

Introductory Remarks MCHB Strategic Planning Meeting
December 16th 2009

I would like to thank Dr. Peter Van Dyck and Maribeth Badura for inviting me to speak to all of you today! I am so happy that a large Federal agency has determined to chart a new course for MCH based on the principles of Life Course Theory, Social Determinants of Health, and Health Equity Principles!

Life Course Theory has **swept the nation creating excitement and energy within the MCH Industry after Dr. Lu's and Halfon's groundbreaking 2003 article in the MCH Journal.**

While many efforts have been made to operationalize (12 point paper) life course theory, it is **still an abstraction for many MCH leaders, administrators and line staff in the field and more importantly, our clients!**

However, any theoretical formulation, including life course theory has to be a guide to transform how organizations structure themselves and link various social & clinical practices, develop MCH business strategy, **swim upstream to implement new system change interventions** and develop and deliver new public policy proposals and set the next research agenda that will resolve many of the problems in our industry over the next ten years.

More importantly, Life Course Theory must influence directly how we impact the lives of pregnant and parenting women and their family members.

My task today is to review how my colleagues in Central Harlem have taken grasp of this concept and **made it a living force** in the lives of our clients and how our agency has transformed itself, **strategically and organizationally** to better serve our clients!

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