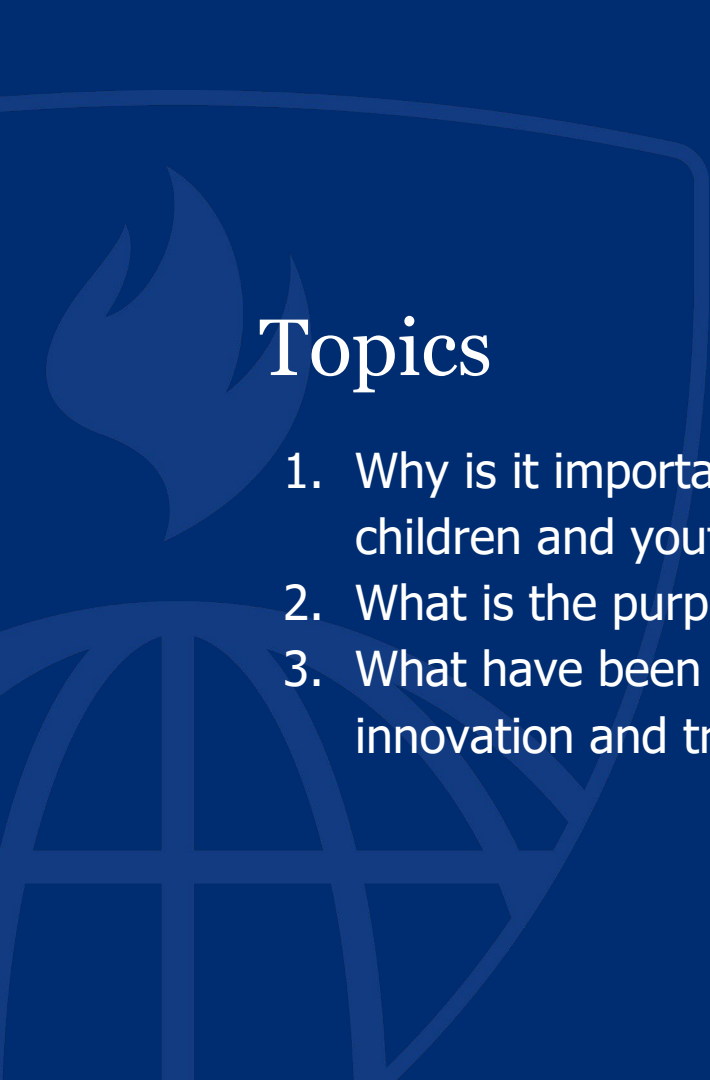




Public Session:

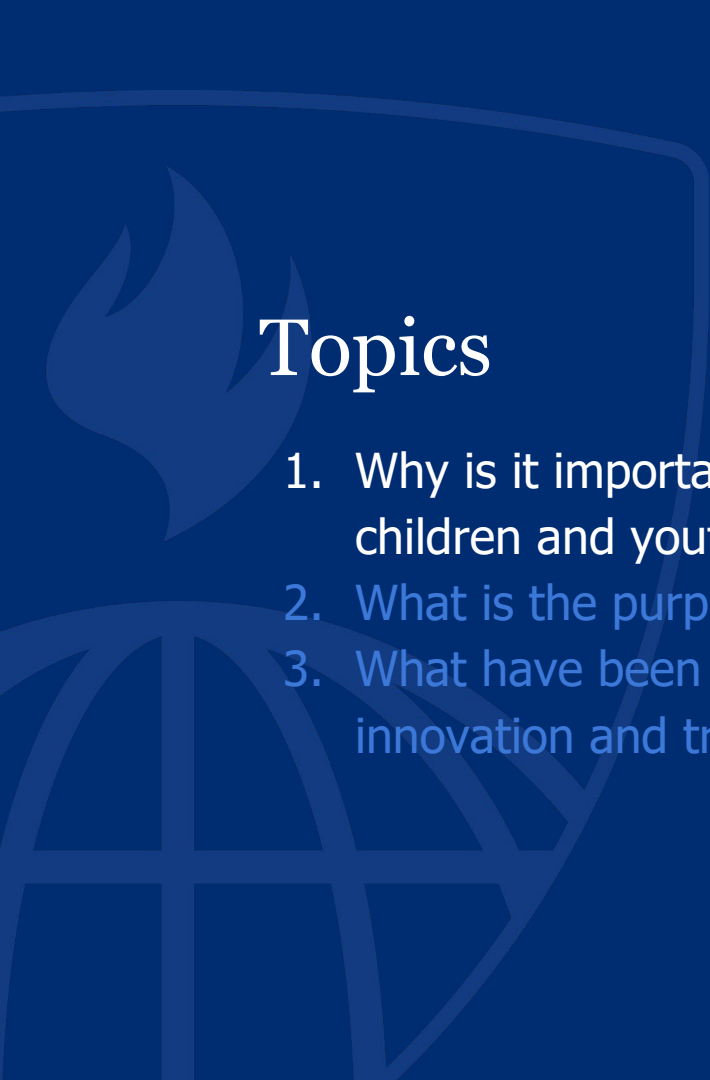
**Improving the Health and
Well-Being of Children
Through Health Care
System Transformation**

