



Submission from Liben Gebremikael, TAIBU Community Health Centre




TAIBU
COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTRE

Addressing Violence using a Public Health Approach


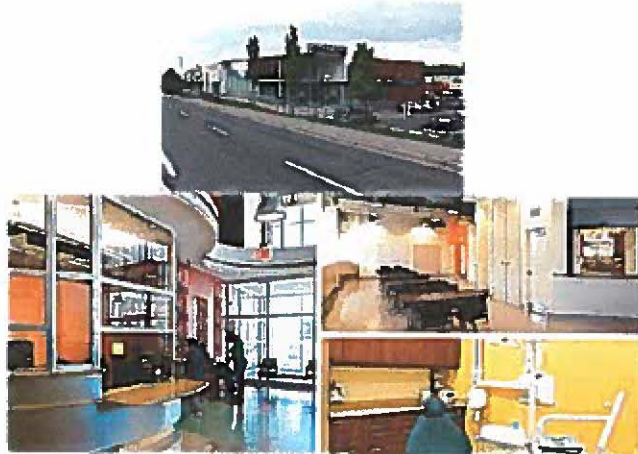


Ontario
Central East Local Health
Integration Network



**Alliance for
Healthier Communities**
Alliance pour des
communautés en santé

TAIBU Community Health Centre



Mission & Vision Statements

- Achieving and maintaining health through community development, knowledge exchange, empowerment and the elimination of systemic racism and other forms of prejudice and discrimination in healthcare
- TAIBU Community Health Centre provides primary health care and related services for Black populations across the Greater Toronto Area as its priority population and residents of the local community of Malvern. Recognizing that systemic oppression has fostered conditions of ill-health with Black communities, we strive to deliver these services through intersectional, equity based and culturally affirming practices which promote holistic wellness, health education, and prevention.

Value Statements

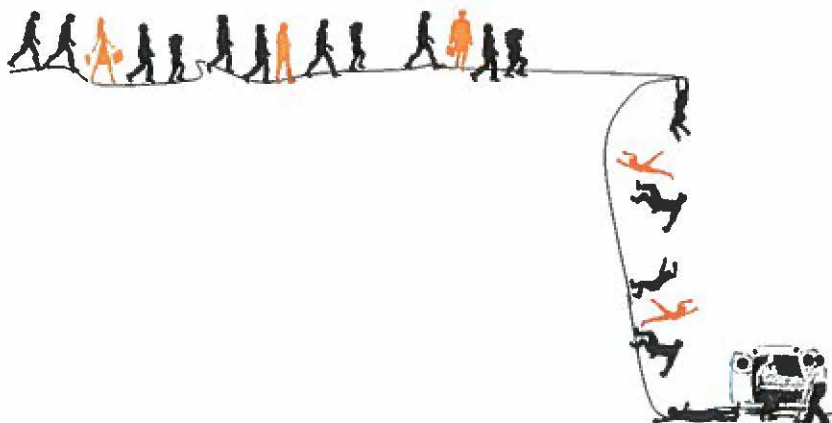
- **Leadership** – Leadership of Black communities is essential to provide sustained and equitable access to high quality primary health care services.
- **Community Driven** – We strive to be transparent and accountable to the communities we serve
- **Africentricity** – We recognize the rights of people of African descent to strive for self determination
- **Quality** – Our programs and services are evidence informed and reflect a high standard of quality

THE PROBLEM

- Violence is a huge problem
- We have known this for a very long time
- A generation is being wiped out
- It is disproportionately impacting the Black community
- It is not slowing down
- Solutions are focused on the wrong end of the Spectrum



Equity



Where are we?

- Several Studies have already been done (the Roots of Violence)
- We know what the root causes of the problem are
- We do not need another study
- The City of Toronto has already shown leadership in not conducting studies after studies. It took the recommendations of existing studies and developed the first **Anti-Black Racism Action Plan** in North America!
- Let us move into Action!



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF VIOLENCE

- Poverty (*while the Black community is 9% of the population it makes up 13% of residents of low-income neighborhoods*)
- Education
 - School drop out rate (*20% Vs 11% for white and 9% for other racialized students*)
 - Expulsions and Suspensions rate (*42% Vs 18% for whites and 15% for other racialized students*)
 - Access to Post Secondary Education
- Unemployment
- Health Disparities (particularly Mental Health)
- Incarceration Rate



LET US MOVE INTO ACTION!

