

Priority Setting, Selection Processes, Collaboration and Accountability: From a Community Perspective

Tom Wolff Ph.D.

Tom Wolff & Associates
Amherst MA.

What are collaborative solutions?

- Doing together that which we cannot do alone
- A collaboration is a group of individuals and/or organizations with a **common interest** who agree to work together toward a **common goal**.

» From S.Fawcett et.al

The Power of Collaborative Solutions: Key Principles

1. Engage a broad spectrum of the community

- Especially those most directly affected
- Celebrate racial and cultural diversity

2. Encourage true collaboration as the form of exchange

The Continuum of Collaboration

Definitions:

- **Networking** Exchanging *information* for mutual benefit.
- **Coordination** Exchanging information and *modifying activities* for mutual benefit.
- **Cooperation** Exchanging information, modifying activities, and *sharing resources* for mutual benefit and to achieve a *common purpose*.

The Continuum of Collaboration- cont.

- **Collaboration** Exchanging information, modifying activities, sharing resources, and *enhancing the capacity of another* for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose by *sharing risks, resources, responsibilities, and rewards*.

– *From Arthur Himmelman*

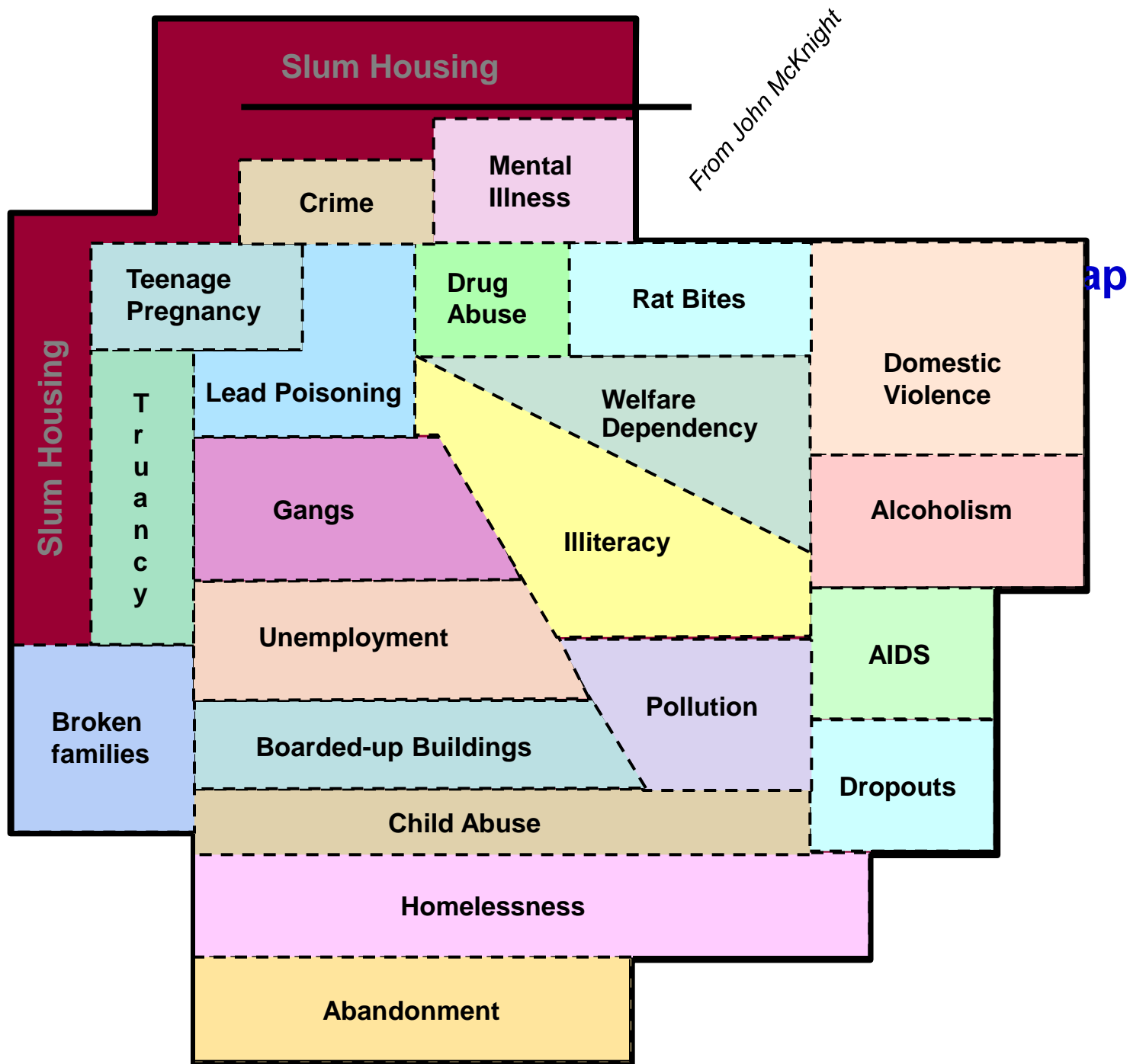
Collaborative Solutions cont.

