Advancing Health Equity: Journey From Steering Committee to A Center
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Objective
• Despite the growth of efforts to eliminate health disparities in the US, pervasive inequities in healthcare and health outcomes persist
• Quality Improvement (QI) interventions directed at improving overall quality of care can either reduce, worsen or have no effect on health disparities
• Analysis of Quality Improvement (QI) data from CHOP’s Clinical Pathways program revealed persistent racial/ethnic and economic disparities at our points of care
• The identified disparities at our points of care are compounded by social determinates that children living in the CHOP’s surrounding community experience (racism, poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity and exposure to violence and sub par schools)

Methods & Approach
• Assembled key stakeholders from the Center for Healthcare Quality and Analytics, inpatient services, primary care network, emergency department, subspecialty care, language services, and patient & family experience
• Created the vision, mission and imperatives for Health Equity using themes that emerged from staff interviews and group meetings
• Created a repository to assess and track health equity work across the CHOP network

Results
• Equity in patient-provider communication: improving the identification of limited English proficient patients in the emergency department
• Health Equity and clinical informatics partnering to close the gaps in multilingual telehealth access

Embed as an Integral Component of Quality
• Establish a multidisciplinary health equity steering committee of key stakeholders to guide strategic solutions
• Create forums to raise awareness of health equity concepts and share ongoing equity work across the institution
• Develop a system for reporting and reviewing equity concerns raised by patients and staff
• Leverage system-wide health information technology tools to promote engagement and reduce disparities

Conclusions and Potential Impact
• Deployment of a Health Equity QI Team is an effective strategy to decrease disparities at our points of care
• CHOP is committed to expanding the work of this team by establishing a Center for Health Equity in FY21