



**PLACE MATTERS Design Lab Two: A Working Meeting**  
September 20-22, 2006 – Lisle, Illinois

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**OVERVIEW**

Welcome to Lisle. We are delighted you are joining us for our second PLACE MATTERS Design Lab (DL) meeting. We extend a warm welcome to returning participants, expert presenters and especially to our new PLACE MATTERS Community Strategy Teams (hereafter: Teams) from Jefferson County, AL, the District of Columbia, and Marlboro County, SC.

This brief narrative informs our agenda and builds on the previous concepts presented in the DL Concept Paper from our first meeting in Reston, VA. Readers are therefore encouraged to review the previous paper (contained in the resource packet and online <http://www.commonhealthaction.org/pmdl/document.asp>).

Previously, we also shared an extensive bibliography related to social determinants of health and inequities in health status, along with articles with great relevance. Upon check in, you will receive an agenda and several new articles that you can add to your resource binders. We invite all participants and expert speakers to share new articles and resources with us to add to our collective PLACE MATTERS library. Please note that only new participants will receive new Place Matters binders.

**BUILDING ON PROGRESS OF PLACE MATTERS TEAMS**

Appreciating the progress of the Teams, and the challenges associated with demanding workloads at home, we've designed DL #2 as a working meeting. This agenda provides a

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Design Lab Two: Meeting Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Further develop county strategy plans to address social determinants of health</li><li>2. Identify next steps for implementation of county strategy plans</li><li>3. Convene and network with colleagues participating in "PLACE MATTERS" counties and inform the national community building process</li><li>4. Provide a safe place for brainstorming and testing new approaches</li><li>5. Share Joint Center Health Policy Institute's vision for "PLACE MATTERS" and expectations for participation</li><li>6. Describe Joint Center Health Policy Institute's technical assistance capacity regarding data/indicators</li><li>7. Explore current social determinants of health frameworks</li><li>8. Share progress and active work to address social determinants of health in participating counties</li></ol> |
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minimum of four hours of *Team time* to strategize with your colleagues. We also hope this DL meeting provides another unique opportunity to provide peer networking and collaborative learning across PLACE MATTERS. Additionally, our agenda includes excellent discussants who will share with us their success stories. As always, we encourage you to provide feedback via the evaluation forms in your meeting packet.

During this meeting, you will once again meet new experts that will

share their perspectives, ideas and resources with us. During the first DL meeting, participants

developed Team epitaphs. Using a group exercise, we will revisit the epitaphs and provide collective input on how Teams might strengthen their plans by increasing the focus of actions to address upstream determinants of health status.

### **PLACE MATTERS: UPDATE FROM THE JOINT CENTER HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE**

The Joint Center Health Policy Institute (HPI) has been busy establishing new collaborations with organizations to advance its goal of assisting communities of color in identifying short- and long-term policy objectives and related activities in HPI's seven focus areas.

#### **Health Policy Institute Mission**

The mission of the Joint Center Health Policy Institute (HPI) is to ignite a "Fair Health" movement that gives people of color the inalienable right to equal opportunity for healthy lives. Our goal is to help communities of color identify short- and long-term policy objectives and related activities in the following **seven key areas**:

1. Identifying and addressing the economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants that can lead to improved health outcomes.
2. Increasing resource allocations for prevention and effective treatment of chronic illness.
3. Informing the policy and practice of reducing infant mortality and improving child and maternal health.
4. Reducing risk factors and supporting healthy behaviors among children and youth.
5. Improving mental health and reducing factors that promote violence.
6. Optimizing healthcare access and quality.
7. Creating conditions for healthy aging and improving the quality of life for seniors.

The Joint Center has already established a PLACE MATTERS technical assistance team to provide you and your Team members with technical assistance throughout the course of the initiative. As you will note on this DL contact list, we are fortunate to have several colleagues return to share their expertise with us. We are also pleased to welcome several colleagues new to the DLs who will share their expertise with Teams. We strongly encourage each Team to take advantage of these technical experts and leverage this DL to access their kind assistance.

By now, the CommonHealth ACTION resource team has contacted PLACE MATTERS Team leaders to prepare for this meeting in Lisle and to learn more about the progress of the Teams. We were delighted to learn of your collective

progress; the Teams are growing, with the vast majority reporting activity with meetings and conference calls. During the calls, some participants have inquired about these seven areas; while we included them in the DL Concept Paper #1, they also appear herein (see Health Policy Institute Mission text box; for additional resources on each area, visit [www.jointcenter.org](http://www.jointcenter.org)).

Several team leaders solicited further clarity regarding PLACE MATTERS outcomes and the Joint Center's plans for continued support. The HPI technical support team appreciates these inquiries and welcomes further dialogue. To a large extent, participating Teams will drive our expectations for PLACE MATTERS outcomes. We remain committed to advancing the national movement to improve health status by addressing the social determinants of health and will continue our active support of your local activity through February 2006.

Over the course of one year, we anticipate that each PLACE MATTERS team will:

- Establish a Team supported by strong leadership and solidified relationships
- Identify a Team lead (point of primary contact)
- Participate in four DL meetings
- Participate in PLACE MATTERS national meetings (see Table 1 below)
- Establish a clear vision and strategic plan inclusive of sustainability elements
- Be well-poised to demonstrate forward progress on the strategic plan

Table 1 (below) contains a snapshot of anticipated technical assistance to be provided by the HPI technical support team, based on current funds available.

**TABLE 1: HPI TECHNICAL SUPPORT SCHEDULE: September 2006**

HPI Support Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Convene Teams for a total of <u>four</u> Design Labs (including the Reston, Virginia and Lisle, Illinois DLs)	√				
Provide technical assistance to participating Teams (especially focused on data, progress measurement and sharing promising/best practices)	√				
Continue adding new county Teams in the Place Matters national community for a period of five years to initiate the development of 120 county Teams across the country	√	√	√	√	√
Establish an online venue to support development of a virtual Place Matters community for all participating cohorts (online data systems, list serve mechanism, document sharing, etc.)	√	√	√	√	√
Convene national meeting of participating Teams (these are <i>in addition</i> to DLs)		√	√	√	√

We hope this document clarifies many of your questions. We invite continued dialogue about how we can best assist your Team advance its work to address social determinants of health. In final preparation for our reunion in Lisle, we invite you to roll up your sleeves and arrive prepared to work! We look forward to our valuable time together in this next phase of our collaborative learning as we examine how PLACE MATTERS to all of us. Safe travels to Lisle.