

Connecticut State Innovation Model (SIM) Project
Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee & Workgroups
Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Hartford CT

May 28th 2015

My name is Supriyo B. Chatterjee and I reside in West Hartford Connecticut. I would like to submit my comments for your consideration. The Connecticut State Health Innovation Project has stated the will to eliminate health disparities but is currently mired about the subject of a Code of Ethics. In November 2014, I attended the Health Equity Forum at the Hartford Public Library where I heard panelist, Alphonse Wright (Chair of the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission), make a profound statement – “even now African-Americans distrust health agencies due to the Tuskegee Experiments.” It is well over 8 decades since those infamous experiments commenced, and ~35 years since the Belmont Report Commission made recommendations about research ethics and subsequently the need of Institutional Review Boards. It’s about two decades since President Clinton made a public apology for the Tuskegee wrongdoings. Quite simply, it is imperative to have a Code of Ethics and more so because CT SIM programs are in the arena of Public Health and Health Equity.

A Code of Ethics brings more than an equitable way of conducting business without conflicts of interest – it lays the foundation of restorative trust and with it, the deeper understanding and responsibilities of fiduciary duties of the CT SIM program participants. These programs make up the public good to be delivered – the innovative healthcare model with the goals of Better Health, Eliminating Disparities, Quality Care, and Lower Costs. Currently, the reality to an individual with bare equity is a vastly different tightrope: an Executive branch pruning health programs for budgetary savings; a Judicial branch with yet another case seeking to puncture the health programs and a Legislative branch keeping the Health Programs Repeal Factory oiled for yet another legislative skirmish. In it all, the individual wants to seek solace in the “access” to a broken health system where a deductible may lead to the individual’s personal bankruptcy. If not done equitably, the Connecticut State Health Innovation Project may well be the last gasp of health equity in our state.

Thank you.

References used in above comments are shown below (next page).

REFERENCES - Supplement to Public Comments

CT Healthcare Innovation Plan Executive Summary

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/sim/plan_documents/innovation_plan_executive_summary_v82.pdf

Christine Stuart - CT News Junkie: Healthcare Advocate Raises Red Flag. May 27, 2015

http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/healthcare_advocate_raises_red_flag/

Gostin, Lawrence O., "Mapping the Issues: Public Health, Law and Ethics" (2010). Georgetown Law Faculty Publications. <http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/facpub/374>

Betancourt, JR et al, Addressing Disparities and Achieving Equity: Cultural Competence, Ethics, and Health-care Transformation. Chest. 2014;145(1):143-148.

<http://journal.publications.chestnet.org/article.aspx?articleid=1793887>

Beauchamp DE, Public health as social justice.

Inquiry (1976) Mar;13(1):3-14.

Prior CT SIM Public Comments:

CT SIM - Practice Transformation Task Force Meeting May 19th (under Public Comment)

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/practice_transformation/2015-05-19/ctsim-may19.pdf

CT SIM Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee Meeting May 14th (under Public Comment)

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/sim/steering_committee/2015-05-14/comment_chatterjee_clas_05142015.pdf

CT SIM - Practice Transformation Task Force Meeting April 28th (under Public Comment)

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/practice_transformation/2015-04-28/publiccomment_pttf_chatterjee_04282015.pdf

CT SIM - Equity and Access Council Meeting April 23rd (under Public Comment)

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/equity_access/2015_04_23/ctsim-apr23.pdf

CT SIM Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee Meeting April 9th (under Public Comment)

CT SIM - Equity and Access Council Meeting April 9th (under Public Comment)

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/sim/steering_committee/2015-04-09/public_comment_chatterjee_04092015.pdf

CT SIM - Health Information Technology Council Meeting March 20th (under Public Comment)

http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/lib/ohri/work_groups/hit/2015-03-20/ctsim-mar20.pdf