

Expanding From Disparity to Equity: A New Framework for Medical Ethics

ESSOP

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Starting Point

Our current practice of Pediatrics is not well connected to the health issues faced by children.

The development of a framework for Pediatrics, that moves from a focus on **Disparity** to one based on **Equity**, will be necessary to ensure the continuing relevance of our profession

This transition will require a new construct for medical ethics.

History of Discovery

Transitions

Demographic Transition
Epidemiologic Transition

Demographic Transition: Who Are Our Children?

40% - 50% living in single parent families

50% are Minority (2020)

50% living in functional poverty

40% on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program

40-50% mobility - changing schools during the school year

Homeless

Foster Care

Incarcerated

Suburban poverty

Immigrants and Undocumented Residents

The Epidemiologic Transition

Classical Morbidities



New Morbidities



Millennial Morbidities

Epidemiological Transition

- **Classical Morbidity: Infectious Disease and Nutrition**

Infectious Diseases Nutrition
Premature Deaths Infant Mortality
Overcrowding

- **New Morbidity: Behavior and Development**

Family Dysfunction Learning Disabilities
Emotional Disorders Functional Distress
Social Disarray Disparities
Violence Drug Abuse
HIV/AIDS

- **Millennial Morbidity: Social and Environmental**

Environment Sexism
Poverty Racism
Mental Health Classism
Genomics Childism

Health Systems Framework



Moving from Disparity to Equity

Health Systems Framework



Case Study

Obesity
Diabetes

Health System Framework: Classical Morbidities



Calories
Genetics

Diabetes
Obesity

Disparities
Rates of Obesity
Rates of Diseases

Weight Management
Diet
Exercise
Surgery
Vending Machines

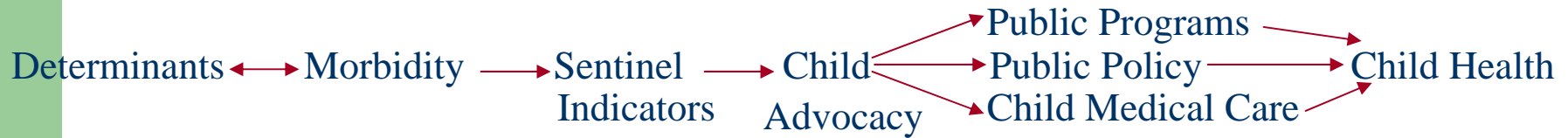
Success?

