



10 Years

of Education, Advocacy, and Community and
Capacity Building in Support of Health Equity!

HEi Health Equity Initiative
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10 Lessons for 10 Years

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Our Mission

Health Equity Initiative (HEI) is a member-driven nonprofit membership organization dedicated to build a global community that engages across sectors and disciplines to advance health equity. By bringing together and enlisting the efforts of the public and private sectors, professions and communities that have both a stake and an influence on social determinants of health, HEI advocates for improving conditions and achieving equity in health for all. We focus on championing transformative change to advance health equity, supporting knowledge, engaging communities and leaders, and building capacity to address barriers that prevent people from leading a healthy and productive life.

Together we are reimagining the dynamics of health and social systems

Bridging silos, building one community for health equity

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Health Equity Initiative's Journey and Commitment

Key Action Areas and Main Focus

- **Community/membership building** - via our role as convener
- **Professional development, capacity building and training** - via our webinars, workshops, and resources
- **Partnerships** – to engage different players and foster alliances
- **Education and advocacy** in support of health equity
- Advocate for **community engagement** and **multisectoral solutions**
- Address **social discrimination** (e.g., racism, gender bias, bias toward low-income groups or the LGBTQI+ community, xenophobia, other forms of implicit and/or institutional bias) **as a key determinant of health**
- Promote equity and social justice in the **design of cities and other kinds of built environments**
- Focus on **system-change across professional sectors and disciplines**

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A photograph showing a group of diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, sitting around a table in what appears to be a meeting or workshop. They are looking towards each other and seem to be in the middle of a discussion. The photo is partially obscured by a white, torn-edge paper effect at the bottom.

Lesson 1

It takes a village to advance health equity. This is why we focus on building a multisectoral community!

The logo for the Health Equity Initiative (HEi) is located in the bottom right corner. It features the letters 'HEi' in a stylized green font, followed by the text 'Health Equity Initiative' and the tagline 'JOIN THE MOVEMENT' in a smaller font below it.

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Lesson 2

We need to accept that health equity in policy and practice means different things to different communities, organizations, and places

Community Leaders Forums

Since its inception in 2011, Health Equity Initiative has pioneered a community-driven and multistructured approach to advancing health equity across all of our strategies, resources, events and partnerships. We advocate for raising the influence of community voices on health equity addresses and "walk the walk" on our activities and programs. From our resources (2011-2021) to our 2022-2023 program that sought to provide a great deal of support in respect of community specific solutions to our more recent research and other community-driven events and capacity building efforts, we always feel privileged to learn from and work with communities and their leaders, and to read more community-based experiences in this our network.



Racial Healing and Health Equity: A Look at Promising Policies and Community-Driven Interventions

This forum was designed, organized and hosted by Health Equity Initiative to capture local, national and global perspectives in the words of community leaders and their organizations. The forum focuses on (1) reflections on the current realities of racial inequalities and the leader's own experiences on how to promote racial healing, and (2) how to build on and sustain the work of the community-based organizations and their leaders.



As presented by Renata Schiavo, PhD, MA, CCL, Founder and President, Board of Directors, Health Equity Initiative, at the:
- 2012 SUMMIT ON THE SCIENCE TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES, National Institute of Health and CDC
- 2016 Health Equity Initiative Summit
- 2017 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting



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Lesson 3

Some people are in it for the journey, some people for the trend... or other reasons. Finding common ground is an important challenge!

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Lesson 4

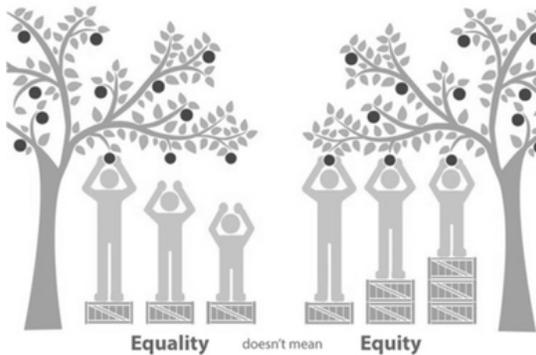
Community voices – and more specifically community and patient engagement – are key to addressing health inequities. Yet these remain under-resourced and under-implemented areas! Advocacy is key to implement at scale!



