Building Healthy Communities

CWDA Conference October 2011

The Nexus of Place and Health

Tony Iton, M.D., J.D., MPH Senior Vice President The California Endowment



The "Why"

The Argument For A Place-Based Approach To Health



Achieving Health Equity Means *Fighting* For Social Justice!



- Adapted by ACPHD from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative, Summer 2008

Health ≠ Health care

Where You Live Matters

It Matters A LOT!



Alameda County Public Health Department Mission

To work in partnership with the community to ensure the optimal health and well being of all people through a dynamic and responsive process respecting the diversity of the community and challenging us to provide for present and future generations.

Where we are now

- Overall health has improved.
- Health improvements have not been realized equally across population subgroups in the County.
 - Major inequities in life expectancy and mortality driven by chronic diseases



Infant mortality is decreasing...

Infant Mortality Rates Alameda County 1991-2006





For this reason, September 2009 has been declared National Infant Mortality Awareness Month

by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors:

- Whereas, September 2009 is National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. Infant mortality is the death of a live-born baby within the first year of life; and
- Whereas, the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that the United States ranks 29th among industrialized countries in infant mortality rates and has higher infant mortality rates than the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Cuba; and
- Whereas, the leading causes of infant death include congenital birth defects, prematurity (born too soon), low birth weight (born too small) and Sudden Infant Death Sundrome: and

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quality health care) that impact

"Whereas, to ensure healthy pregnancy Whereas, A (4.5). Howe outcomes, women need to have access to

high quality health care and communities Whereas, A infants. Ala must be supported to improve social have been f Whereas, to and commu prematurity conditions (e.g., poverty, housing) that impact prematurity and low birth weight."

NOW, THERFORE, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize the importance of National Infant Mortality Month and increased public awareness concerning the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families.

September 8, 2009

The Neighborhood Context