Equity



Moving from Disparity to
Equity

Health System Framework: Equity Based



Social-Economic
 Political-Civil
 Environmental
 Cultural

Classical
New
 ↓
Millennial

Equity

Human Rights
 Social Justice
 Social Capital

Ethics

Equity
 Based

Health System Framework: Equity Based



*Social
Environmental*

Emerging Social and Environmental Determinants

Poverty

Marginalization

Food Availability

Disabilities

Abuse and Exploitation

Access to Medical Care

Genomics

Globalization

Violence

Lack of Education

Emerging Diseases

Displacement

Environmental Ecosystems

Public Policies

Mental Health Parity

Income Disparity

Social and Environmental Determinants

Welfare Reform

Depression

Post Traumatic Stress Disorders

Access to Play

Working Children

Sexual Exploitation

Juvenile Justice System

Environmental Issues

Foster Care

Adequacy of Child Protection

Homelessness

Substance Abuse

Media

Self Esteem

Education

Lack of Family Resources

Marginalization of Children

Access to Information

Social Capital

Family Disintegration

Health System Framework: Classical Morbidities



Calories
Genetics

Diabetes
Obesity

Disparity
↓
Equity

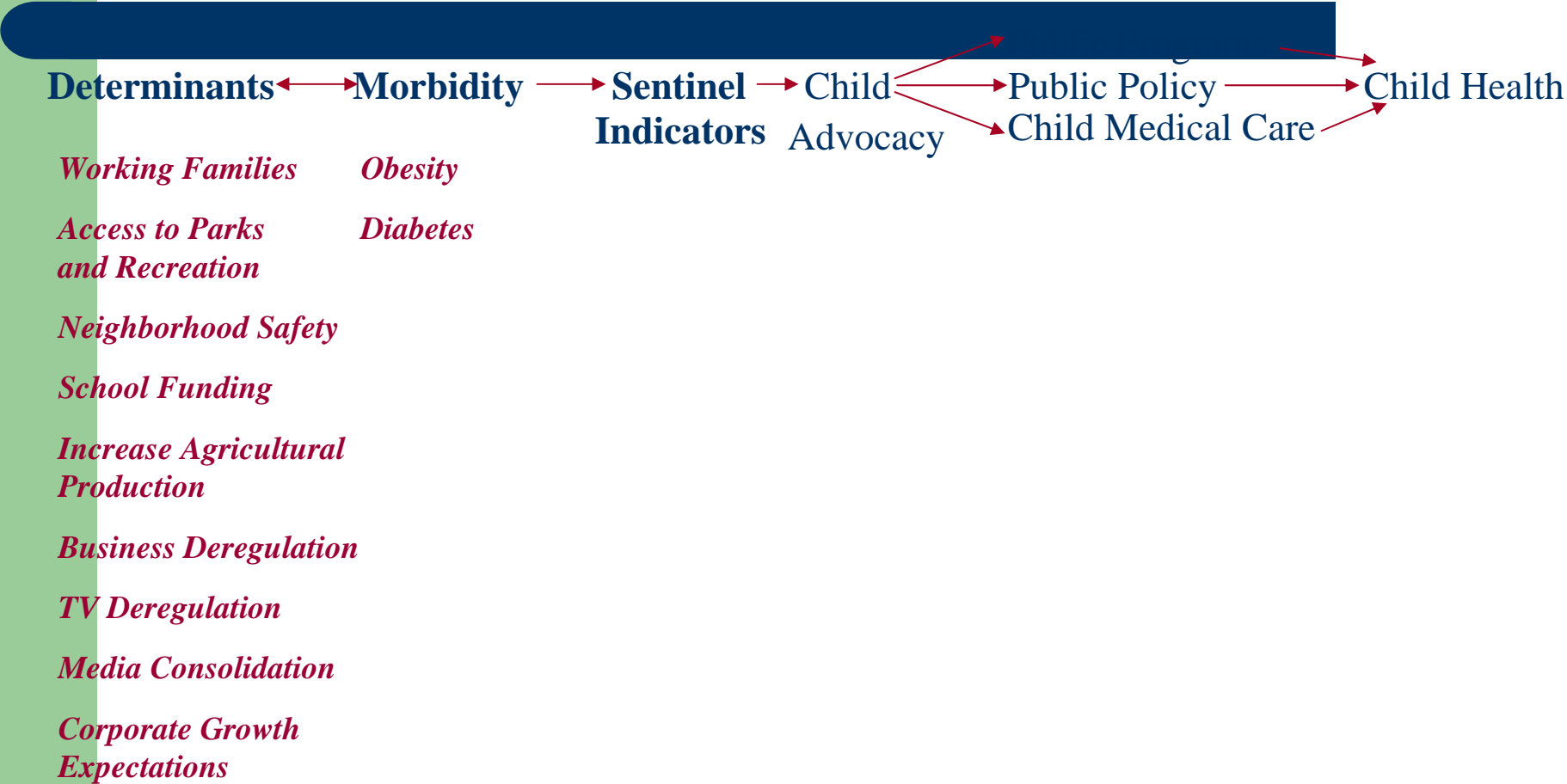
Weight Management
Diet
Exercise
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Vending Machines

Success?

Health System Framework: Millennial Morbidities



Health System Framework: Millennial Morbidities



Health System Framework



Working Families

Obesity

Outside Meals

*Access to Parks
and Recreation*

Diabetes

Supervised Meals

Neighborhood Safety

Outside Play

School Funding

School Meals

*Increase Agricultural
Production*

Physical Education Schools

Business Deregulation

Marketing “junk” Food

TV Deregulation

Calories Consumed

Media Consolidation

Marketing to Children

*Corporate Growth
Expectations*

*Commercials – Time, Number
and Focus*

Expansion Fast Food Chains

Clinical Translation



Advocacy

Health System Framework



Working Families

Obesity

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*Access to Parks
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Expansion Fast Food Chains

