

# Care Coordination and the Community Team

Joan Kenerson King RN, MSN

[joank@thenationalcouncil.org](mailto:joank@thenationalcouncil.org)

Stephanie Morton, MSW

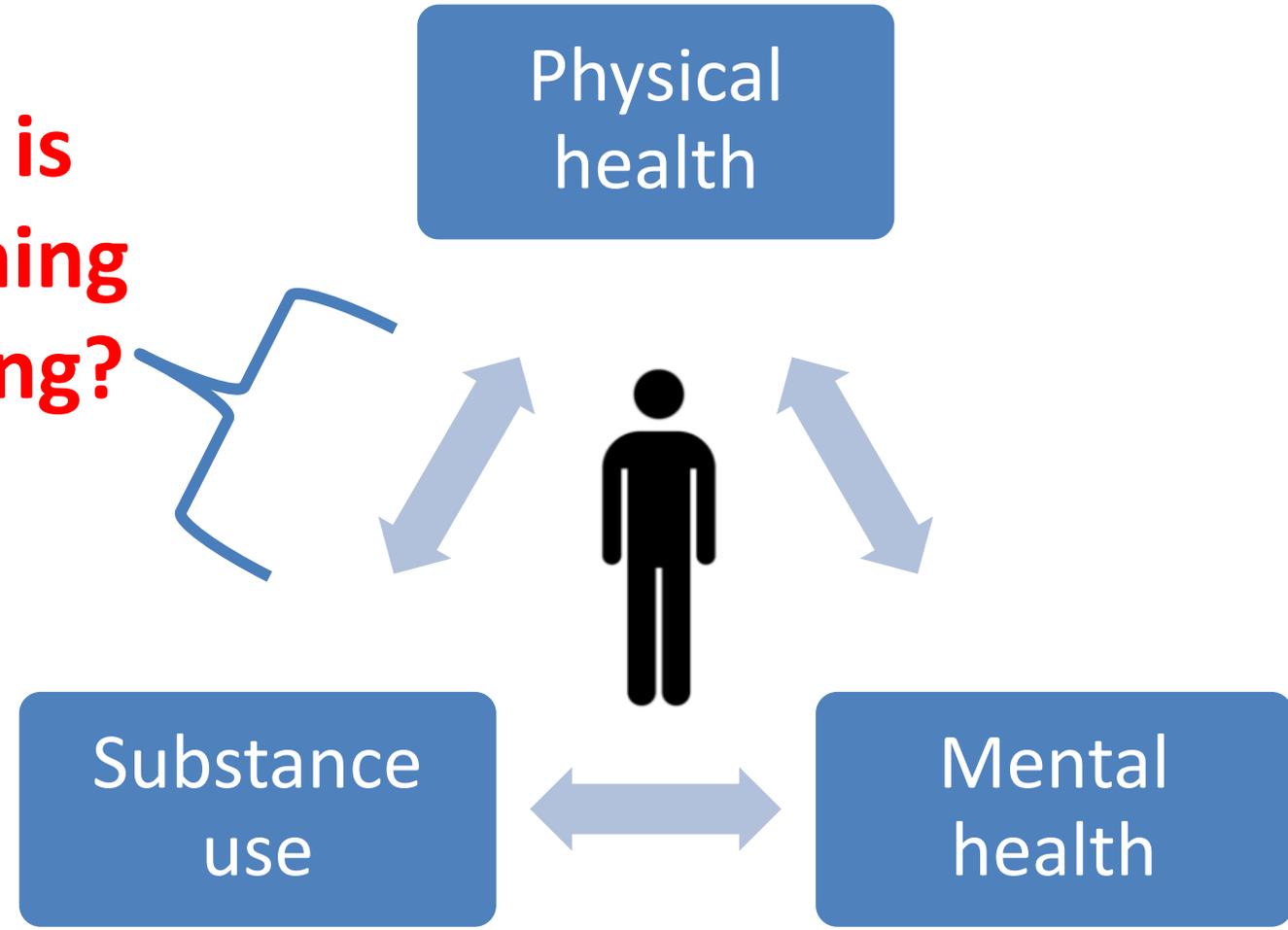
Healthy Mother, Healthy Babies – The Montana Coalition

[stephanie@hmhb-mt.org](mailto:stephanie@hmhb-mt.org)



# Integrated Care = Whole Person Care

**But... is anything missing?**







Care coordination ?

