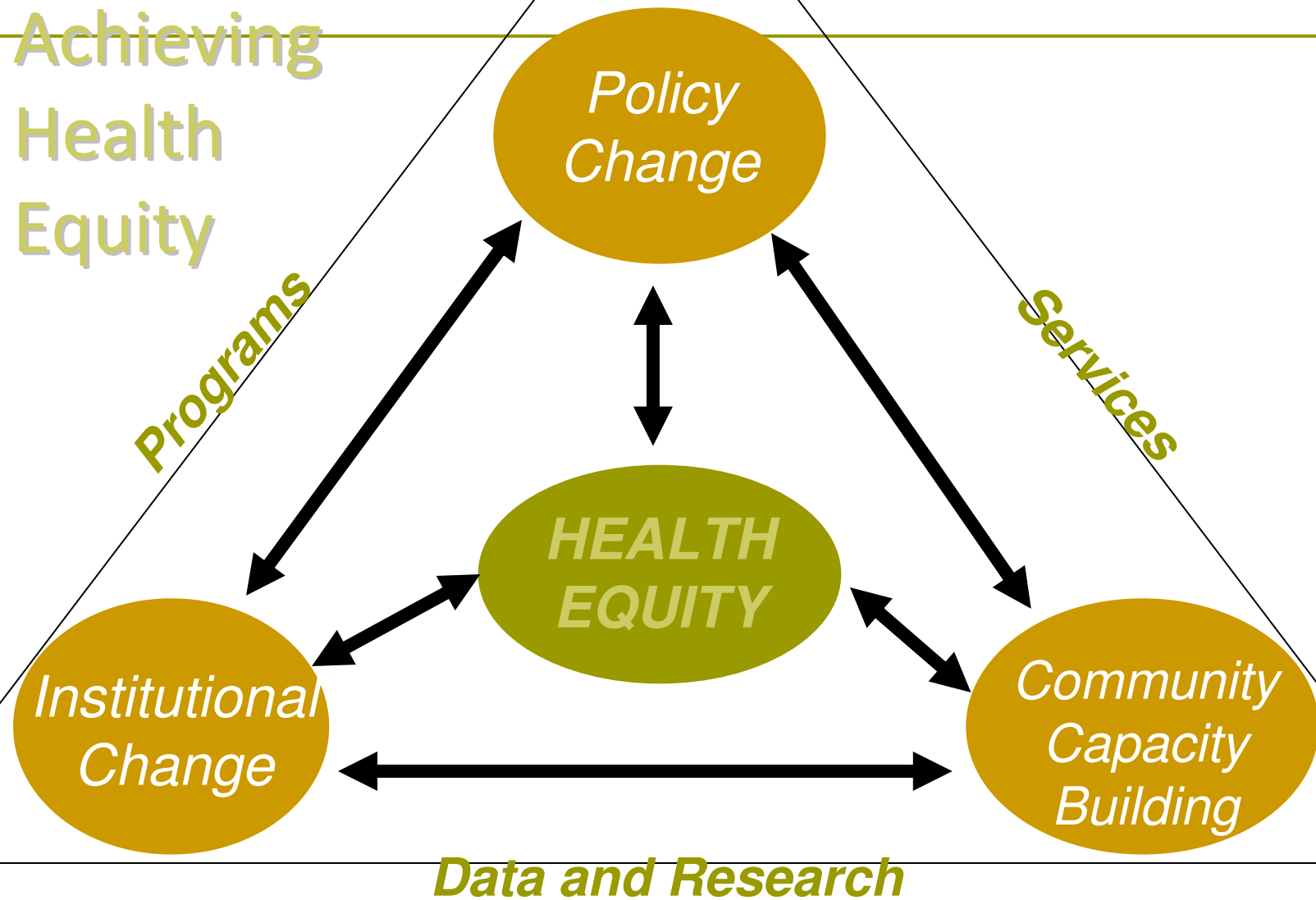


Linking Chronic Disease and Criminal Justice: Venturing into Novel Sectors in Pursuit of Health Equity in Alameda County

