What is Michigan Power to Thrive?

“An alignment of two powerful disciplines – Community Organizing and Public Health – in a mutual effort to create Health Equity and Social Justice in Michigan”

“A network of people who seek to align the resources of public health and the resources of community organizers in Michigan.”
5 Key Elements of Health in All Policies

Promote health, equity, and sustainability
Support intersectoral collaboration.
Benefit multiple partners.
Engage stakeholders.
Create structural or procedural change.
What is Michigan Power to Thrive?

OUR VALUES

“The history and traditions of community organizing and public health share many common values. Our faith in these values demands that we take active moral responsibility for ourselves and our communities in ensuring a just and equitable society, a decent quality of life for all, and respect for human dignity.”
What is Michigan Power to Thrive?

OUR CALLING

“Our democratic tradition and our commitment to the principles of equity and justice demand that all have a right and duty to participate actively in the social, political, and economic decisions that affect our quality of life.

“We are called to work together for fundamental, transformational remedies to social and political forces that undermine democracy and limit the power of people to achieve well-being.”
What is Michigan Power to Thrive?

OUR GOAL

“We will work to unite people from various religious and secular organizations as members of a multi-county network whose purpose is to promote the welfare of all people in Michigan through a process of education, dialogue, and direct action.”
We have helped many PH people understand the CO world better; but have not helped CO’s understand PH.

Actions & Issues vs. deep structural change… exposing and replacing dominant narratives that hurt people.

Agitation as a practice; PH misunderstanding its nature and purpose.

Inadequate attention to the racial narrative in talking about power.

Risk assessment by PH workers in challenging or defying restrictive assumptions about what we can and cannot do.

Identifying an issue campaign that we can all work on collectively…
“As public health professionals, we need a new kind of practice where public health practitioners understand that creating health equity requires us to be in deep relationship with people who understand and are willing to create and build power. Powerlessness is making us sick.”

Dr. Tony Iton, the California Endowment, (former Health Officer, Alameda County, CA)