# One process: Care Coordination Defined

“the deliberate organization of patient care activities between two or more participants involved in a patient’s care to facilitate the appropriate delivery of health care services.”

*Source: McDonald KM, Sundaram V, Bravata DM, et al. Closing the Quality Gap: A Critical Analysis of Quality Improvement Strategies, Volume 7—Care Coordination. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; June 2007.*



# The heart of care coordination

*“Go to the people. Live with them.*

*Learn from them. Love them.*

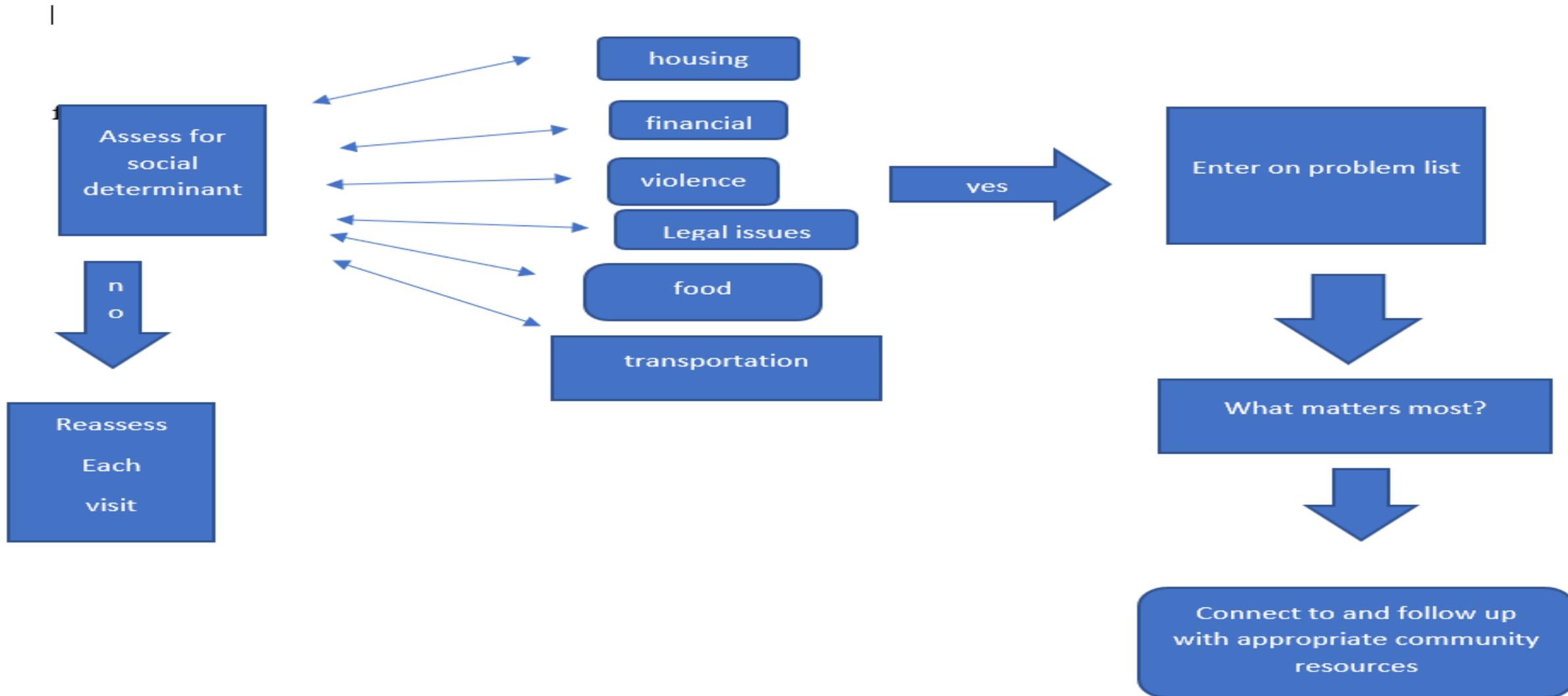
*Start with what they know. Build with what they have.*

*But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say 'We have done this ourselves.’”*

— Lao Tzu



# Care coordination starts with assessment:



Social isolation can increase risk of heart disease by 29% and stroke by 32%.<sup>3</sup>

Poorer neighborhoods have higher rates of obesity, likely due to safety concerns and barriers to physical activity and healthy foods.<sup>5</sup>

Social factors account for over  
**1 in 3**  
total deaths in the U.S. annually.<sup>4</sup>

