Next Steps after the “400-Years of Inequity Summit”

Recall that the Summit had 3 goals:
1. Commemorate the 400-years since African Slavery began in the United States
2. Begin changing the narrative:
   • From the dominant national narrative that racial disparities exist because of group level flaws among those of African ancestry
   • To the truth: that disparities are primarily a consequence of how America has managed the issue of Race
3. Provoke local, State, and National activity to figure out how we get on the other side of Racism
Anniversaries are an important part of life. They remind us of important events. Whether we're marking a birthday, a wedding or civil partnership, a momentous event, or the death of a loved one, an anniversary puts a pin on the calendar to remind us of something that matters to us.

Whatever the anniversary, it gives us a chance to look back over the years since the event we're marking, and reflect on how it has shaped us. Remembering the past can be an important part of understanding who we are.

There are fixed dates through the year when we share collective memories: to remember those who’ve died in wars and conflicts, or to mark the passing of time since an event like September 11th 2001, for example. They are important for communities to come together and remember events that have had a huge collective impact on the community, and have shaped its future.

https://theawarenesscentre.com/anniversaries/
In August of 1619, a ship appeared on this horizon, near Point Comfort, a coastal port in the British colony of Virginia. It carried more than 20 enslaved Africans, who were sold to the colonists. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the years of slavery that followed. On the 400th anniversary of this fateful moment, it is finally time to tell our story truthfully.

The 1619 Project
Anniversaries:

Whatever the anniversary, it gives us a chance to look back over the years since the event we’re marking, and reflect on how it has shaped us. Remembering the past can be an important part of understanding who we are.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Span</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>% U.S. Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1619–1865</td>
<td>Slaves: “Chattel”</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865–1964</td>
<td>Jim Crow: virtually no Citizenship rights</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964–2019*</td>
<td>“Equal”</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1619–2019</td>
<td>“Struggle” “Unfairness”</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Time-line of African American Experience:**

- **Slavery:**
  - 246 yrs.
  - 61.5% of time

- **Jim Crow**
  - 99 yrs.
  - 24.5% of time

- **Post-CRA**
  - 55 yrs.
  - 14% of time

86% of the AA experience either as Slaves or under Jim Crow

Hx. characterized by an uninterrupted continuum of providing substantial advantage to Whites while, simultaneously, exposing African Americans to substantial disadvantage.

*CRA: Civil Rights Act*
Anniversaries:

There are fixed dates through the year when we share collective memories: to remember those who’ve died in wars and conflicts, or to mark the passing of time since an event like September 11\textsuperscript{th} 2001, for example. \textit{They are important for communities to come together and remember events that have had a huge collective impact on the community, and have shaped its future.}

What has been the COLLECTIVE IMPACT on Black America?
Racial Wealth Gap:

Racially-motivated/discriminatory public policies are the most significant cause of the racial wealth gap:

It is easy to assume that this wealth gap is because people just do not attain enough education, or earn enough, or that it just happened. But history shows that policies at the federal, state, and local levels (especially housing policies) explicitly or implicitly denied communities of color access to wealth building opportunities that were available to White Americans.

What's Driving the Increasing Racial Wealth Gap?

- Family Financial Support & Inheritance: 5%
- Unemployment: 9%
- College Education: 5%
- Household Income: 20%
- Homeownership: 27%

Percent of the Difference in Relative Wealth Growth between Black and White Families Attributed to Each Factor

Source: IASP, 2013
How wealth affects health

Homeownership helps to build family savings for the next generation. But not everyone has the opportunity to build that financial legacy.

Gaps in homeownership by race have remained virtually unchanged since 1968.
How rising U.S. income inequality exacerbates racial economic disparities:

Racial income inequality in the U.S. has changed little in 48 years

Ratio of mean and median black family income to white family income in the United States, 1968-2016

Author: Robert Manduca, August 23, 2018
“Our Broken Economy”

The poor and middle class used to see the largest income growth. But now, the very affluent (the 99.999th percentile) see the largest income growth.

Note: Inflation-adjusted annual average growth using income after taxes, transfers and non-cash benefits.
Targeting minority, low-income neighborhoods for hazardous waste sites:

Minority and low-income neighborhoods and communities in transition are disproportionately targeted by industries that follow the path of least resistance when deciding where to locate hazardous waste sites and other polluting facilities.

Several decades of research in the field of environmental justice has established clear patterns of racial and socioeconomic disparities in the distribution of a large variety of environmental hazards. Hazardous waste sites, polluting industrial facilities and other locally unwanted land uses are disproportionately located in nonwhite and poor communities.

Source: https://news.umich.edu/targeting-minority-low-income-neighborhoods-for-hazardous-waste-sites/
Air pollution exposure matters; it is the largest environmental health risk factor in the US, adding up to about 100,000 deaths each year.

https://www.pnas.org/content/116/13/6001
African Americans are incarcerated in state prisons across the country at more than five times the rate of whites, and at least ten times the rate in five states. This report documents the rates of incarceration for whites, African Americans, and Hispanics in each state, identifies three contributors to racial and ethnic disparities in imprisonment, and provides recommendations for reform.
Figure 1 provides a national view of the concentration of prisoners by race and ethnicity as a proportion of their representation in the state’s overall general population, or the rate per 100,000 residents. Looking at the average state rates of incarceration, we see that overall blacks are incarcerated at a rate of 1,408 per 100,000 while whites are incarcerated at a rate of 275 per 100,000. This means that blacks are incarcerated at a rate that is 5.1 times that of whites. This national look also shows that Hispanics are held in state prisons at an average rate of 378 per 100,000, producing a disparity ratio of 1.4:1 compared to whites.