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ACPHD's
Approach to
Achieving
Health
Equity



Alameda County Place Matters

- **Mission:** Promote health equity through community-centered local policy focused on criminal justice, economics, education, housing, and land use and transportation



Process Goals

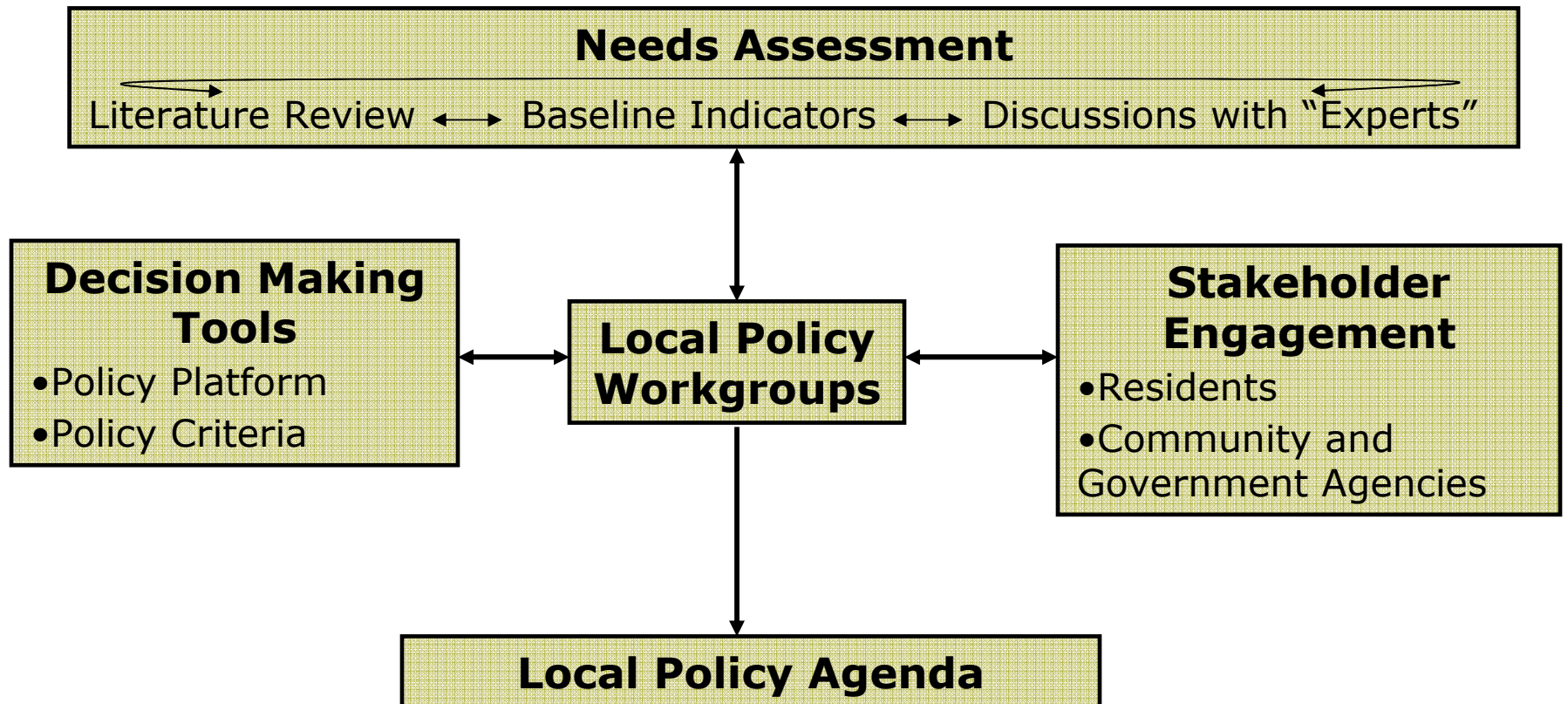
- ❑ Increase ACPHD staff capacity to engage in health equity policy issues
- ❑ Create, strengthen, & sustain relationships with non-traditional partners
- ❑ Improve responsiveness & accountability to community identified policy issues