Lower education levels are correlated with higher likelihood of smoking and shorter life expectancy.<sup>4</sup>

75-90% of primary care visits are due to effects of stress—money, work and family responsibilities are top 3 causes of stress.<sup>6</sup>

# Stress kills...and it starts in childhood

- ***Stress response*** is the cascade of changes triggered by the release of corticosteroids and other stress hormones when the body perceives a threat and goes 'on alert.' The resulting physiological changes include increased heart and respiration rates, higher blood pressure, and more glucose released from the liver into the blood stream.
- ***Chronic Stress.*** Whereas acute stress arises from special events or situations which involve threat, novelty and uncertainty, chronic stress results from repeated or persistent exposures to situations which cause the release of stress hormones. Over time, this constant activation of the stress response— even at low levels—can injure the brain and body, increasing the risk for high blood pressure, diabetes and other chronic diseases and for emotional, cognitive and behavioral problems.

Source: California Newsreel. (2017). The Raising of America.



# Impact of Stress

- Responding to stress is natural and necessary for survival
  - Flight or fight
- But there are limits to our stress response /reactivity
- Acute versus chronic stress
- Impacts of the biological response to psychological stress include impairments to:
  - Cardiovascular, endocrine, circulatory, neurological, and metabolic systems.
- Resulting in:
  - Hypertension, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, heart attack, stroke, cancer, infectious disease, and lowered immunity, among others.



# Impact of SDH in Early Life

- Prenatal growth critical for lifetime health
  - Formation of cells, organs, tissues impacted by maternal health, behavior, care & nutrition, genetic, environmental exposures
- Poor socio-economic environment in early life increases risks to health through interaction of negative environmental factor and developmental processes
  - Maternal low-education/literacy, unhealthy behaviors, inadequate parenting skills & unhealthy behaviors
  - Impacts child development, physical, psychosocial, cognitive growth & development



