

Strengthening Community Collaboration to Reduce Health Disparities and Advance Equity

National Academy of Science,
Engineering, and Medicine

Anita Chopra, MD,FACP
University of Washington School of Medicine
UW Long Covid Recovery & Rehab
Founder and Medical Director,
Northwest Health & Wellness

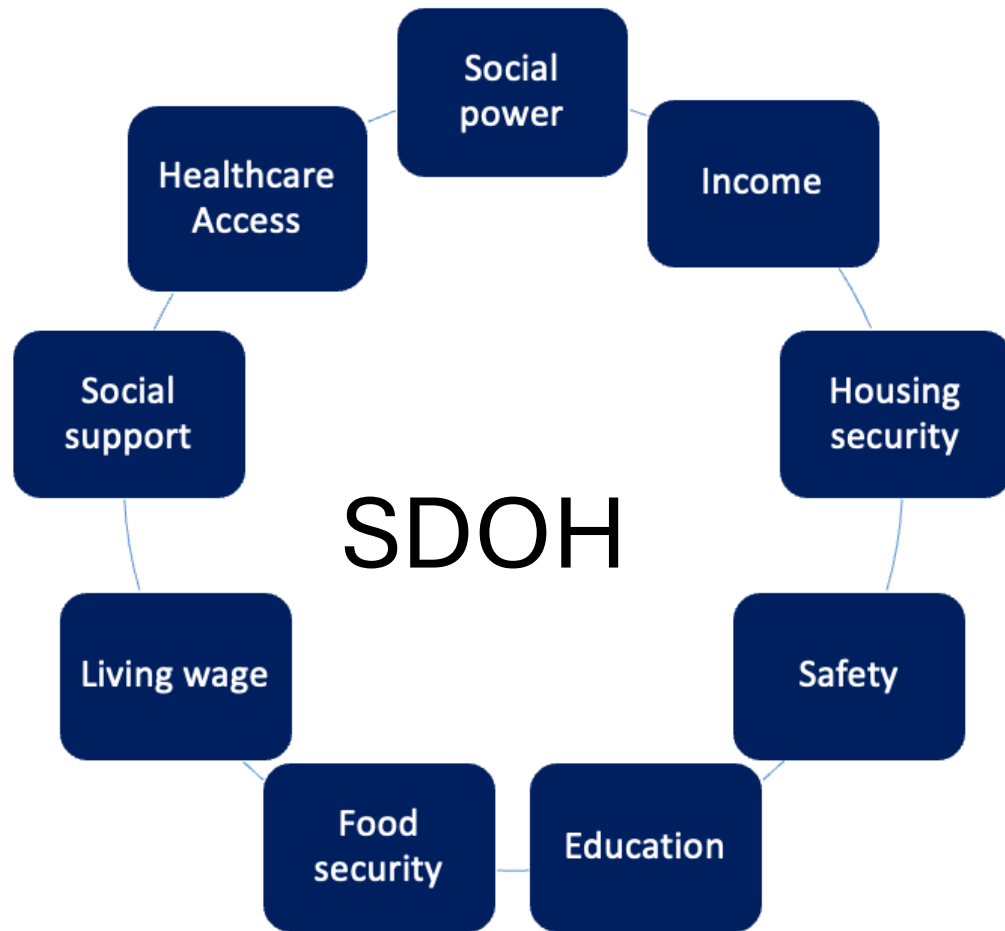


3 points to unpack:

1. Barriers to accessing healthcare and health resources are manifold and changing.
2. Community-based care means far more than transplanting a conventional medical office into a neighborhood.
3. Training a next generation of physicians as health advocates must happen in community-based care settings.

1. Barriers to accessing healthcare and health resources are manifold and changing.

Access affects most health outcomes.



Trust

Tackling access AND trust crises:
Meeting people where they are.

Not just bricks and mortar: Clean Hands Collective



The Seattle Street Sink makes hand washing easy and accessible for anyone, anywhere...

The Seattle Street Sink is a do-it-yourself solution that provides a publicly accessible place for people to wash their hands. The sinks are made from off-the-shelf parts that connect to a hose bib on public or private property. Water from the sink drains to a trough filled with soil and water loving plants – a combination hand washing station and rain garden!