If we are really thinking of a Public Health Approach:

- Systems Thinking
 - Youth programs are implemented in isolation
 - Parents/Guardians need to be included
 - Service providers and Institutions should also be engaged
- Investment in Community Safety (i.e. Police) is good but in the absence of equal if not more investment upstream and in prevention, it will not be effective
- In fact it produces negative outcomes

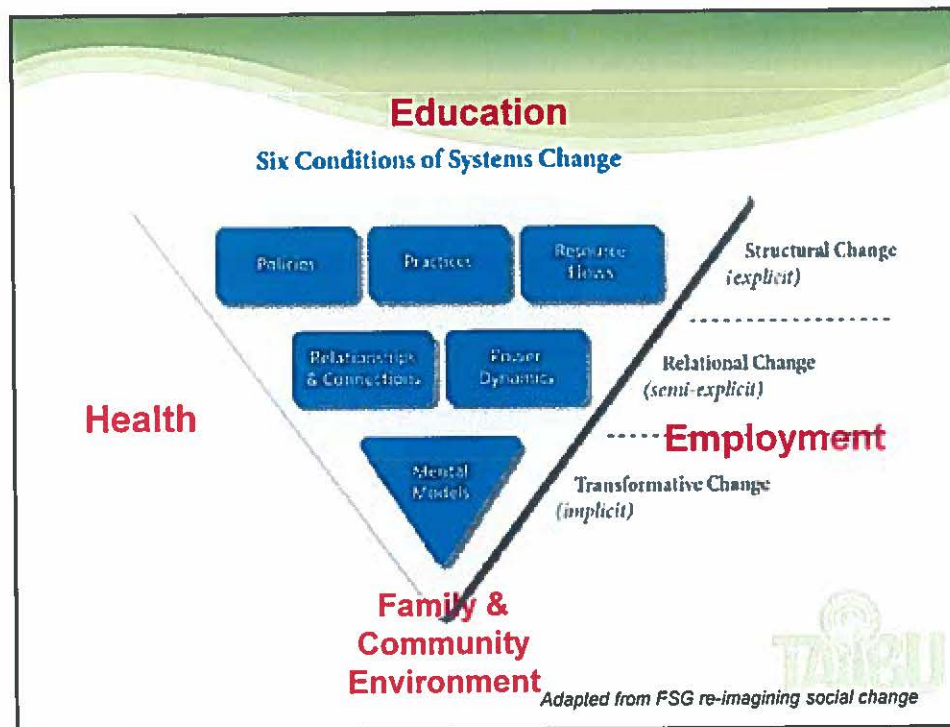
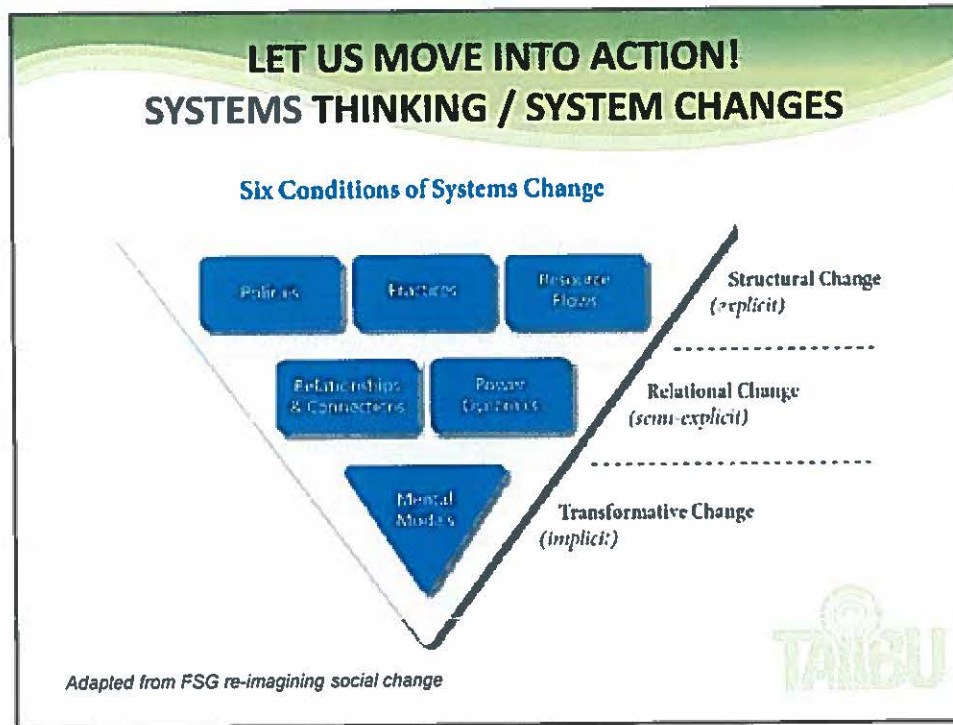