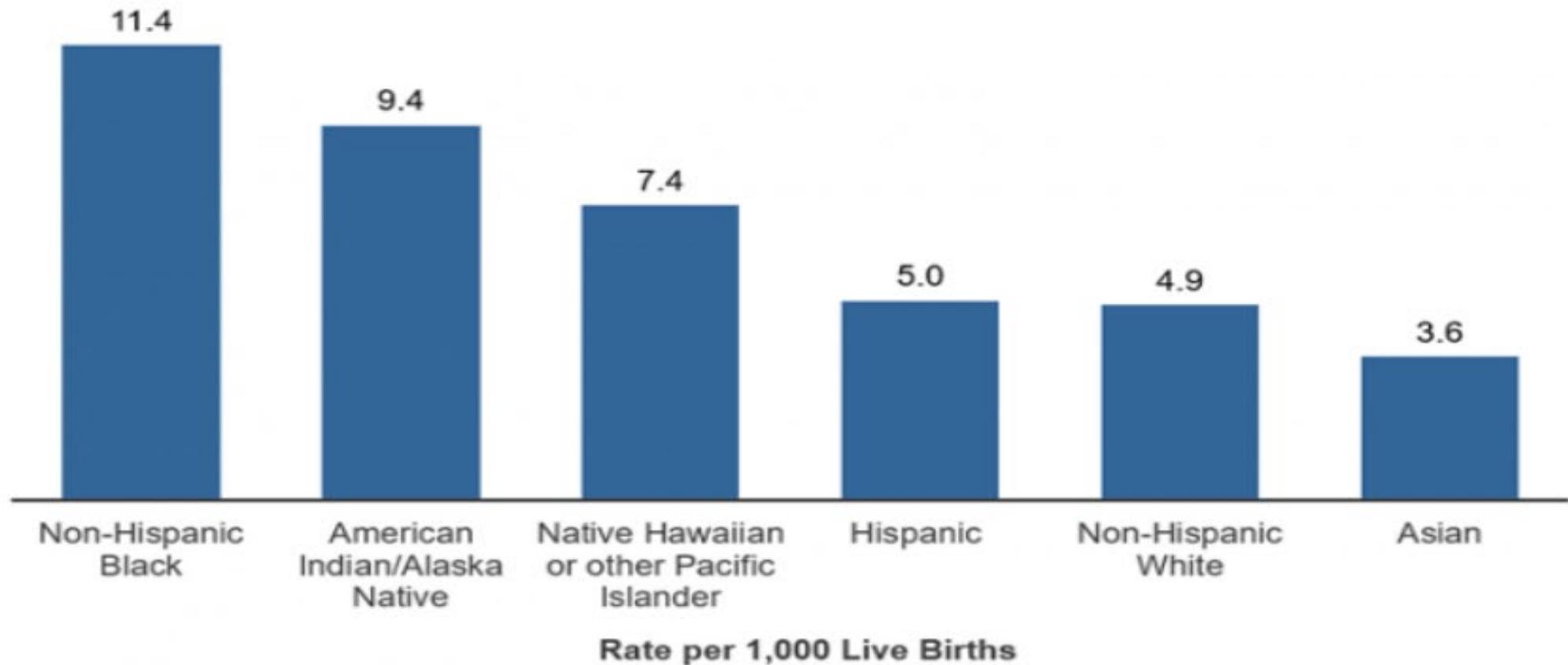
# Impact of SDH on Children

- **Income:**
  - In 2015, 14.5 million or approximately 20 percent of children in the U.S. lived in poverty.
- **Food Insecurity:**
  - 13.1 million children lived in food-insecure households in 2015
- **Nutrition:** compared to their peers in food-secure families, food-insecure children under age 3 are:
  - 90 percent more likely to have fair or poor health rather than good or excellent health
  - 31 percent more likely to spend time in the hospital
  - 76 percent more likely to have problems in cognitive, language, and behavioral development
- **Homelessness:**
  - about one in 30 American children was homeless at some point last year. That's about 2.5 million kids, and an **8 percent** increase to "an historic high," according to the study from the National Center on Family Homelessness. Just over half are younger than six years old. (2014)

Frontline PBS: Poor Kids, 2012, Urban Child Institute,  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



# Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2016



\*Source: p. 80 of the [User Guide to the 2016 Period Linked Birth/Infant Death Public Use File](#) 

[PDF – 1.25MB]



**What gets in the way of screening  
for and addressing SDH?**

**At the individual/clinician level?**

**At the organization level?**

**At the societal level?**



## Individual/Clinical Level

Are we comfortable with asking about:

- Income
- Insurance status
- Public benefits
- Safe and healthy housing
- Literacy or education levels or needs
- Immigration/legal status and challenges
- Domestic violence

Why or why not?



THE  
**OVERLOOKED CONNECTION**  
BETWEEN SOCIAL NEEDS AND GOOD HEALTH

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 



**4 IN 5 PHYSICIANS SURVEYED**



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2017). Health Care's Blind Side. Retrieved from <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2011/12/health-care-s-blind-side.html>



# Many providers will say...Why ask when we don't have this...



## Pandora's Box Effect

- A business case/funding for resources to address SDH
  - Lack of referral networks and pathways to services
- BUT...
- Informed clinical decision-making
  - Understanding of the Theory of Accompaniment
    - Just asking helps!

# Org. Level Implementation Challenges

## ***Accessing SDH Data***

- To encourage review of an individual's SDH data, associated review tools should be easy to find in the EHR.

## ***Acting on SDH Data***

- Staff are not trained to screening and address SDOH
- Strategies for SDH referral-making may need to address factors such as: (i) the difficulty of keeping community resource information up to date in the EHR, (ii) the need for unfamiliar competencies from non-clinical staff tasked with making these referrals, and (iii) the difficulty of tracking referral outcomes, since referral follow-up is usually by patient self-report.
- Referral 'closure' rates can be a reported quality measure, so it is necessary to enable formally 'closing' SDH referrals / noting them as 'no follow-up needed.'
- Standardized SDH screening using EHR tools may serve as a prelude to a richer conversation with the patient, to hone in on how to most effectively provide support; e.g., staff may want to know if an identified SDH need is a priority.

# What you can do!

- Use data and team huddles to keep discussing SDH needs and inform continuous quality improvement to improve approaches to addressing it
- Remind providers that assessing and addressing social determinants of health leads to better pt/dr relationships and health outcomes
- Participate in community teams and bring information back
- Talk often of whole health/wellness



# What you can do!

- Encourage use of ACES and other measures that get at social determinants of health
- Code for social determinants of health to build a business case
- See this as an opportunity to leverage value-based approaches
- Take care of yourself