3. Practice democracy

- Promote active citizenship and empowerment**

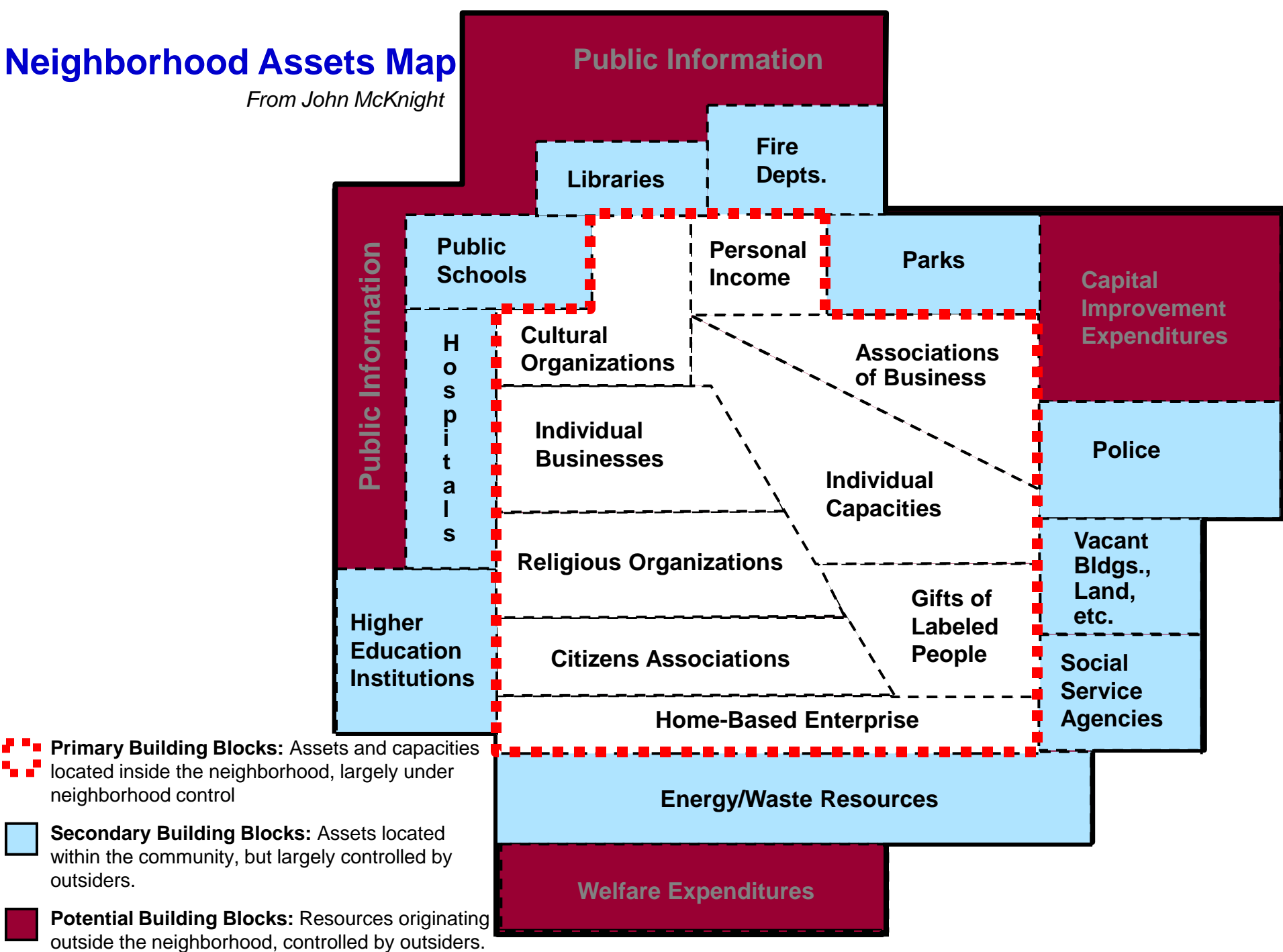
4. Employ an ecological approach that emphasizes individual in his/her setting.