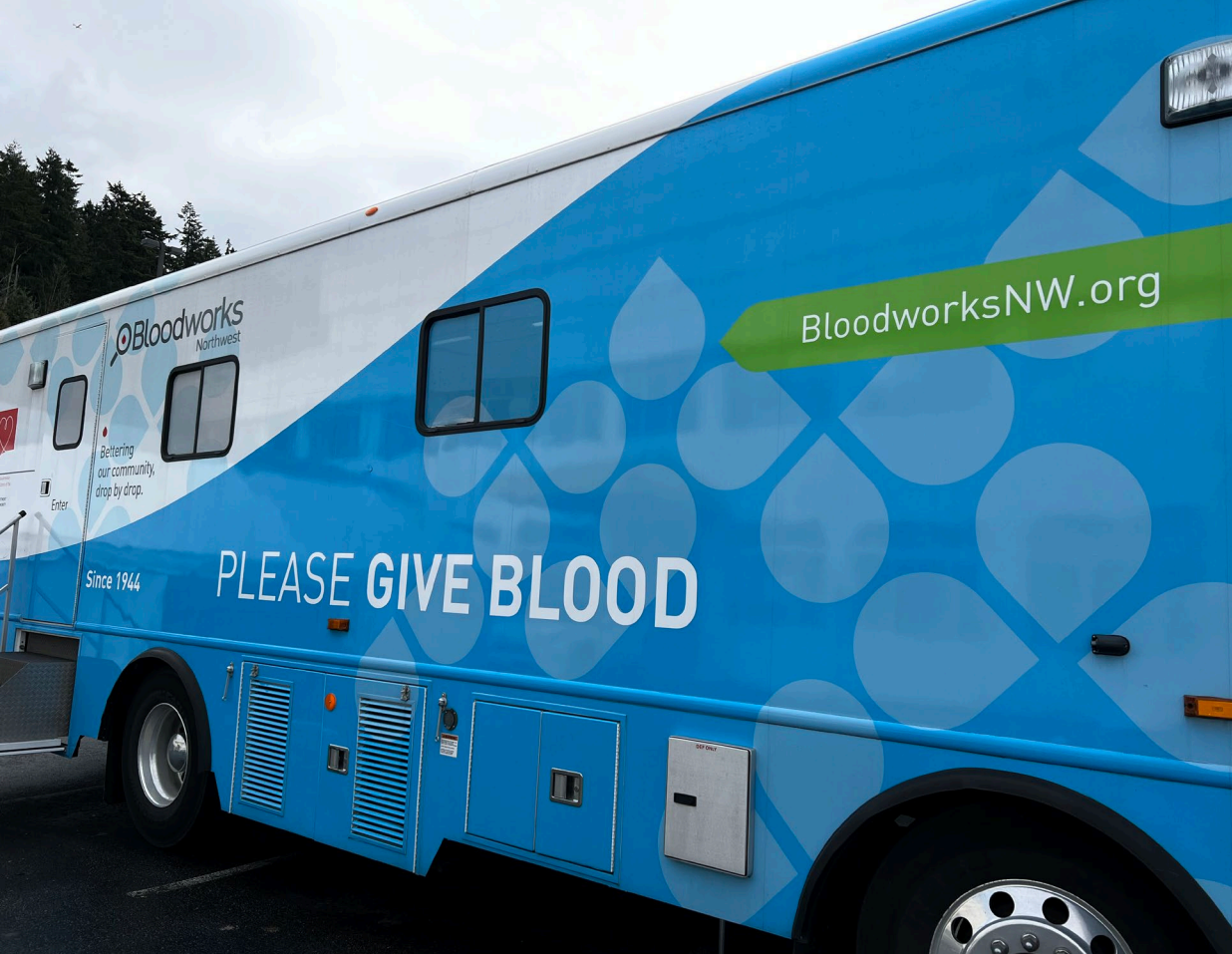
Community partnerships strengthen our healthcare ecosystem.



Access

- Proximity.
- Social safety.
- Culture and language concordance.
- Relational, not just transactional.







2. Community-based care means far more than transplanting a conventional medical office into a neighborhood.





Community coalition driven interventions

- Review of 58 intervention studies.
- Connect multiple health sectors with minoritized communities.
- Benefit health behaviors, health outcomes, social care delivery.

Anderson LM, Adeney KL, Shinn C, Safranek S, Buckner-Brown J, Krause LK. Community coalition-driven interventions to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2015 Jun 15;2015(6):CD009905. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD009905.pub2. PMID: 26075988; PMCID: PMC10656573.

3. Training a next generation of physicians as health advocates must happen in community-based care settings.





Trainees gain clinical skills.

- Communicating with patients in a more relaxed setting.
- Gaining cultural insights.
- Recognizing social determinants and access barriers.



Community engagement is a critical venue for moral development of our trainees.

- Empathy and common humanity.
- Compassion.
- Ethics of care – we are in caring relationship with our patients.
- Social justice (equity)





Community based healthcare is collaborative,
non-hierarchical, and connecting.



Health advocacy and student professional identity formation

- Med students can acquire advocacy skills quickly and early in their training.
- Health advocacy skills → professional self-efficacy and ability to contribute.
- Bring these advocacy skills into their hospital training.

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