SESSION: Health Care, Public Health, and America’s Health

Broad trends in the public health landscape have affected the ways in which public health institutions have prioritized or implemented services—leading up to the challenges these institutions faced in managing an unprecedented global pandemic. The broadened scope of public health challenges has been met by declining funding and limited updates to statutory authorities needed for public health entities to fulfill the “chief health strategist” role, while health systems and frontline providers were increasingly depended upon for public health messaging. With worsening national trends in health outcomes and mortality, urgency is growing to make “Public Health 3.0” a truly shared public-private enterprise that will improve population health. Such an enterprise means health systems and other health care organizations will need to evolve their role in public and population health beyond pandemic response efforts.

Duke-Margolis Spotlights

Reenergizing Public Health and Accountable Population Health

Duke-Margolis is developing a major, cross-cutting initiative to address—and inform—the future of public health and accountable population health in the United States. In a recent report, the Center and its partners outlined a vision that combines needed reforms to public health institutions and policies laid bare by the pandemic with emerging 21st Century medical and health system capabilities—supporting new bridges that better connect public health goals and strategic insights to improved population health capabilities and trust through local health care and social service organizations.

Transforming Health Care

- Safety Net and Value-based Care: an extensive Duke-Margolis examination of the relationship—and the challenges—between the safety net and accountable, value-based care models and provides a host of recommendations for action by federal agencies, states, and providers.
- Home-based Care: an effort to amplify evidence-based policy recommendations and strengthen policy efforts to scale home-based primary care.
- Telehealth: establishing data-driven policy that advances equitable care and outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries using telehealth

Advancing Health Policy Within North Carolina

Efforts to transform health care and expand Medicaid are gaining stronger footholds in states across the South. Duke-Margolis is working to advance their efforts. In North Carolina specifically, the Center's work with public and private stakeholders continues to align health care and social services with the goal of improving the health of all North Carolinians. Duke-Margolis is the primary coordinator of the newly launched State Transformation Collaborative (NC STC) is working on strategies for the NC health system that focus on rewarding better health outcomes, integrating physical and behavioral health, and investing in non-medical interventions aimed at reducing costs.

- Medicare-Medicaid Integration
- Medicaid Expansion
- NC InCK

Improving Health Equity

Duke-Margolis aims to ensure that its health policy research and leadership contribute significantly to dismantling health inequities. A cross-cutting effort across the Center, recent health equity work includes:

- best practices for equitable COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and therapeutics,
- evidence generation for equity principles to apply to payment models and care delivery pathways,
- guidance for equity in clinical trial design and access to medical products, and
- health equity curricula to embed in health policy research and education

These and other Duke-Margolis efforts have been made possible in part by: