**Ohio Public Health Association’s Health and Equity in All Policies (HEiAP) Initiative**

### Background

Health and Equity in All Policies (HEiAP) is an innovative approach to policy-making that addresses complex social determinants of health by ensuring that policies have beneficial or at least neutral impacts on outcomes of both health and equity. Unlike Health in All Policies (HiAP), which focuses on the health impact of policy-making, HEiAP broadens that focus to include impact on equity as well as health, because inequities are critical factors in determining health outcomes. As an alternative model, HEiAP recognizes that sustainable improvement in health outcomes is possible only when we address the underlying inequities that contribute to poor health. In 2015, the Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA) adopted HEiAP as an organizational value and formed a HEiAP Committee to address poor health outcomes and social inequities in Ohio. The project was undertaken in collaboration with state Senator Charleta Tavares, keynote speaker at OPHA's 2015 Public Policy Institute.

### Components

The proposed bill has potential to impact SDOH and promote equity in birth outcomes. It seeks to create a standardized, systematic review process for determining potential impact of proposed legislation on the health of Ohioans and calls for a health and equity impact analysis at the early stages of policy development. The purpose is to inform Ohio lawmakers of any potential negative health and equity consequences of proposed legislation allowing legislators to consider how proposed bills would impact the population's health through other influences such as water/air quality, public transportation access, social services, food security, housing, and education.

#### Establishment of the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) Review Process

- Prepare health impact statement
- Determine positive, negative, or neutral impact on the health of Ohioans or on the attainment of equity
- Analyze in the context of the social determinants of health: housing, transportation, food security, education, employment, access to care...

#### JCARR Process: Require Health Impact Statement on Rule Reviews

- Include health and equity impact statement on proposed (new), reviewed and amended rules
- Health and equity analysis will determine neutral, negative, beneficial impact
- Analyze in the context of the determinants of health: housing, transportation, education, employment, food security, criminal justice, access to care...

#### Establishment of a HEiAP Advisory Board

- Provide guidance, analysis, reporting recommendations on effectiveness of this health and equity review
- Annually issue a sampling of health and equity reviews conducted by LSC
- Issue biennial report with potential return on investment data related to policies or programs addressing health and equity issues

#### Creation of the Health and Equity Interagency Team

- Created in the Ohio Department of Health with representatives from state agencies to ensure collaboration across all state agencies
- Coordinate resources, implement strategies to address health and equity factors impacted by the social determinants of health
- Create links between various policy areas, build new partnerships to promote health and equity; Develop common metrics

### Progress-to-Date

- Facilitated conversations with stakeholders for input on initiative
- Developed and tested an assessment tool for reviewing draft legislation and administrative rules for health and equity impact
- Engaged a research firm to develop a report on other states' efforts to advance health and equity
- OPHA leadership implemented organizational objectives and commitment to HEiAP
- Completed first draft of legislation
- Visited potential Republican co-sponsors and identified additional Democratic co-sponsors
- Introduced Ohio S.B. 302 “Health and Equity in All Policies Initiative and the Health and Equity Interagency Team”
- OPHA members have presented the HEiAP initiative to audiences across the state

### Lessons Learned

- Organizational persistence and hard work in partnership with an advocate legislator can result in getting to the point of proposed legislation, spurring hope for continued progress
- Active stakeholder engagement and collaboration is key; organizations and stakeholders who would likely be against the bill should have more actively engaged in order to better understand and address their concerns and/or to develop appropriate responses to any issues
- Since many stakeholders in non-health related fields seem overwhelmed by the breadth and scope of SDOH, convening additional focus groups may have been helpful for developing understandable messaging around the core concepts of the bill
- Appropriate expectations should be set early in the process, because shifts in policies of this scope are not attained overnight; initiatives of this scale should be approached as a marathon and not a sprint in order to help keep up momentum

### Next Steps

- Continue to formally engage the entire OPHA membership through education, communication, and training about HEiAP
- Mobilize Legislative Liaisons for advocacy to generate support for the bill
- Identify further sponsors for the bill
- Seek funding to advance HEiAP in Ohio
- Form and lead an HEiAP coalition comprising all interested stakeholders and community organizations

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Or go to the OPHA website using this QR code