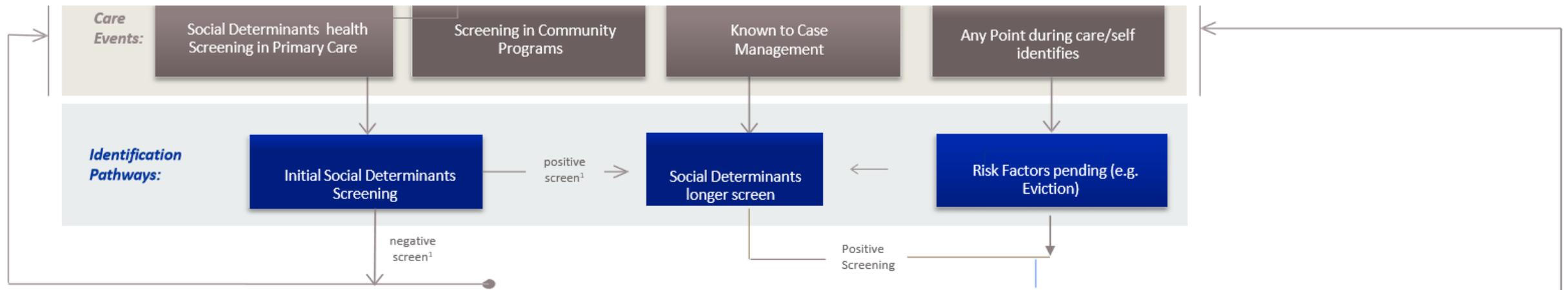


# Assessing for social determinants:

- Are there standard questions in your EMR?
  - Standardization is important, just as we do universal screening for mood and SUD we need to use standard questions for assessing SDOH?
  - Without this you can't track, count, compare
- Can you put the questions in a broader context for the person you are interviewing?
- Do you have a pathway for response?



# Social Determinants of Health Pathway



| Social Determinants H Diagnosis Code (ICD-10) |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Education issues</b>                       |  |
| Z55.0   | Illiteracy and low-level literacy  |
| Z55.9   | Problems related to education and literacy, unspecified                                |
| <b>Employment issues</b>                      |  |
| Z56.0   | Unemployment, unspecified  |
| Z56.9   | Unspecified problems related to employment   |
| <b>Economic hardship - Housing Issues</b>     |  |
| Z59.0   | Homelessness   |
| Z59.8   | Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances                           |
| Z59.1   | Inadequate housing   |
| + Z77.120                                     | Contact with and (suspected) exposure to mold (toxic)                                  |
| + Z77.011                                     | Contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead  |
| + Z77.22                                      | Contact with and (suspected) exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (acute) (chronic) |
| <b>Economic hardship - Food Insecurity</b>    |  |
| Z59.4   | Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water  |
| <b>Economic hardship – Other basic needs</b>  |  |
| Z59.7   | Insufficient social insurance and welfare support                                      |
| Z91.120                                       | Patient's intentional underdoing of medication regimen due to financial hardship       |
| Z75.3   | Unavailability and inaccessibility of health-care facilities                           |
| <b>Issues with independent living</b>         |  |
| Z60.2   | Problems related to living alone   |
| <b>Caregiving needs</b>                       |  |
| Z63.6   | Dependent relative needing care at home  |
| <b>Issues with primary support group</b>      |  |
| Z63.7   | Other stressful life events affecting family and household                             |
| Z63.8   | Other specified problems related to primary support group                              |
| <b>Legal Issues</b>                           |  |
| Z65.2   | Problems related to release from prison  |
| Z65.3   | Problems related to other legal circumstances  |
| <b>Violence/Safety</b>                        |  |
| Z91.41  | Personal history of adult abuse  |
| +Z63.0  | Problems in relationship with spouse or partner  |



**Note:** While ideally all detected Social Determinants H diagnosis should go in the claim, we recommend a concerted effort to always include food and housing insecurity and of skipping medication due to cost through inclusion of these codes in the claim any time it is identified.

# ICD 10 Coding for Disparity & Social Determinants

## Problems related to education and literacy

| Code  | Social Determinant  |
|-------|---|
| Z55.0 | Low level of Literacy   |
| Z55.1 | Unavailable schooling   |
| Z55.2 | Failed Examinations   |
| Z55.3 | Underachievement in School  |
| Z55.4 | Educational maladjustment and discord with classmates and/or teachers |
| Z55.8 | Other problems related to education and literacy                      |

## Problems related to employment and unemployment

| Code  | Social Determinant        |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Z56.0 | Unemployment, unspecified |
| Z56.2 | Threat of job loss        |
| Z56.3 | Stressful work schedule   |

