

# Planning for Healthy Communities: Advocating for Equity in Planning Decisions

Alameda County  
Public Health Department

Alexandra Desautels

CPEHN Convening ♦ November 6, 2008



# Presentation Overview

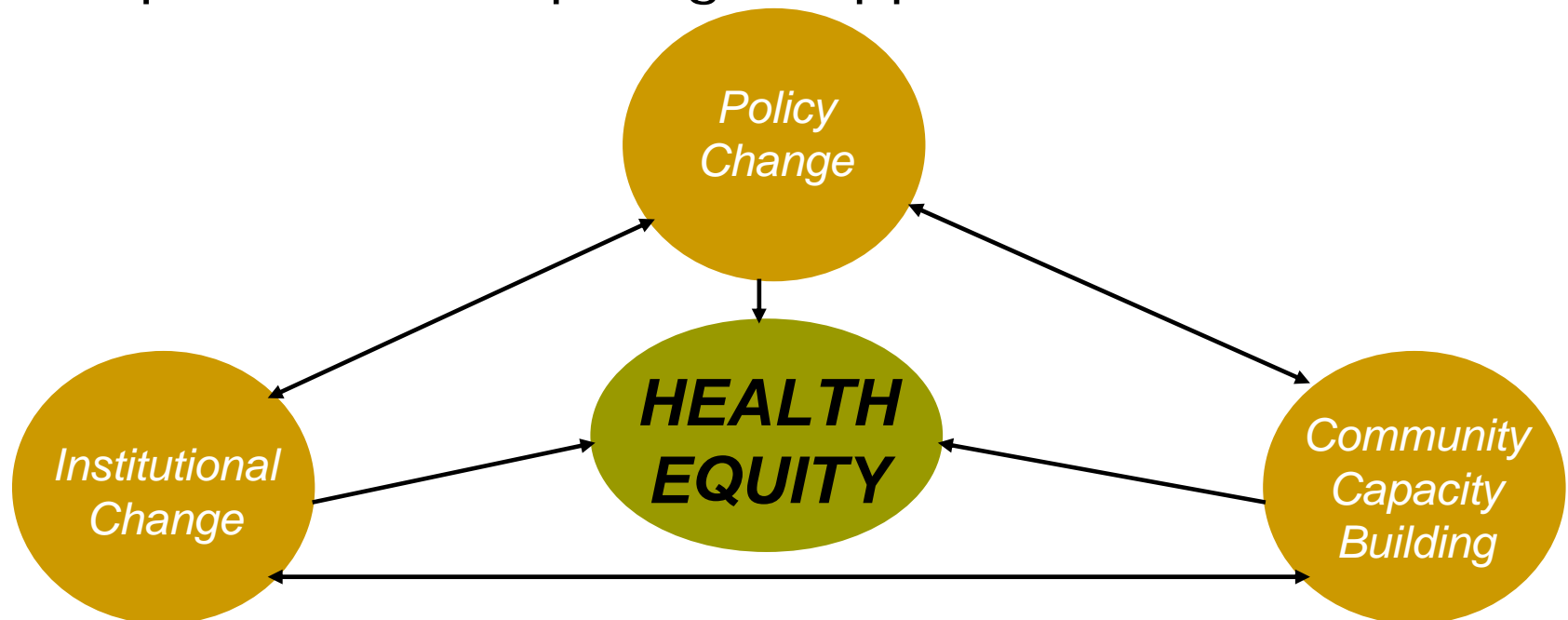
---

- Organizational Context
- Reactive Policy Work
  - Process
  - Examples
- Proactive Policy Work – Local Policy Agenda
  - Process
- Community Capacity Building
  - Process
  - Example

# Organizational Context

---

- 1.5 FTE dedicated to local policy work
  - Flexibility and responsiveness
  - Strong relationships
- Strategic Plan focused on Health Equity
- Department's 3-pronged approach



# Reactive Policy Work

---

## □ Process

### ■ **Receive a request**

- Community groups
- Government agency

### ■ **Apply basic screening criteria**, including:

- Is there a disproportionate impact on communities experiencing health inequities?
- Does this policy address the root causes of health inequities?
- Will working on this policy help build relationships?

