



January 5, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

Are you still thinking about last month's external consultation on social determinants of health as much as I am? I remain energized about all that was accomplished during our time together. Although much work remains to be done, I am impressed with our start and all that was accomplished during these two days.

I want to thank each of you for your participation, energy, and enthusiasm in making the meeting a success. This consultation truly demonstrates that we can come together across diseases and disciplines to clarify a vision for change, and to address the best interests of the people we seek to reach and serve.

To keep the great conversation going, I invite you to read and comment on my most recent blog entry on the consultation and the importance of addressing social determinants of health. The URL to the blog hyperlink is <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/blog/default.htm>. The blog is widely read by professionals, community members and the public. We would greatly value your sharing any additional perspectives, and continuing our dialogue, via the blog.

With this email, I am enclosing a condensed consultation summary; the call for papers for the Public Health Reports Special Journal Issue on *Addressing Social Determinants of Health and HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis*; and an electronic version of the consultation evaluation form. We anticipate finalizing the consultation report in early February and will be circulating it to each you shortly thereafter. I encourage you to consider submitting a paper to the Special Issue and to forward the call for papers to others in your networks who might be important contributors. Finally, if you have not already done so, please complete the evaluation form and return it to Veena Goud at VGoud@cdc.gov by January 15, 2009.

As NCHHSTP enhances our efforts to address the social determinants of health, we will be counting on you and other stakeholders to assist us with assessing the status of our efforts to reduce health disparities, and the development of implementation action plans. Your insights will be invaluable as we continue this important work in a more consistent and systematic manner.

Thank you for the work you do in your communities to address the social determinants of health – work that is essential to the health and wellbeing of so many. I look forward to our continued collaboration on the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

/Kevin Fenton/

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