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
February 27, 2023



Topics

1. Why is it important to invest in the health and wellbeing of children and youth?
2. What is the purpose of transformation? Desired outcomes?
3. What have been identified as key levers of change to guide innovation and transformation within healthcare systems?



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Students Lost One-Third of a School Year to Pandemic, Study Finds

Learning delays and regressions were most severe in developing countries and among children from low-income backgrounds. And students still haven't caught up.

NYT, 1/23

The Kids Are Not Alright: New Report Shows Pediatric Mental Health Hospitalizations Rose 61%

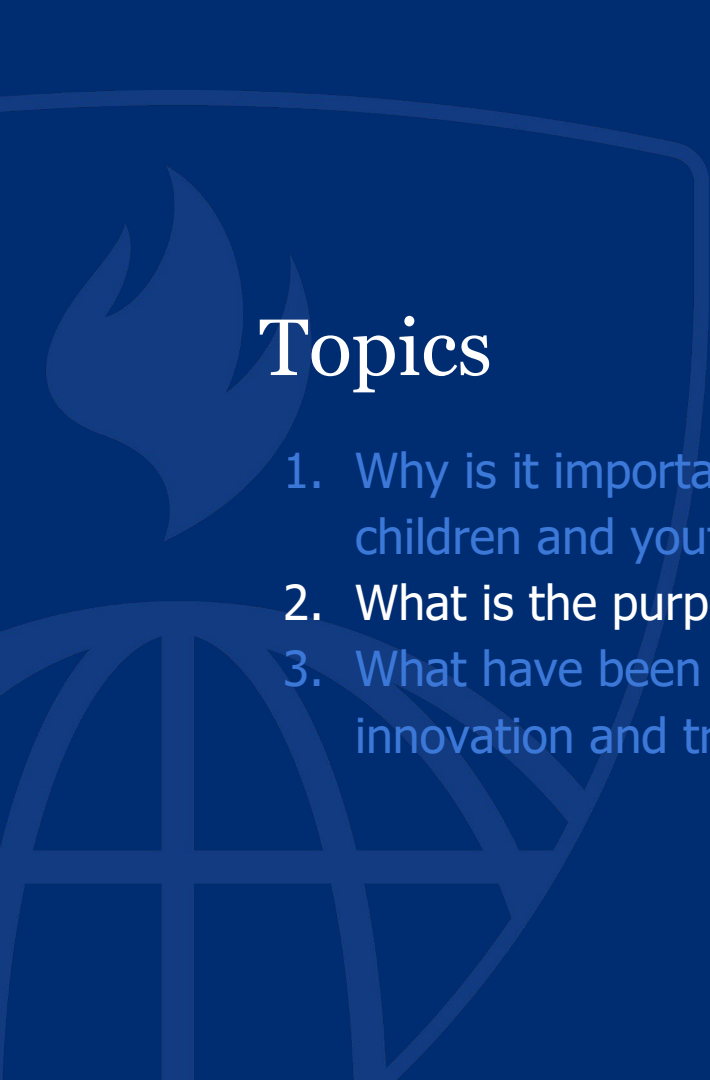
Forbes, 9/22

Girls, LGBTQ+ teens at higher risk for depression, CDC mental health report says

While teens across America have increased mental health struggles, girls and LGBTQ+ kids are more likely to suffer violence and emotional stress.