### ■ **Complete analysis**

- Examine potential health impacts of a given decision

### ■ **[Engage ACPHD and resident stakeholders]**

### ■ **Oral and/or written testimony**

# Reactive Policy Work

---

## □ Examples

- Engaging community members
  - AC Transit fare increase
- Engaging city agencies
  - Estuary Specific Plan
- Using community health data
  - Eastshore Power Plant
  - Metropolitan Transportation Commission – Regional Transportation Plan 2035

# Reactive Policy Work

---

## □ Drawbacks

- “Siloed”
- Lacked a unifying vision and goal
  - Not sure if we were actually getting at root causes
- Not necessarily community priority

# Local Policy Agenda

---

## □ Overall Goal

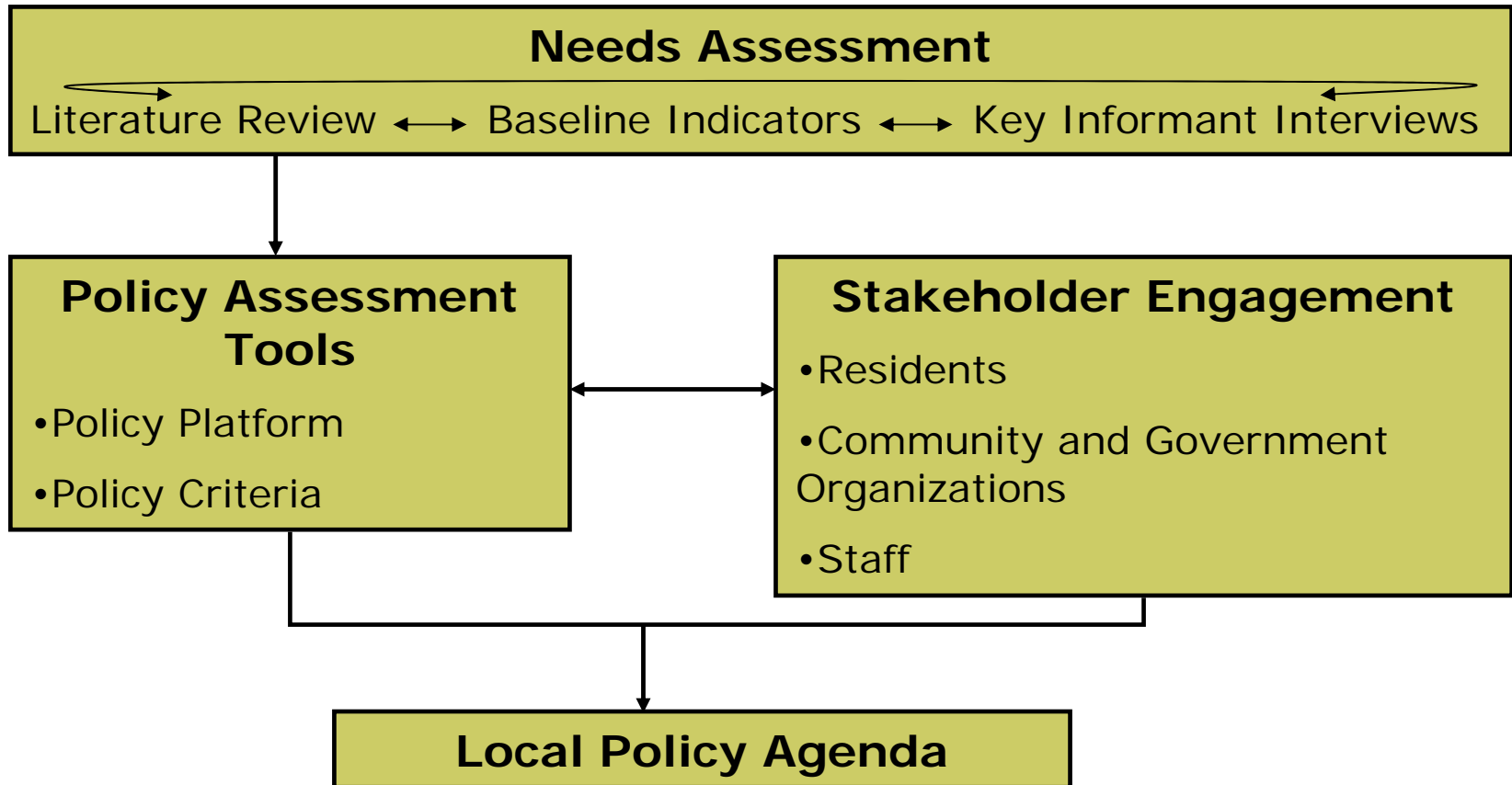
- The Alameda County Place Matters team promotes health equity through a community-centered local policy agenda focused on education, economic development, incarceration, land use, and transportation.

## □ Process Goals

- Institutionalize policy work in ACPHD
- Ensure policy work is:
  - Community driven
  - Research driven

# Building a local policy agenda

---



# Community Capacity Building

---

- Goal
  - Build social, economic and political **power** in communities to advocate for equal distribution of resources
- Community Survey to id issues
- Organize Resident Action Council
  - Prioritize and respond to community issues
- Examples
  - Tyrone Carney Park
  - Air and Metals

# Thank you!

---

For more information:

Alexandra Desautels

510-208-1235

[Alexandra.Desautels@acgov.org](mailto:Alexandra.Desautels@acgov.org)

[www.acphd.org/healthequity.htm](http://www.acphd.org/healthequity.htm)