- Build on community strengths and assets**



Nighborhood Assets Map

From John McKnight



Types of community assessment questions

- **Traditional:**
- What are your needs?
- How can we (providers) meet those needs?
- **Asset-based assessment questions:**
- What are your community's strengths?
- How can you contribute to helping us find a solution?

Collaborative solutions cont.

5. Take action

- Address issues of social change and power
- Build on a common vision

6. Engage your spirituality as your compass for social change

Align the goal and the process

- “Be the change that you wish to create in the world.” (*M. Gandhi*)

Factors Affecting a Coalition's Capacity to Create Change

- **Having a clear vision and mission**
- **Action planning for community and systems change**
- **Developing and supporting leadership**
- **Documentation and ongoing feedback on programs**
- **Technical assistance and support**
- **Securing financial resources for the work**
- **Making outcomes matter**
 - From Roussus and Fawcett

Barriers

- **Turf and Competition**
- **Bad history**
- **Failure to Act**
- **Lack of a Common Vision**
- **Failure to provide and create collaborative leadership**
- **Minimal organizational structure**
- **Costs outweigh the benefits**
- **Not engaging self-interest**

Priority Setting

Your Approach Matters:

Community Engagement does
not end at the Assessment

Agency-Based and Community-Based Approaches

Issues	Agency-Based	Community-Based
• Approach	Weakness/Deficit	Strength/Asset
• Definition of Problem	By Agencies, Government	By Local Community
• Role of Professional	Central to Decision Making	Resource to Community Problem Solving

Agency-Based and Community-Based Approaches

Issues	Agency-Based	Community-Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary decision makers	Agencies, Gov't	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community's Potential for ownership	Low	Hi

ork with “formal” and
informal”

reate positive
“norms”

an reach “high risk”
and “yet to be
reached”

Degrees of Involvement – Ladder of Participation

Community initiated – shared decision making with agencies

Community initiated and directed– agencies support

Agency initiated – shared decision making

Consulted and informed

Assigned roles

Tokenism

Decoration

Manipulation

How do we engage the community?

GO OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY!

- Door to door visits – one on one visits
- Community Meetings – public forums and listening sessions
- House meetings
- Street outreach and tabling
- Focus Groups
- Photovoice

Four Ways to Commit Resources to Increase Community Engagement

- **Mini grants**
- **Leadership development**
- **Community outreach workers**
- **Community organizers**

Building
Trust

Sharing governance
and decision making

Providing safe space

Accommodating
the members

Being inclusive

Honoring
diversity of
membership

What happens when we don't involve the community?

- We create programs that no one wants.
i.e. Youth Centers that youth avoid
- We trap ourselves into always doing "for" and can never get to doing "with"
- The community never owns the issue
- We fail to respond to the diversity and culture of our communities

Summary of Community Engagement - Rules for Success

- Embrace the value and benefits of community engagement
- Go out into the community – door to door visits etc.
- Recruit from those most affected in the informal sector
- Share decision making
- Work to retain those you recruit



Pink isn't the only color associated with breast cancer.