Three Levels of Advocacy

Working Families

*Access to Parks
and Recreation*

Neighborhood Safety

School Funding

*Increase Agricultural
Production*

Business Deregulation

TV Deregulation

Media Consolidation

*Corporate Growth
Expectations*

Obesity

Diabetes

Outside Meals

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School Meals

Physical Education Schools

Marketing “junk” Food

Marketing to Children

Commercials

Expansion Food Chains

Clinical

Community

Public
Policy

Equity Transition

Equity

Human Rights

Social Justice

Social Capital

Ethics

Social Epidemiology



Equity

Human Rights

Social Justice

**Social
Epidemiology**



Health
Outcomes

Social Capital

Ethics

Equity Framework



Human Rights
Social Justice
Social Capital
Ethics

Human Rights

Establishes a tangible framework for defining the critical social, economic and political determinants of health.

Provides relevant and measurable indicators that reflect evolving health determinants.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Social Justice



Analysis and public policy related to the
distribution of finite resources

Social Justice

- Poverty
- Income and Wealth distribution
- Racism and Gender Discrimination
- Globalization
- Internationalization of Capital
- Privatization and Deregulation
- Elimination of Social Supports
- Environment and Environmental Justice
- Income inequality
- Gender Discrimination
- Workplace Conditions
- Employment Opportunities
- Housing
- Neighborhoods and Land use
- Transportation
- Education
- Tax policies
- Marginalization of Children
- Alienation from processes of Democracy

Social Capital

Defines a value for human relationships and reconstructs the world of children and adults as the sum total of these relationships

Ethics

Defines a set of principles to use as a lens for the consideration of all issues related to all aspects of Equity

Autonomy

Justice

Beneficence

Non-maleficence

Medical Ethics: Principles

Autonomy

Respect for autonomy is the moral obligation to respect the self-rule/self deliberation of others in so far as such respect is compatible with equal respect for the autonomy of all potentially affected

Medical Ethics: Principles

Justice

Synonymous with fairness-the moral obligation to act on the basis of fair adjudication between competing claims:

- fair distribution of scarce resources (distributive justice),
- respect for people's rights (rights based justice)
- respect for morally acceptable laws (legal justice)

Medical Ethics: Principles

Beneficence with Non-Maleficence

Provide net medical benefit to patients with minimal harm - that is, beneficence with non-maleficence

Core Principles of Children's Rights

Non-Discrimination

Promote Best Interest

Survival & Development

Listened To & Taken Seriously

Principles of Children's Rights & Ethics

Children's Rights Principles	Ethics Principles
Non-Discrimination Promote Best Interest Survival & Development Listened To & Taken Seriously	Beneficence Justice Non-Maleficence Autonomy

Taxonomy of Rights



Taxonomy of Rights	Inventory of Rights	Ethics Principles	Indicators
Economic	Adequate standard of living Social security Protection from economic exploitation	Justice: Distributive and Allocative	Is there a morally defensible system for allocating resources?
Cultural	Respect for language, culture and religion Abolition of traditional practices likely to be prejudicial to a child's health	Autonomy	Do children feel they are respected?
Social	Life, survival and development Best possible health and access to health care Education Play Family Life or alternative care Family reunification Fullest social inclusion for disabled children Support for parents to ensure protection of children's rights	Beneficence	Do participants in policy making process act with charity and kindness?
Protective	Promotion of a child's best interests Protection from abuse and exploitation Protection from armed conflict Protection from harmful drugs Protection from trafficking Rehabilitative care post abuse or neglect	Non-Maleficence	Is the dictate of "primum no nocere" adhered to in decisions made related to the child?
Civil and Political	Heard and taken seriously Freedom from discrimination in the exercise of Rights Freedom of religion, association and expression Privacy and Information Respect for physical and personal integrity Freedom from all forms of violence, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Due process in the law Recognition of the importance of treating the child with respect within the justice system Not to be detained arbitrarily	Autonomy	Do children consider themselves participants in their environment?

**“If you come to a fork in the road,
take it”**

-Yogi Berra



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