



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: BENDING THE HEALTH CARE COST CURVE AND PREVENTION OF DISABILITY

The low U.S. standing on morbidity and mortality measures is a reflection on lack of attention to medically non-reimbursable social determinants of public health.

A forum was held by the New America Foundation entitled “Will Health Care Reform Heal the Federal Budget”. Presenters at the forum were health care policy experts, budget and economic experts, and a representative from a consumer group.

Summary

Social determinants of health, as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention are social and environmental factors that impact on individual and community health. Estimates are that 70% of the cause for medical interventions is the result of social determinants associated with public health. Failure to address social determinants of health is, in part, responsible for the exorbitant costs of the U.S. healthcare system.

The business model to provide financial incentives for stakeholders to meet health needs of consumers needs to be carefully examined from a public health perspective.

Disability Prevention Issue,

The low U.S. standing on morbidity and mortality data, associated with disability, is a reflection on lack of attention on the medically non-reimbursable social determinants of public health. Thus, there is need to address a dysfunctional public health system in the U.S. that addresses diminished health that may contribute to disability.

Activity

A letter was written to the moderator of the forum to comment on the association of social determinants of public health and health care cost savings.

Principle

Public policies should strengthen non-medical reimbursable social determinants of public health to prevent diminished health and disability and reduce medical costs.