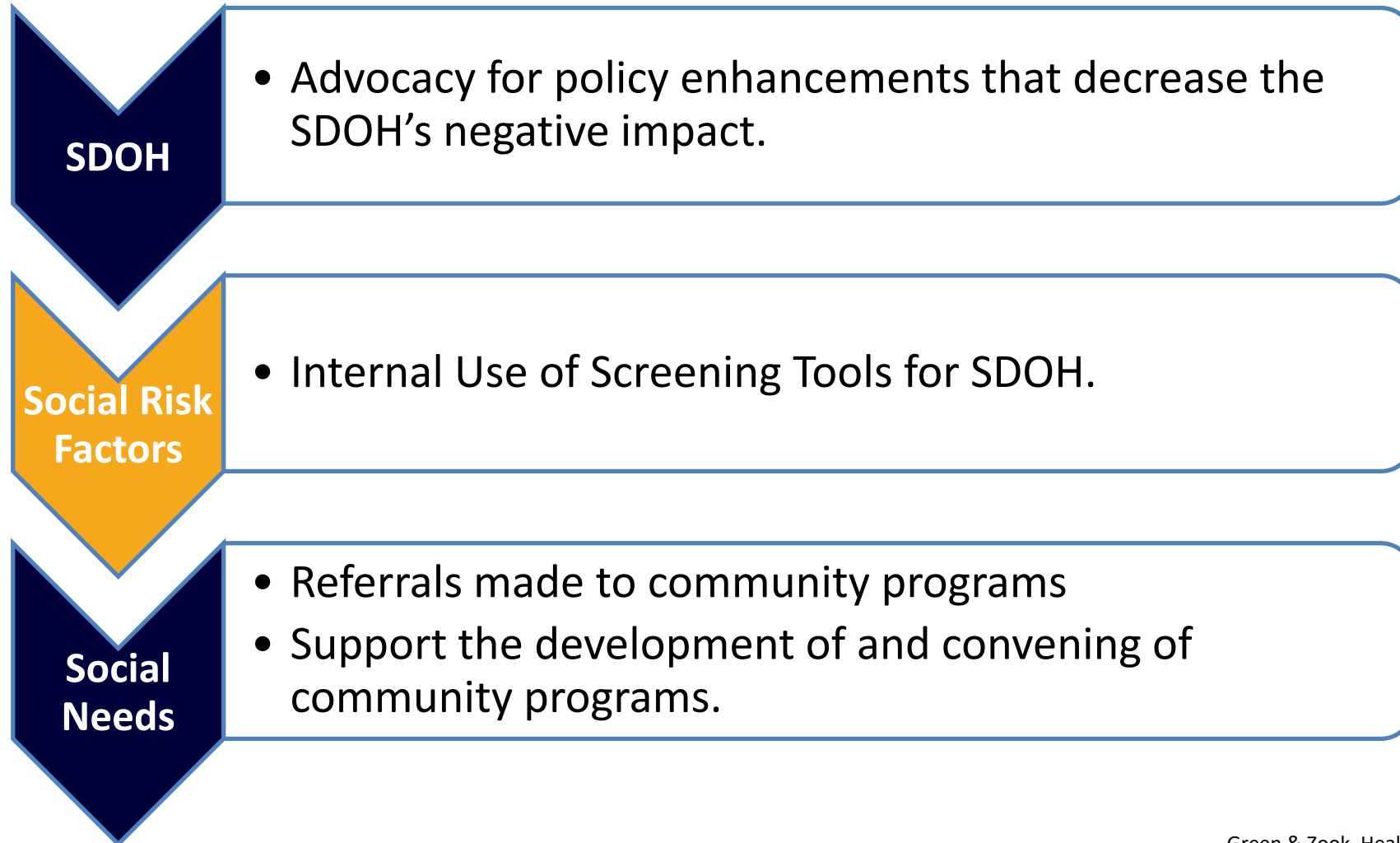
**Community and Social Context**

**Healthcare System**

World Health Organization 2021



# A Few Thoughts Regarding Social Determinants



Green & Zook, Health Affairs Blog, 2019 Precision Matters





# Aspect of Care: ACCESS



*The opportunity to have healthcare needs fulfilled.*

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# Access & Equity Through Person-Centered Care

## Equality in Person-Centered Care



*Every patient, every time – in the same way.*

## Equity in Person-Centered Care



*Every patient, every time – in a manner designed to meet their individual needs and in consideration of their experiences.*

# Seeing Myself in Your Processes



- Welcoming and Acknowledging
- Forms
- Communication Systems
- Support Needs Identification
- Discharge Instructions
- Identifying Preferences

How do you currently identify patient preferences?



