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### Why It Matters

- "Addressing disparities is no longer just about morality, ethics and social justice, it is essential for performance excellence and improved community health" 1
- "It is time to refocus, reinforce and repeat the message that health disparities exist and that health equity benefits everyone."

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### **Approaches For Adoption**

Approaches for leaders and executive teams to apply when addressing health disparities:

- Orientation to community and organization
- Awareness of race, ethnicity and linguistic differences (REAL) in community
- · Define community needs
- · Identify gaps in service and access
- · Develop a plan of action

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## Strategies To Address Disparities

Strategies healthcare leaders and executive teams use:

- Build coalitions with community physicians and other health practitioners
- · Conduct educational outreach to community groups
- · Implement care coordination and transition processes
- Increase diversity in governance and management levels of organizations
- Collaborate with government entities on disparity initiatives

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# Challenges for Healthcare Leaders

What healthcare leaders face when providing services in minority communities:

- Organizational Culture
- Employee benefits
- · Cultural competency
- Evidence based clinical practices
- Demographic data collection tools
- Community awareness

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# Why These Actions Are Important

- Executive teams will facilitate health disparity decision making in the community
- Healthcare leaders are highly equipped to address and measure health disparities
- Organizations must show an improved bottom line, quality improvements and a supportive role in the community
- ACA heightens awareness of health disparities through its initiatives on wellness, cultural competency, public health, quality and data collection

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### Lessons Learned

To influence the elimination of disparities we can:

- Share knowledge within our community
- Provide cultural competent training and care
- Introduce students to diverse communities and organizations
- Use information technology for reliable data collection
- · Participate in forums on health disparities
- Embrace diverse stakeholders

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