USA Today, 2/23





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What Is NOT the Purpose of Transformation

1. Reduce healthcare spending on children...because there's not that much to be saved.

***As Hospitals Close Children's
Units, Where Does That Leave
Lachlan?***

Adult beds are more lucrative than children's beds. So as institutions look to boost profit margins, pediatrics is often among the first services to be cut.

NYT, 10/22



What Is NOT the Purpose of Transformation

2. Improve clinical quality ... because that can be done today.

Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP)



What Is the PQMP?

Learn about the PQMP's current efforts focused on pediatric measurement and quality improvement.

Current PQMP Grantees

Read about the grantees awarded funding to continue the PQMP's important work.

PQMP Learning Collaborative

Learn about the grantee teams' collaborative work focused on improving quality of care for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

AHRQ, 2023



What Is NOT the Purpose of Transformation

3. Provide financial access to care ... because that's the job of policy.

Rep. Schrier Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Expand Health Care Access for Children

2/23



What Is the Purpose of Transformation

- Improving the health and well-being of children
- Closing equity gaps in health and well-being



What Is the Purpose of Transformation

More:

- School achievement
- Nutrition
- Effective management of chronic illness
- Mentally healthy days
- Etc.

Less:

- Chronic absenteeism
- Hunger
- Preventable complications
- Injuries
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Etc.





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Lever of Change



Financial Incentives

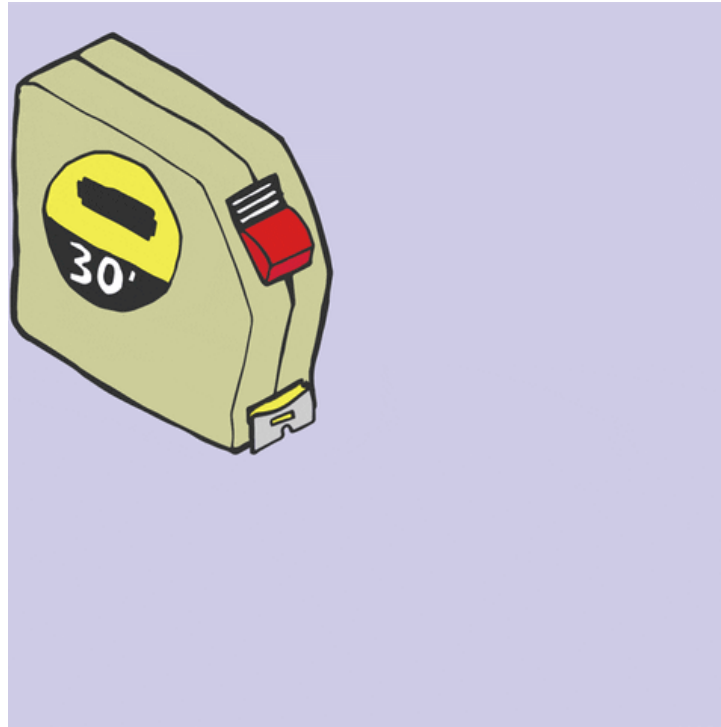
- Is the health system going to do better financially if children are healthier?
- Potential mechanisms: ACO, global payments

Rethinking Payment and Incentives for a Healthy Early Childhood

Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD



Lever of Change



Measures

- Opportunity to embrace measures of child well-being across sectors ... and consider clinical system contributions.

**Chronic Absenteeism
Reduction Effort**

**Rx for Chronic
Absenteeism**

Over 6 million kids in the U.S. miss 15 or more days of school a year, according to federal data. This chronic absenteeism negatively affects educational achievement and long-term health outcomes.

The Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Effort (CARE) Playbook can help health care systems and school districts work together to get students in classrooms and ready to learn.

[GET THE PLAYBOOK](#)



Cincinnati: Health–Education Collaboration to Improve Educational Outcomes

americanhealth.jhu.edu/CARE



Lever of Change



Leadership

- Need more expansive vision than the short-term bottom line
- Open to public sector partnerships
- Interested in supporting and joining coalitions with communities
- Able to rethink human resources to bring community members into a range of positions

GENERAL

Measuring Hospital Contributions to Community Health with a Focus on Equity

americanhealth.jhu.edu/hospitalmeasure



Other Levers

- Community-based coalitions and advocacy
- Legislative engagement
- Crises affecting other sectors



Conclusion