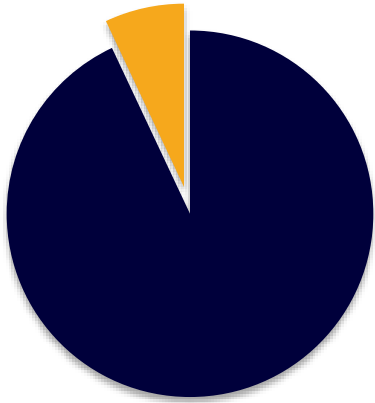
# Experience with Preferences



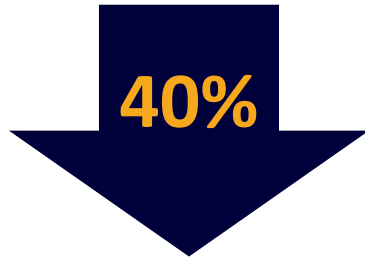
Intention



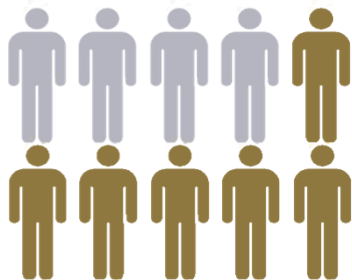
Outcome



Doctors believe 71% of patients with breast cancer rate keeping their breast as top priority. **The figure reported by patients is just 7%.**



Once patients are informed about the risks of sexual dysfunction after surgery for benign prostate disease, **40% fewer prefer surgery.**



**Only 41% of Medicare patients believe that their treatment reflected their preference** for palliative care over more aggressive interventions.

# Aspect of Care: INTERACTION

*Patient-centered interactions encourage patients to expand their role in decision-making, health-related behavior change and self-management. ... Communication is in a language and at a level the patient can understand...*



# Words Matter



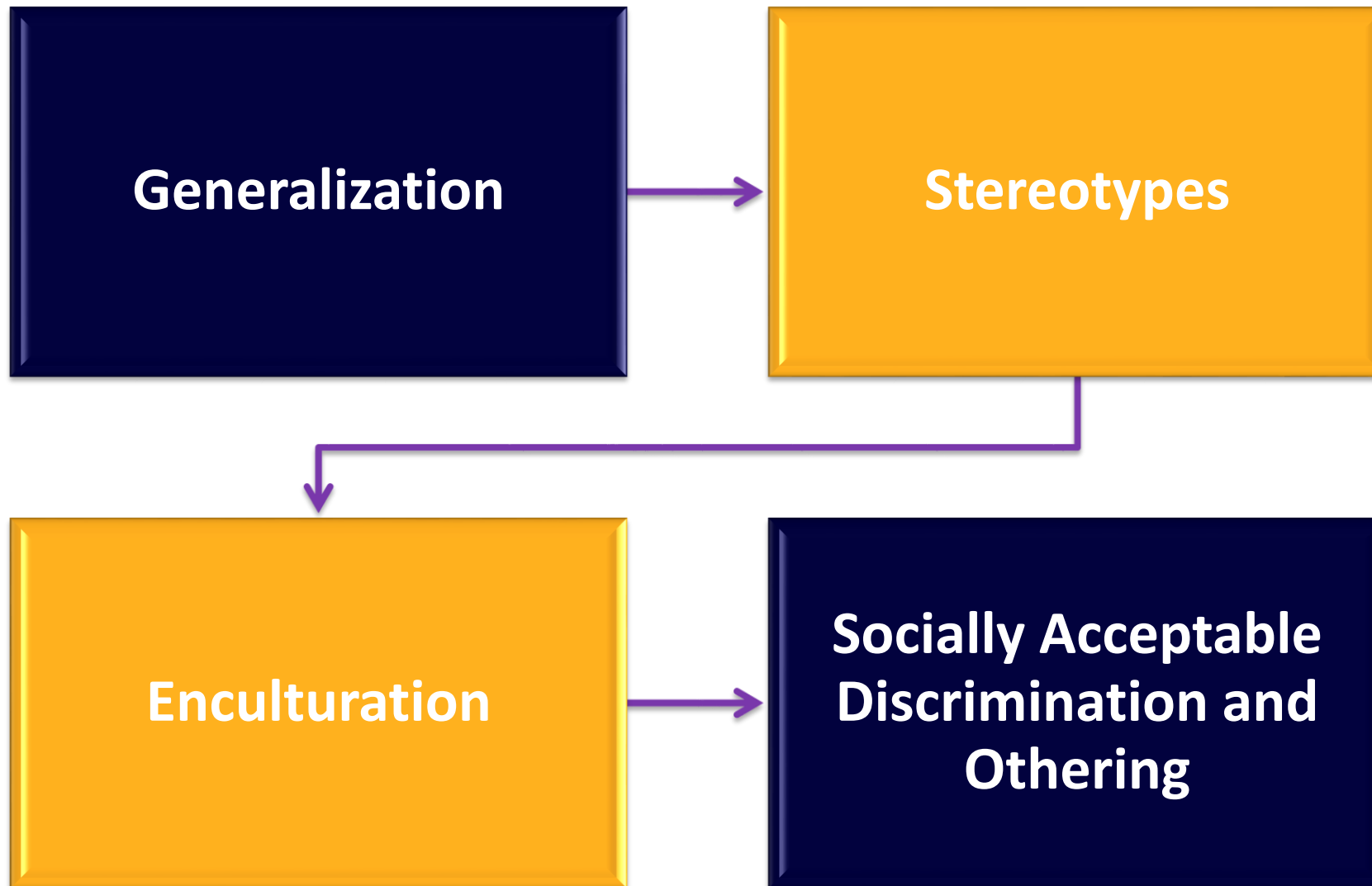
**“Words are things. You must be careful, careful about calling people out of their names, using racial pejoratives and sexual pejoratives and all that ignorance. Don’t do that. Some day we’ll be able to measure the power of words. I think they are things. They get on the walls. They get in your wallpaper. They get in your rugs, in your upholstery, and your clothes, and finally in to you.”**