Outputs: 2007-Present



Building a Local Policy Agenda



Community Engagement



□ **Goals:**

- Provide opportunity for meaningful engagement
- Ground policies in community priorities
- Build relationships for action

□ **Engage “Community Connectors”**

- About 180 Community Connectors engaged

□ **Four initial convenings**

- Building ongoing opportunities to stay connected
 - Joining Policy Workgroups
 - *Unnatural Causes* Train-the-Trainer

com·mu·ni·ty con·nec·tors: People who are driven to connect people to other people, information and opportunities. Dzali. Compadres. Comadres. **People like you.**

Local Policy Agenda

Criminal Justice

- Policy 1: Pre-release discharge planning
 - Countywide focus
- Policy 2: Automatic diversion program referral
 - Countywide focus
- Active support:
 - Disproportionate impact of school discipline policies on youth of color

District Attorney's Connection

- ❑ DA represents county on criminal matters
- ❑ Important to share recommendations and receive input from potential stakeholders
- ❑ A concern was shared regarding the DA's Truancy Court, chronic absenteeism and asthma
- ❑ Public Health and the DA met to see if a partnership could be formed



Information Was Shared



- The DA educated Public Health on Truancy
 - Chronic Absenteeism vs. Truancy
 - 5-13 usually the parent, 14-18 the adolescent
 - Each district has a threshold for chronic absenteeism and tardiness
 - School convenes a School Attendance Review Team (SART) and a plan is developed
 - If plan is broken parents are sent to truancy court
 - Parents attend weekly to monthly court date depending on their progress
 - Asthma Start observed Truancy Court sessions

Information Was Shared



- **Asthma Start educated the DA on services**
 - Provides asthma case management to 0-18 year olds, diagnosed with asthma and living in Alameda County
 - Educates, links to services, coordinates care, advocates with landlords and provides trigger reduction supplies
 - Develops a care plan, documents triggers and teaches parent trigger reduction methods
 - Pre and post test parents knowledge of asthma and documents change in confidence levels
 - Collects data and outcomes

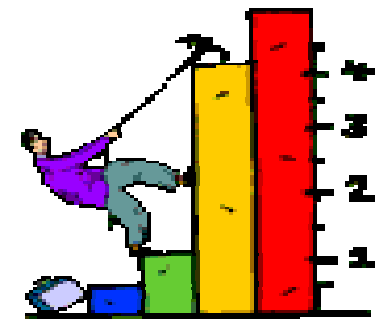
A Partnership is Formed



- A referral form was developed
 - DA faxes the form to Asthma Start when a case is identified as missing school due to asthma
- Asthma Start contacts family to open case
 - Asthma Start faxes updates to DA
 - Did the family call back or agree to case management
 - Did the family keep the appointment with Asthma Start
 - Is the family progressing with the care plan
 - Is the child making scheduled medical appointments
 - Did the family successfully complete the program by making appropriate changes, demonstrates their understanding of asthma management by passing the post test and reports improved confidence

The Importance of This Work

- ❑ Reduce high school drop out rates
- ❑ Reduce incarceration rates
- ❑ Increase life expectancy
- ❑ Improve learning capacity
- ❑ Improve earning potential
- ❑ Improve health status
- ❑ Stable school funding



What Have We Found

- Cases are complex with high psychosocial needs
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Employment
 - Stress
 - Psychological issues
- More resistant to working with us

Future Plans

- Data collection and analysis
- Op Ed piece
- Present as an abstract at the 2011 REACH U.S. California & Beyond Conference

Acknowledgements

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