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Lesson 5

We need to focus on changing values and social norms rather than changing attitudes



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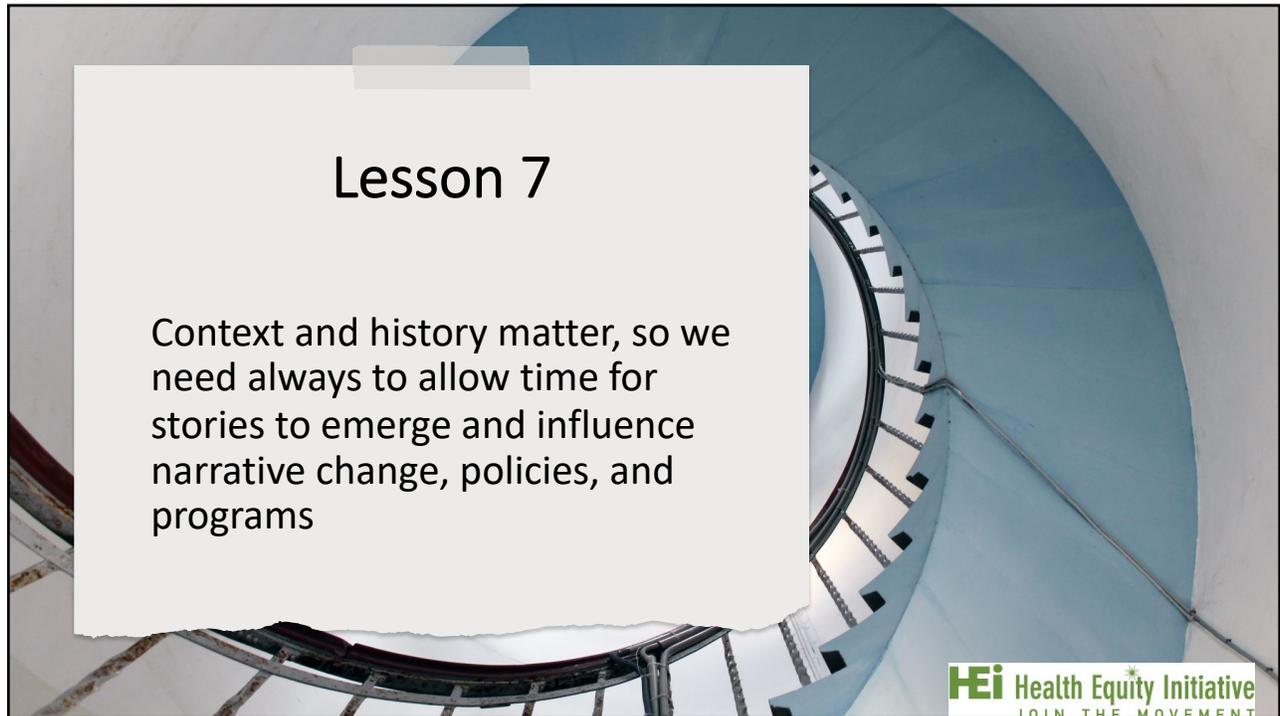
The slide features a light gray background on the left and a white background on the right. On the right side, there is a large, abstract, colorful graphic composed of overlapping, soft-edged shapes in shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, and teal. The text is positioned on the left side of the slide.

Lesson 6

Trust is at the core of everything we do to advance health, racial, and social inequities

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The slide features a background image of a blue spiral staircase. A white rectangular box with a torn-edge effect is overlaid on the left side of the slide, containing the text. The text is positioned on the left side of the slide.

Lesson 7

Context and history matter, so we need always to allow time for stories to emerge and influence narrative change, policies, and programs

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Lessons 8

Be resilient and willing to put in the work. Advancing health equity is not for the faint of heart!



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Lesson 9

Anticipate change, experiment, and evolve, but make sure to have a clarity of purpose!



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Lesson 10

The most powerful and rewarding thing in this journey is the community you build, the conversations you have, and the people you meet and who share your passion for health equity!

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thank you!

Thank you all for your participation - our team, partners, members, donors, and broader community of many years! We planted many seeds but the path ahead of us all – across communities and organizations – is still very steep!

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