~MAYA ANGELOU





# Development of Acceptance of Pejorative Language



# Interacting with Curiosity and Empathy



## – Try This:

- “I see and hear that this (symptom, issue, concern) **is** upsetting you.”
- “help me understand...”
- “I know it has taken a lot for you to feel confident with our care. I want to address your concerns with you so that you can feel better and experience less stress.”

***RECOGNIZE---COMMUNICATE---SUPPORT***



# Use Them to Change the Conversation



- More informed and respectful discourse
- Faster but deeper engagement
- Better quest for solutions and outcomes

# Aspect of Care: CARE



*Inclusive of being cared **for**, included, protected (if desired and not paternalistic), assisted, and meaningful, relationships.*

# Creating a Model of Inclusive Care



# Facilitators to Improved Care



## Coordination of Care

Proactive plan for continuity of care.  
Assisting with wider needs.  
Taking an interest in whole person.  
Visible and Communicated compassion and empathy.



## Understanding the Processes

Explaining role  
Interpreters: professionally trained, continuity  
Telephone interpreters: increased availability  
Visual aides



## Staff Education

Knowledge of other cultures: values, health practices, body language, cultural immersion  
Personal qualities training : sensitivity, empathy, cultural humility

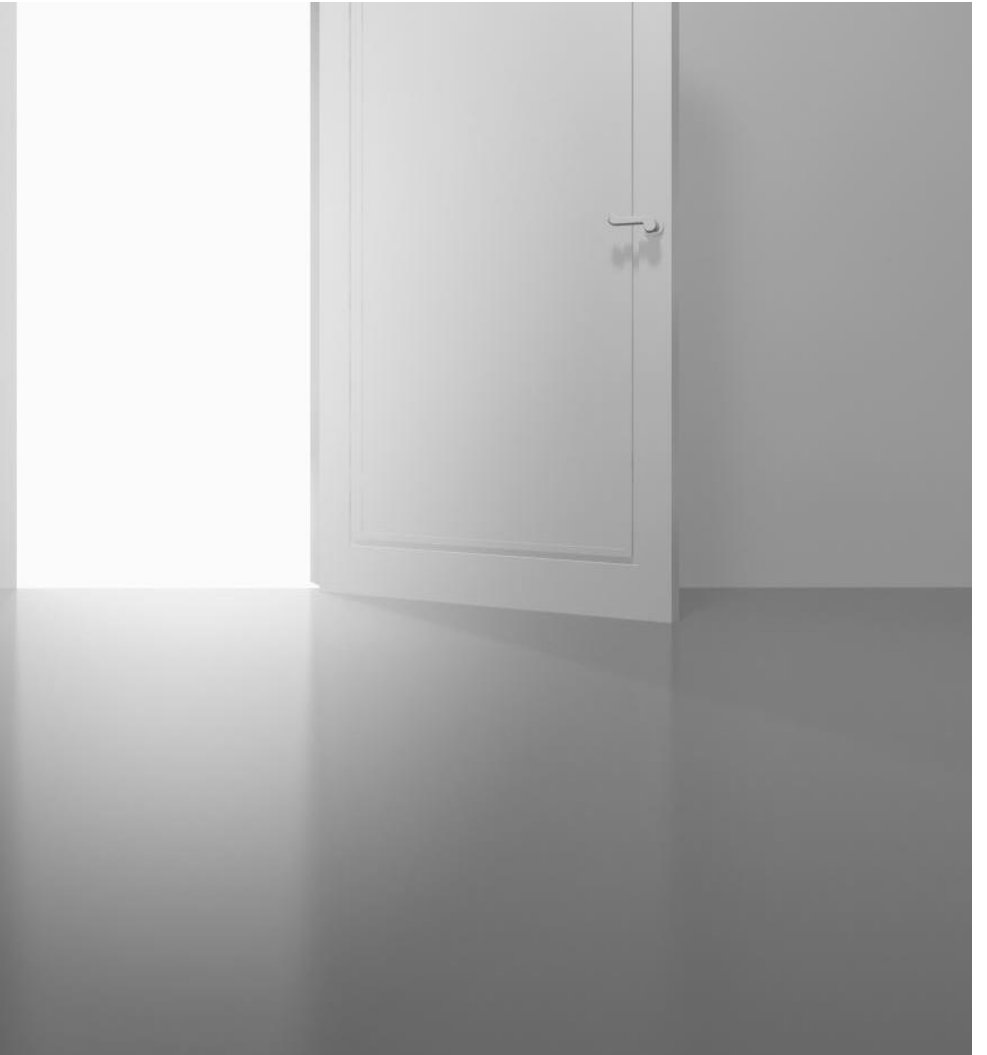
# A Walk Through Your Doors: An Activity to Explore

Patient presents to the Emergency Department complaining of shortness of breath, abdominal pain, dizziness, and intermittent chest pain.

Patient is tearful, diaphoretic, and guarding their abdomen.

Your job is to move this patient through your ED and explore how they would receive care, see representation, experience care, assumptions, etc. that they may experience.

Be critical, now is not the time to be shy, this is a safe space to raise awareness and discuss potential solutions.



# Leaders Role in Bias Awareness

- Open the dialog.
- Create safe, intentional space for conversation.
- Recognize the various reactions staff may have.
  - Withdrawal, engaged, anger, frustration
- Model your expectations.