See your doctor. Get screened. Get treatment. For more information, visit www.pinkandblack.org

A message from **Mayor Thomas M. Menino** and the Boston Public Health Commission

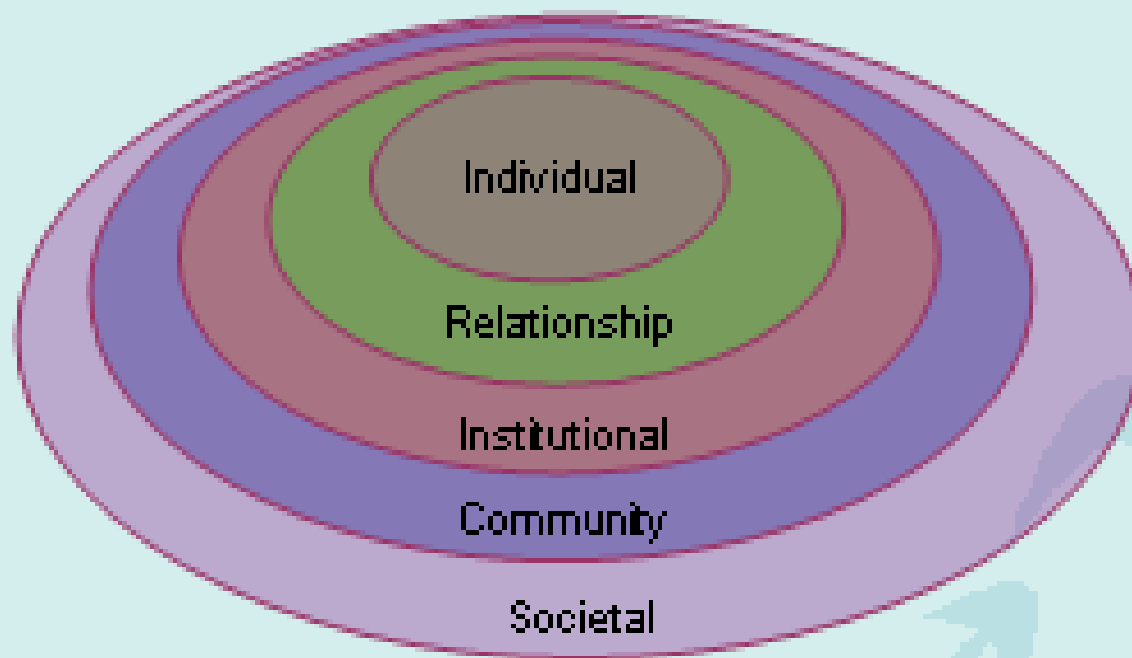


“

residents to come together to define a problem, to define the solutions, and then enter into a dialogue with us – not the other way around. You better figure out how you're going to get the people affected by the problem at the table. Because if you can't do that and you can't support that work somehow, you're not going to get to the solutions you need to get to.”

