

## Health Policy Forums

### Health in All Policies (HiAP): How Can We Make It Work?

**Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH**

*Professor*

*Biostatistics and Epidemiology*

*University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine*

*October 12, 2011*

Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika is Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and in the Nutrition Section (Gastroenterology) of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine; she is also Associate Dean for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the School of Medicine. She has engaged in global public health advisory roles through the World Health Organization, World Cancer Research Fund, and the International Association for the Study of Obesity's International Obesity Task Force, which she co-chairs.

Dr. Kumanyika had the privilege of participating as Vice Chair of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020 and shared her invaluable insights at the October 2011 Health Policy Forum. She described the conceptual framework for these objectives, which include: emphasis on prevention; an ecological approach that fosters deepened understanding of causal factors and determinants of health; and reduction of health inequalities.

The overarching goals of *Healthy People 2020* include: attainment of high-quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death; achievement of health equality, elimination of health disparities, and improvement of health of all groups; creation of social and physical environments that promote good health for all; promotion of quality life, healthy development and behaviors across all life stages. She stressed the influence of social and physical determinants.

Dr. Kumanyika discussed in detail the "Health in All Policies" approach which is "an innovative strategy that introduces improved population health outcomes and closing the gap as goals to be shared across all parts of government. HiAP seeks to address complex health challenges through an integrated policy response across all sectors."<sup>1</sup> This movement has developed from International Meeting on Health in All Policies that took place in Adelaide, Australia in 2010.<sup>2</sup>

One of the interesting highlights from the Adelaide meeting focused on the notion of "Joined-Up

Government." This emphasizes the interdependence of public policy. It involves the coordination of policy making by developing strategic plans that set out common goals and requires a partnership with civil society and the private sector. It is important for the health sector to engage systematically across government and with other sectors to address the health and well-being dimensions of their activities. Some of the challenges of HiAP is that it tests the current health establishment and depends on actions in non-health sectors. Opportunities of HiAP include the underlying causes of disease; the focus of optimal health; attention to inequities and diversity within risk populations; and integration of domains of knowledge and discourse.

Dr. Kumanyika summarized her presentation by pointing out that health goals are being restated in more fundamental and holistic terms and that HiAP will integrate several themes. Some of the implications include the possibility of creating a HiAP friendly and HiAP capable workforce affecting health professions training and professional workforce and the public health sector.

#### REFERENCES

1. Kickbush I. Adelaide revisited: from Healthy Public Policy to Health in All Policies. *Health Promotion International*. 2008; 23(1);1-4.
2. Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies. Report from the International Meeting on Health In All Policies, Adelaide 2010. [http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/hiap\\_statement\\_who\\_sa\\_final.pdf](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/hiap_statement_who_sa_final.pdf). Accessed December 22, 2011.