  - **Check your language**
  - Inspect what you expect
  - Be **clear of the expectations**-bias can be reduced not eliminated.
  - Challenge and **reframe existing policy, process, and programs** that support implicit bias.





# Leadership Responsibilities

Conversations about unconscious bias are vital, but bear certain factors in mind:

- Accept that ***we all have*** unconscious bias and try to stay open and curious about when and how it might be exerting influence.
- Pay ***attention to how we are feeling*** and how this might be getting in the way of how we want to behave – especially when we are under stress because our bias is often more extreme in these circumstances.
- ***Challenge performative gestures*** in the organization, communicate the damage these efforts can cause.
- Pay attention to ***patterns of behavior and challenge ourselves and others*** to what might appear to be coincidences as they happen - these may be due to unconscious bias.
- Ask how does this impact specific populations



# Person-Centered Care...An Answer for Reducing Bias

*By focusing on the **individual**, goals, needs, and definition of success, we create the relationships that place the **person** in control with **empowerment, respect, and dignity!***



# The Transformation is Ours to Make...

*In the end if we only focus on acceptance and tolerance, we remain in a position of giving permission for the person to exist...we must focus on individual respect to move forward as a healthcare system and as a society.*





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# Actions to Take to Immediately Reduce Bias

- Having a basic understanding of the cultures from which your patients come from.
- Increase representation in education, practices, leadership, etc.
- Avoiding stereotyping your patients; individuate them.
- Understanding and respecting the magnitude of unconscious bias.
- Recognizing situations that magnify stereotyping and bias.
- Practicing “evidenced-based medicine.”
- Using techniques to de-bias patient care, which include training, intergroup contact, perspective-taking, emotional expression, and counter-stereotypical exemplars.

