



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH MAY PREVENT DIMINISH HEALTH OF VULNERABLE

A forum was held at the Brookings Institution on “The Path Forward for Academic Medical Centers”. Presenters at the forum were Directors of medical schools, medical centers and health care systems.

Summary

Public health social determinants are responsible for 80% of health care. These social determinants of health are spread across several federal departments and result in a fragmented ineffective public health system. Thus, there is need to balance public health functions in the health system that includes Academic Medical Centers.

Health care needs transformation. Academic medical centers (AMC) have been integral to developing innovative treatments and assuring access to care for Americans who need the most help. Many AMCs are seeking to overcome barriers of rising healthcare costs, fragmented care, misaligned incentives, over emphasis on late stage disease not on prevention, persistent health inequalities, more demand for services and tight government budgets

Disability Prevention Issue

Policy reforms are needed to deliver care, where it is greatly needed, to address persistent health inequities. Challenges face the nations AMCs in urban areas that serve a disproportionate share of lower-income and uninsured patients. Improved health outcomes for vulnerable populations need a clear mission, based on evidence-based practices, to improve community health, eliminate health disparities. and prevent diminished health and disability. Health care should be safe, timely, effective, efficient, and equitable and patients centered. In addition the healthcare system should be a seamless continuum or innovation of clinical delivery that collaborates with community health. There are financial pressures that suggest AMCs may not be sustainable in their traditional mission due to funding shifts to cover the uninsured and budget cuts.

Intervention

A letter was written to the Director of the Engelberg center to address the relevance of public health to improvements of Academic Medical Centers.

Recommendation

Academic Medical Centers should collaborate with all public functions with a goal to compress morbidity of people in the U.S. by preventing diminished health and disability.