## Problems related to housing and economic circumstance

| Code  | Social Determinant   |
|-------|--|
| Z59.0 | Homeless   |
| Z59.1 | Inadequate housing   |
| Z59.4 | Lack of adequate food  |
| Z59.5 | Extreme Poverty  |
| Z59.6 | Low income   |
| Z59.7 | Insufficient social insurance and welfare support            |
| Z59.8 | Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances |

## Problems related to social environment

| Code  | Social Determinant   |
|-------|--|
| Z60.0 | Problems of adjustment to life-cycle transitions                         |
| Z60.1 | Atypical parenting situation - problems related to a parenting situation |
| Z60.2 | Living Alone   |
| Z60.3 | Acculturation Difficulty   |
| Z60.4 | Social exclusion and rejection/ Isolation                                |
| Z60.8 | Other problems related to social environment                             |

## Problems related to negative life events in childhood

| Code  | Social Determinant  |
|-------|---|
| Z61.1 | Removal from home in childhood  |
| Z61.4 | Problems related to alleged sexual abuse of child by a person within primary support group  |
| Z61.5 | Problems related to alleged sexual abuse of child by a person outside primary support group |
| Z61.6 | Problems related to alleged physical abuse of child   |
| Z61.8 | Other negative life events in childhood   |
| Z62.0 | Inadequate parental supervision and control   |
| Z62.2 | Institutional upbringing  |
| Z62.4 | Emotional neglect of child  |
| Z62.5 | Other problems related to neglect in upbringing   |

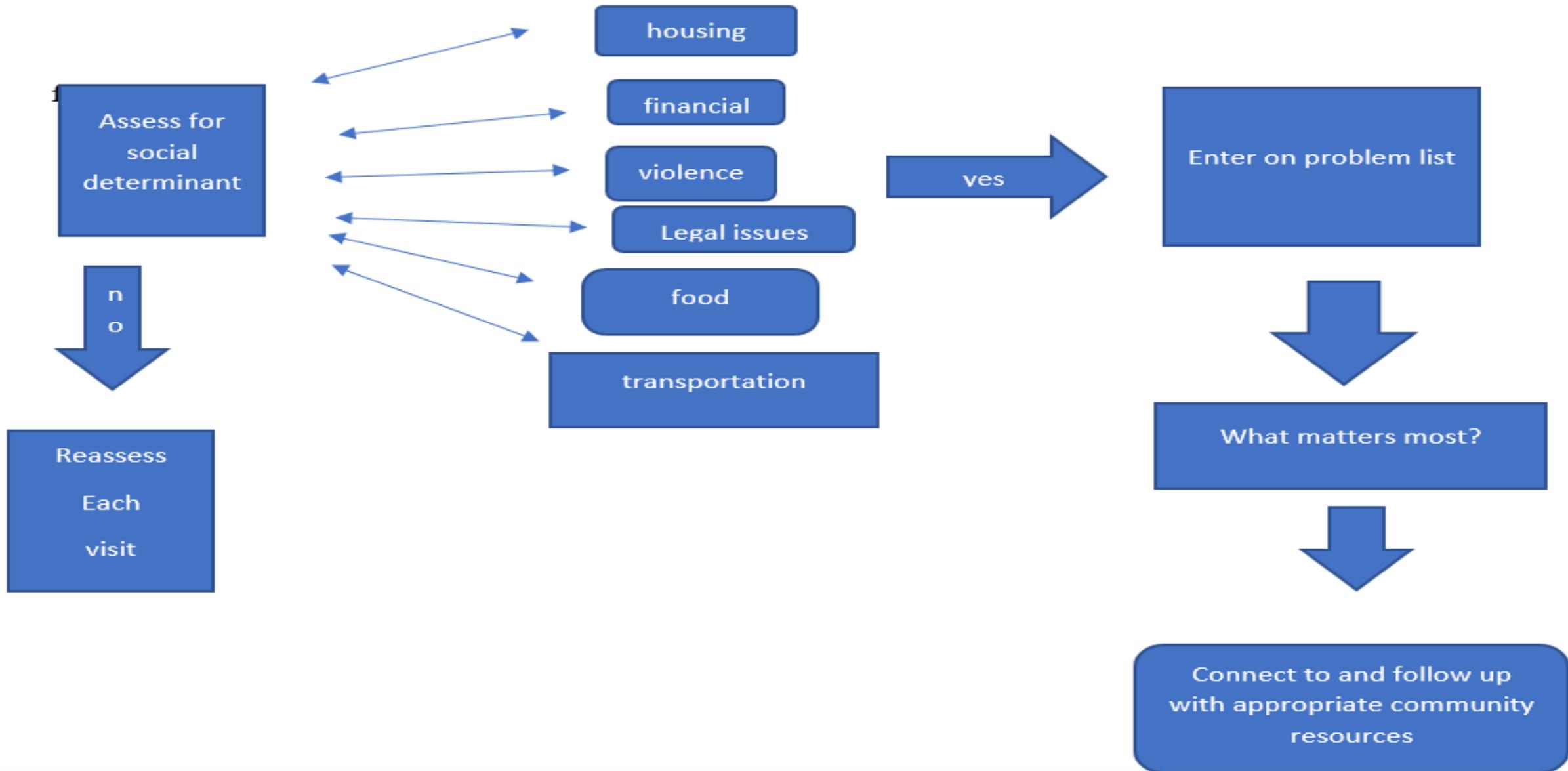
## Other problems related to primary support group, including family circumstances