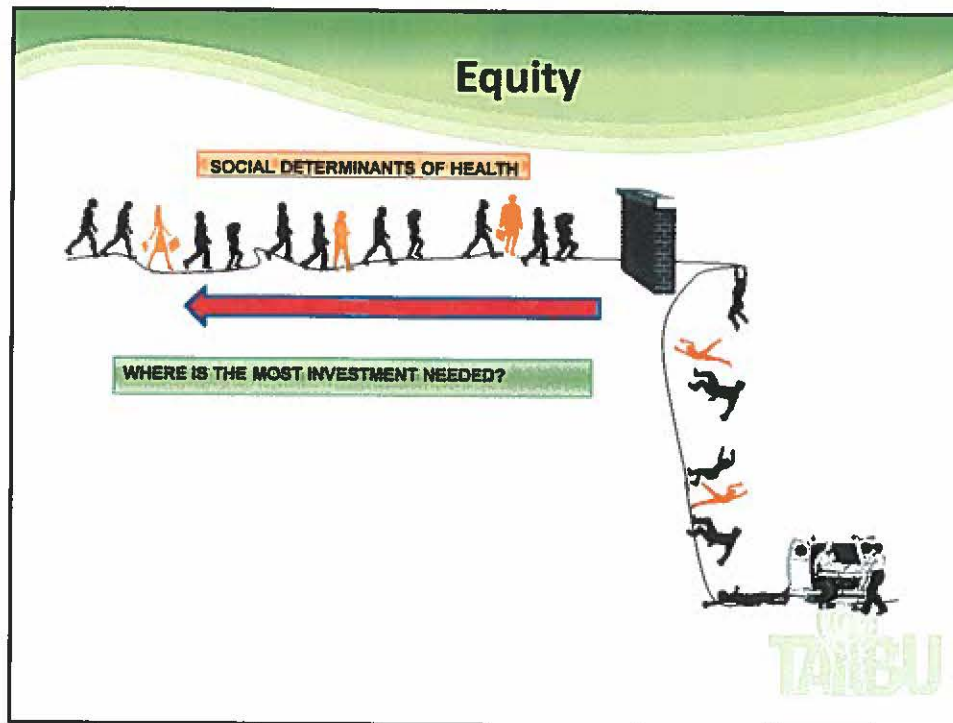
LET US MOVE INTO ACTION!

SYSTEMS THINKING / SYSTEM CHANGES

1. Systems change is about advancing equity by **shifting the conditions that hold a problem in place.**
2. To fully embrace systems change, institutions should be prepared to see how **their own ways of thinking and acting** must be changed as well.
3. Shifts in system conditions are more likely to be sustained when working at three different levels of change; **explicit, semi-explicit, and implicit.**







Recommendations

- TAIBU supports all recommendations, however:
 - We would like to add that community agencies and other voluntary organizations be considered to be part of the work to inform the Community Safety and Well-Being plan (*Recommendations 2 & 3*)
 - Trauma informed mental health supports be located in less stigmatizing and easily accessible community settings (*Recommendations 4*)
 - Public Health earmarks human and financial resources to implement intervention programs and services (*to start pilot projects / adapt or scale up existing projects or programs*)

TAIBU