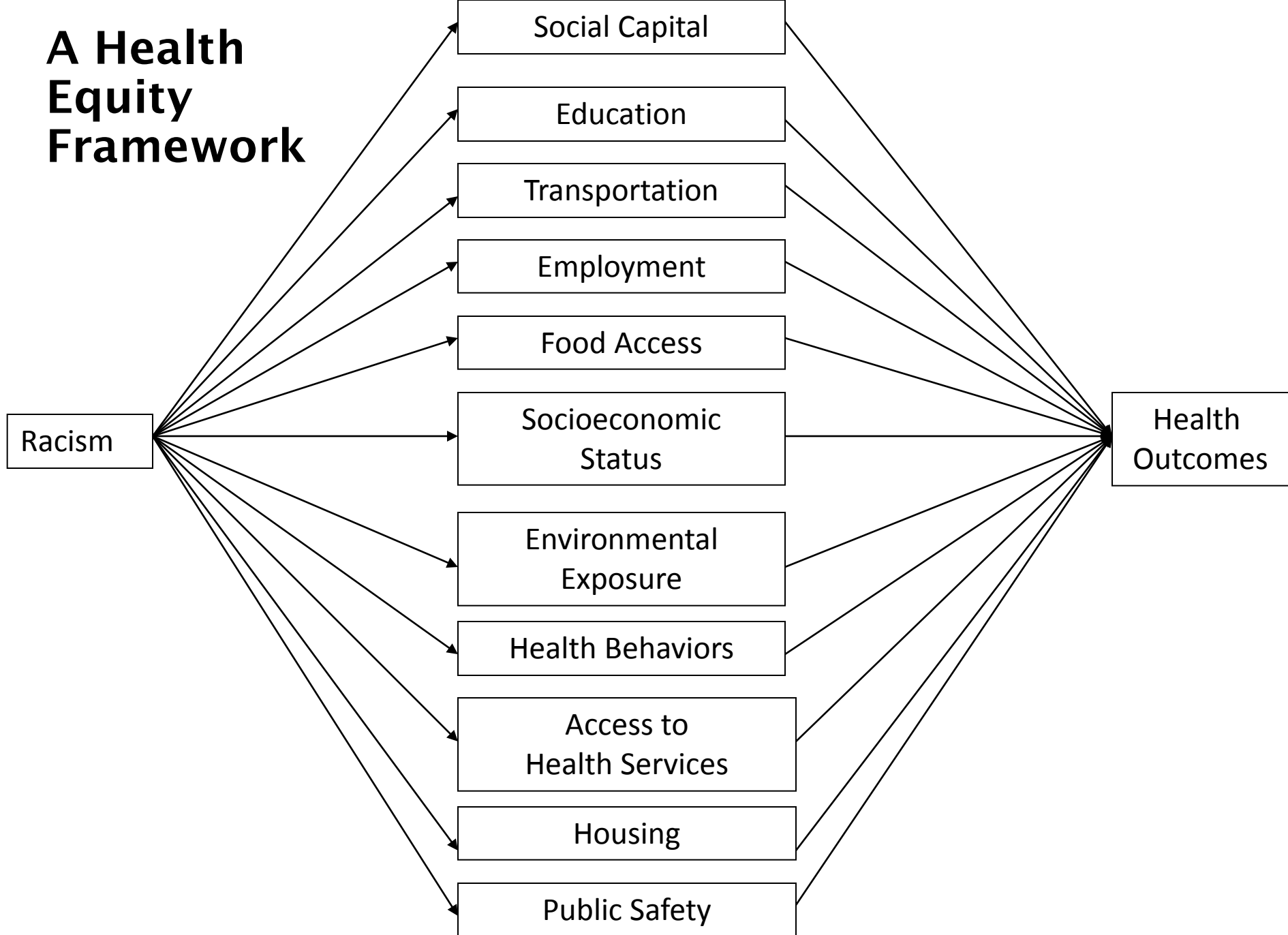


Social ecological model



Five Level

A Health Equity Framework

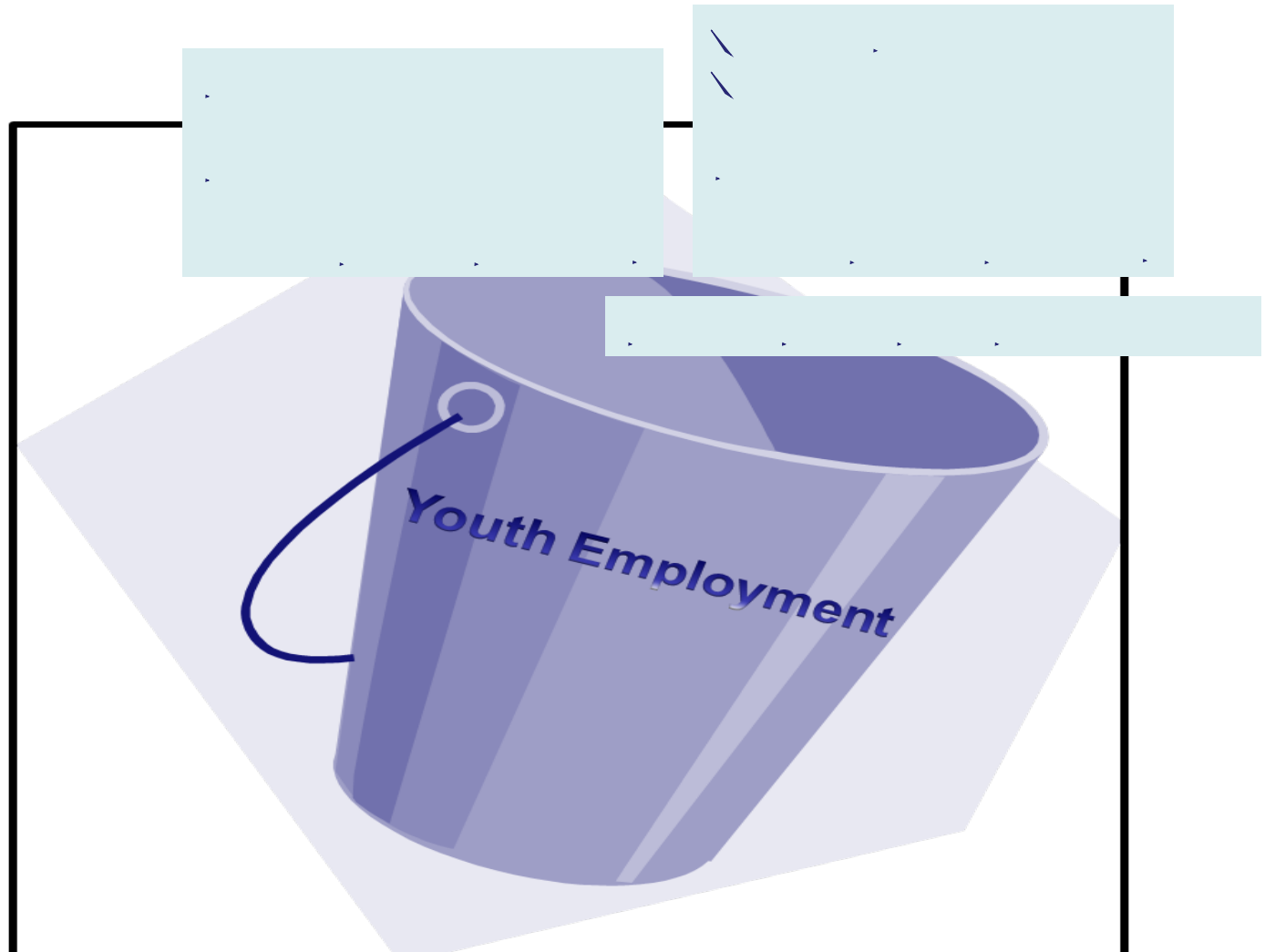




Healthy youth have/are...

- **High Quality Education That Helps Them Achieve Their Dreams**
- **Meaningful Living Wage Jobs**
- **Safe and Connected Community Environment**
- **High Quality and Affordable Housing**
- **Engaged in High Quality and Comprehensive Health Care**
- **High Quality Food Access and an Environment that Promotes Physical Activity**





Current Focus Determined by Priority Setting with Youth: Youth Employment

- Job Development
- Communications
- Job Training



March and Rally February 2010



Youth Report 2009

02130
HEALTH + YOUTH



* If you know what this is, this report is for **you.**



HOUSING

TWO CITIES ONE NAME

WHAT IT IS TO LIVE IN *THE OTHER JP*

Carla, 10, and her sister Sandra, 12, live with their single mother in public housing in Jamaica Plain. During a particularly bad winter, a large window in their living room was broken and never repaired. This room was freezing but the rest of the house was hot and stuffy. The window was not the only thing the landlord wouldn't fix: the apartment upstairs leaked creating a waterfall of gross water, mildew and mold. The landlord refused to spray for pests and there were droppings everywhere. Everyone in the house lives in a constant state of frustration and sadness. The mom fears for her daughter's safety both inside and outside of the house. She tried to contact the proper authorities at City Life, but the process is slow. They continue to live there, with no improvements planned.

Adapted from Health and Housing Task Force p 16

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS BUT A HOUSE CAN MAKE YOU SICK...

It is common to use the term house when we are referring to the structure, while the term home refers to the emotional sense of pride, safety and health that exists inside the house.

The story of Carla, Sandra and their mother emphasizes that what ails one's house can cause poor health, unhappiness and unsafe conditions. Their home is sick, thus they are sick. If this is repeated throughout an entire community we can imagine that all efforts to create equal health conditions for all, is impossible without addressing housing conditions and home health.