| Code   | Social Determinant   |
|--------|--|
| Z63.0  | Problems in relationship with spouse or partner            |
| Z63.2  | Inadequate family support                                  |
| Z63.4  | Disappearance/death of a family member                     |
| Z63.5  | Disruption of family by separation and divorce             |
| Z63.6  | Dependent relative needing care at home                    |
| Z63.7  | Other stressful life events affecting family and household |
| Z63.72 | Alcoholism and drug abuse in family                        |

## Problems related to psychosocial circumstances

| Code  | Social Determinant  |
|-------|---|
| Z64.0 | Problems related to unwanted pregnancy                            |
| Z65.0 | Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment |
| Z65.1 | Imprisonment and other incarceration                              |
| Z65.2 | Problems related to release from prison                           |
| Z65.3 | Problems related to other legal circumstances                     |





# Moving beyond the problem list to the priorities

- SDOH are often interconnected
- Our priority as care providers may not be the priority of the patient or family
- Understanding context is key
- Asking “what matters most to you” is critical.



# Moving beyond referrals to connections: coordination is a 360 degree, team based process

- Assess level of need:
  - Knowledge: does this person know what to do?
  - Skill: do they have the ability to do it?
  - Attitude: do they have the confidence, hope, belief to follow through?
- Develop a tracking system/registry
- Involve BHP when things aren't working
- Inform the team when things have changed
- Close the problems in the EMR/registry
- Celebrate success!!!



# The Role of Community

- We can't do it all alone inside the health care system
- SDHs impact the health outcomes of our patients
- So we need to impact SDHs!
  - Through partnerships with resources in our communities

Communities can be the source of sustainable, meaningful change in individual lives, systems of care and a catalyst for policy change.

# Our Community Teams

Diverse  
Cross Sector  
Responsive

- Housing
- Public Health System
- Home Visiting
- Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP, WIC, etc.)
- Childcare
- Child and Family Services
- Economic Security
- Education
- Employment
- Legal Services
- Parenting Resources
  - Respite care, physical goods, parenting classes
- Religious organizations
- Social Supports

Who / what else?

# Community Teams

## Activities of Community Team Members

- Provide resources/information/services needed to clients
- Bring information/data to the table

## Activities of the Community Team

- Meet to share information
- Provide mutual aid
- Link one another to resources needed
- Identify resource gaps in the community
- Define shared goals and plans together
- Raise awareness of perinatal health issues and services available in the community

# How do I find my community team?



## Identify Key Stakeholders

You probably already know many of these folks and organizations!

If you don't though, fear not



## Identify Existing Resources

Is there a community resource guide already in existence?

Begin **relationships** with stakeholders

# How do I find my community team? (cont.)



## Convene Stakeholders

Logistics: Establish a regular meeting time, allow for virtual attendance

**Relationships!**



## Expand Your Table

Ask your community partners as you establish them, “Who do you think is missing at our table? Who do you work with regularly?”

