

Sixth National Conference on

QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS:

Partnerships for the future: Supporting practitioners and advancing the field through innovation, policy and research

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www.DiversityRxConference.org

Sample abstract for Roundtable Discussion proposal

Closing the Gap: Philanthropy's Role in Promoting Health Equity

Quality improvement efforts should be integral to interventions addressing health disparities, cultural needs, language assistance, and organizational supports for cultural competence. This session will highlight how the work of foundations reflects this framework in its design and implementation of a range of programs and initiatives. The session will feature state and local philanthropic efforts to expand access to high quality culturally competent care, as well as initiatives to test a range of additional strategies to reduce and eliminate disparities in both health care and health status.

The session will feature a conversation among senior foundation staff leading state and local initiatives addressing health disparities, and will be moderated by Grantmakers in Health's President and CEO Lauren LeRoy. She will provide a brief overview of GIH's work to support foundations in their efforts to promote both health equity and quality, which dates back to 1998 when the organization cosponsored a call to action with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Since then, GIH has seen substantial growth in the number of foundations heeding the call for action and devoting significant resources to addressing the health needs of minority populations.

The panelists will highlight key initiatives their foundations have undertaken to design and implement culturally competent programs. Discussion will focus on how each funder prioritized the needs of the community it serves; the process used to determine which grantmaking strategies to employ, the partnerships created to carry out its projects, and the specific activities its grantees are conducting. Dr. LeRoy will ensure that participating panelists will reflect on the types of roles foundations are best positioned to take and where they can be most effective. Speakers will also be prepared to share the insights they have gained in the course of their work, and will be primed to provide the audience with a stronger understanding of what to expect from foundations working in this field, and how partnerships between funders and community groups can be formed to reduce and eliminate health disparities.