Housing equity is a basic yet overlooked concept. How can one be expected to stay healthy when one lives in an environment where there is improper heating, dangerous levels of toxins, and inappropriate building management?

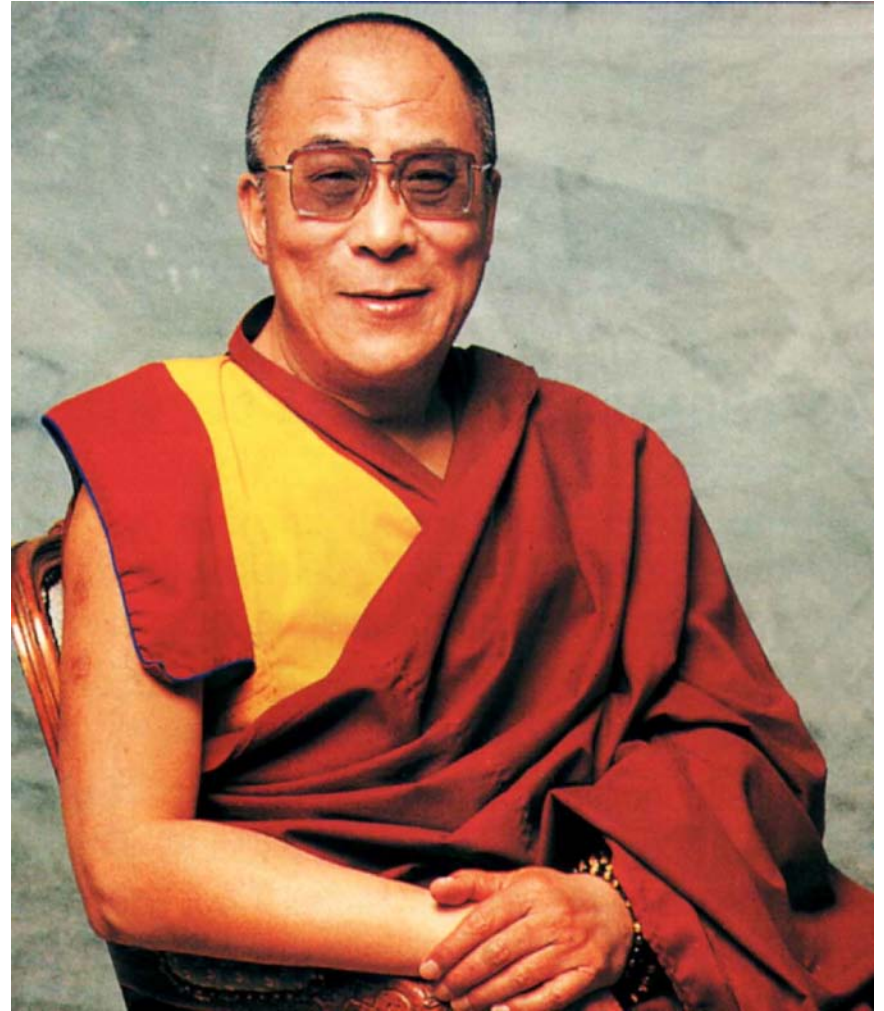
For the youth of JP the most concerning housing issues are:

**HOUSING SEGREGATION
SHELTER POVERTY
HOMELESSNESS**

This section will look at all three and address possible solutions.

“Be optimistic, it
feels better.”

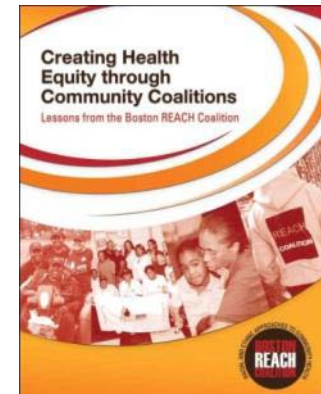
-Dalai Lama



Web Resources

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
-

- [Boston Public Health Commission](http://www.bphc.org/healthequity)
www.bphc.org/healthequity (*under Resources: Tools*)



TOM WOLFF

The
POWER
of
COLLABORATIVE
SOLUTIONS



Six Principles and Effective Tools for
Building Healthy Communities