



CO-CREATE THEORY OF CHANGE

March 2021-revised

Overview:

The overarching goal of Co-Create is to eliminate the disparities experienced by underserved communities in testing, access to treatment and ultimately in morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, especially for families with children and/or pregnant women. The role of the Theory of Change process is to draw out the knowledge and wisdom of the people working on the front lines and/or living in the San Ysidro/South Bay region of San Diego to more fully understand what factors are contributing to those disparities and what types of action might be most effective in eliminating them. The primary focus of a Theory of Change is on identifying the Conditions that must exist if the issue of concern is to be fully addressed. By identifying the Necessary Conditions, it provides any organized effort with a strategic direction for achieving its goal. While it does not provide a detailed implementation plan, it does identify a set potential Actions designed to create the Necessary Conditions as well as a framework for assessing the efficacy of those Actions. The Theory of Change presented here was created by an Advisory Board consisting of twenty people. One quarter of the participants were researchers from the University of California-San Diego, one quarter were healthcare providers at the San Ysidro Health Center and half of the participants were residents from San Ysidro/South Bay. Most of the community participants were Promotores working in the area and all but three were dominant or monolingual Spanish speakers. Interpretation and translated material were available at all meetings.

The Advisory Board developed the Theory of Change over six meetings, each lasting two hours. At each meeting, the participants were presented with one or more Focus Questions that were designed to engage them in a dialogue and draw out their knowledge (i.e., Community Knowledge) related to the specific questions. Once presented with the questions, the participants were led through a process that resulted in full consensus by the group on the responses to each question. These questions were:

1. What do you see in your community and/or your work that might be contributing to these disparities?
2. What conditions need to exist in order for these disparities to be eliminated?
3. What actions need to be taken to create the conditions necessary to eliminate the disparities?
4. What can we measure that will tell us if we are creating the necessary conditions?
5. What would the measures be and what would indicate success?

Once the Theory of Change was completed, it was presented to the Advisory Board at a seventh meeting to ensure that it fully captured their thinking on the issue of equity in testing and treatment for families with children and/or pregnant women in underserved communities. The Theory of Change presented here has integrated the feedback from that seventh session. While there was general consensus on the Theory, minor changes were made. The original Theory of Change as well as the feedback provided and where changes were made can be found in appendices.

The Theory of Change is presented on the following pages in both graphic and table form. The diagram highlights the centrality of identifying the Conditions needed to eliminate the disparities while the table presents each Condition with the Actions designed to create that Condition as well as how its efficacy will be measured and what would indicate success.