



AHA TRANSFORMATION TALKS

STRATEGIES FOR REIMAGINING HEALTH CARE

Advancing Health Equity: Creating and Sustaining Change

Health care has reached an inflection point in the movement to advance health equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on Black, Latino, Native Americans and other communities of color has accelerated the integration of health equity into health care strategy playbooks across the nation. Within health care settings, from urban to rural and from hospitals to ambulatory care sites and clinics, there is a renewed focus on efforts to advance health equity. Furthermore, there is growing recognition that a commitment to promoting equitable practices is tied to the core work of improving quality and patient safety.

Now comes the critical moment: It's time to act and ensure accountability. The field must dismantle the structures and policies that support and perpetuate inequities in health care.



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Many hospitals and health system leaders already have begun mobilizing to ensure that their hospitals are inclusive and just systems of care, thereby improving health outcomes for all.

They are achieving proficiency in:



Race, ethnicity and language (REaL) data collection.



Training their teams to become culturally aware.



Promoting diverse representation among their leadership and governance ranks.



Strengthening community partnerships to make a difference.

The challenge now is to capitalize on this window of opportunity before it closes so that we can create and sustain lasting change.

To help your organization transform, visit the AHA Transformation Talks **resources page**.

Discussion Questions:

1. **With the sense of urgency to act on advancing health equity, what is different about this moment in time for health care organizations? How do we leverage this opportunity to raise all boats and bring about greater accountability to deliver sustained change?**
2. **What structures has your health system put in place to advance health equity and to ensure accountability to its surrounding communities? What results are you seeing?**