Ask your clients

# How do I get my clients to accept community referrals?

---

## Follow

### Follow Your Clients

Be client centered.  
Trust in their expertise in  
their own lives

## Lead

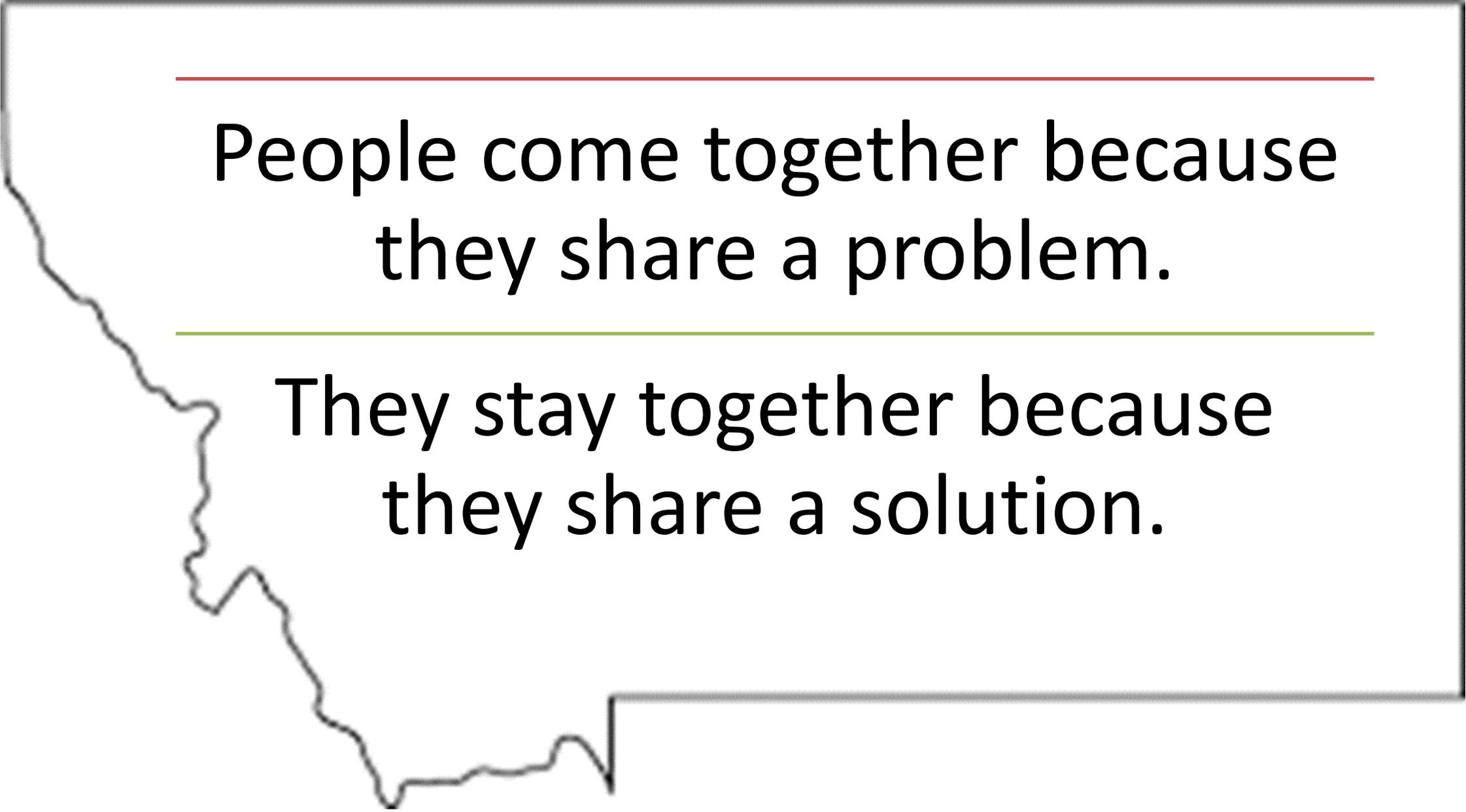
### Lead Your Clients

When clients deny needs or  
referrals, know that  
offering and educating  
may be all you can do.

## Inform

### Inform Clinical Team

When clients resist referrals  
use your team to provide  
psychoeducation and  
build a space for clients to  
ask questions of every  
team member



---

People come together because  
they share a problem.

---

They stay together because  
they share a solution.

# Resources

- [California Newsreel \(2008\) Unnatural Causes](#)
  - Documentary series about health inequity including video clips and discussion guides
- [Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. \(2017\) Screening for Social Determinants of Health in Populations with Complex Needs: Implementation Considerations](#)
- [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(2017\) Tools for Putting Social Determinants of Health in Action](#)
- [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#)
- **Health inequity: America's chronic condition?** -Esteban López, M.D.  
See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56ZKfSNkcJc>