### Incarceration Rates Among Founding NATO Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Incarceration Rate (per 100,000 population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment

- All Men: 1 in 9
- White Men: 1 in 17
- Black Men: 1 in 3
- Latino Men: 1 in 6
- All Women: 1 in 56
- White Women: 1 in 111
- Black Women: 1 in 18
- Latina Women: 1 in 45

Ohio and Infant Mortality:
Ohio White & Black IMRs: 1980-2017

Disparity Ratio

Source: ODH
We have to go as far back as 1975 to find a White IMR comparable to our 2017 Black IMR. This suggests a \textbf{42-year survival time lag}, meaning that unless we change this pattern, Black babies in Ohio have to wait until the year \textbf{2059} to experience the same opportunity to survive the first year of life as White babies did in 2017. We think this is unfair, unjust and we know that we can do better.

Source: ODH
But...Ohio has NEVER accomplished any HP IMR Goal for Black babies. Although Ohio achieved such goals for White babies 3 of 4 HP decades and it has achieved the White goals in advance of the goal dates.

Source: ODH
2017 USA Black IMR by States

OH has one of the nation’s highest Black IMRs

Source: Deaths: Final Data for 2017, NCHS
Why these disparities?
There's No Scientific Basis for Race—It's a Made-Up Label

It's been used to define and separate people for millennia. But the concept of race is not grounded in genetics.
Humans share the vast majority (99.9%) of our DNA in common.

“Race does not provide an accurate representation of human biological variation. It was never accurate in the past, and it remains inaccurate... The Western concept of race must be understood as a classification system that emerged from, and in support of, European colonialism, oppression, and discrimination. It thus does not have its roots in biological reality, but in policies of discrimination. Because of that, over the last five centuries, race has become a social reality that structures societies and how we experience the world.”

It’s not RACE...

It’s RACISM!!!!
Unequal Treatment:

- Across virtually every therapeutic intervention, ranging from high technology procedures to the most elementary forms of diagnostic and treatment interventions, minorities receive fewer procedures and poorer quality medical care than whites.

- These differences persist even after differences in health insurance, SES, stage and severity of disease, co-morbidity, and the type of medical facility are taken into account.

- Moreover, they persist in contexts such as Medicare and the VA Health System, where differences in economic status and insurance coverage are minimized.

Institute of Medicine, 2003
Unconscious Discrimination:

• When one holds a negative stereotype about a group and meets someone who fits the stereotype s/he will discriminate against that individual

• Stereotype-linked bias is an
  • Automatic process
  • Unconscious process
  • Present among all of us

• It occurs even among persons who are not prejudiced

Source: Dr. David Williams
1. Racial disparities in health are large, pervasive and persistent over time.

2. Inequalities in health are created by larger inequalities in society, of which **racism** is one determinant.

3. Racial differences in health reflect the successful implementation of social policies. Eliminating them requires **political will and commitment** to implement new strategies to improve living and working conditions.

4. Eliminating disparities in health requires
   a. Acknowledging and documenting the health consequences of racism, and
   b. Efforts to ameliorate their negative effects, dismantle the structures of racism and/or establish countervailing influences to the pervasive processes of racism.

**Source:** Dr. David Williams
I'm begging the American people to pay attention to what is going on. Because if you want to have a democracy intact for your children, and your children's children, and generations yet unborn we've got to guard this moment... this is our watch.

- Elijah Cummings
EQUITY... have we grown content with just kicking this can down the Road? Do we ever intend to address it?
How long must people of color wait for justice? How long must we wait for an equitable opportunity to survive the first year of life?

• “For years now we have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We have come to see that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."
  — Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail (1963)

• “You have always told us that progress takes time. It has taken my father’s time, my mother’s time, my aunt’s & uncle’s time, my sister’s and brother’s time, my niece’s and my nephew’s time (this all after it took my grandparent’s, great grandparent’s, and great great grandparent’s time...and it has robbed too many of our newborns of any time)...HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU WANT FOR PROGRESS?”
A Call to Action:

“The only thing necessary for the triumph [of evil] is for good men (and women) to (say) do nothing.”

Source: Edmund Burke, Irish Philosopher
Racial Disparities: “are not natural”... we made it this way?

We often perceive racial health disparities as consequences of “nature”. As such, we convince ourselves that these differences are “fixed” or “hardwired”; a part of what is different about us as people and therefore cannot be changed.

Similarly, we also often see America as it is instead of an America as it should be...and we accept the difference between the two as “normal”.

However, these disparities are differences that we created, differences that occur as a consequence of systems that we put into place. Therefore, we know they can be changed and would suggest that their persistence is in part because of our unwillingness to “undo” what we have done.
It’s time to Declare Racism of Public Health Crisis!
We are challenging why it is that the Black IMR in Region V is the highest in the nation...
We are establishing coalitions with:

- Other Ohio Organizations
  - OEI Communities
  - The Ohio State University Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race an Ethnicity
  - City and County Health Departments
- Other States, especially Region V States
- National Organizations:
  - National YWCA
  - March of Dimes
  - PolicyLink
  - #RacialHealing
  - WKKF
  - CityMatCH
  - NHSA
Within the context of this conversation that acknowledges the importance of Anniversaries...let me remind us all that First Year Cleveland was established in December of 2015. This month marks our 4-year anniversary and, as such, provides us with opportunity to take stock of why we are here, what we have done, and pay attention to where we are going.