

CAEP Health Equity Working Group

Report to CAEP 2024

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Background:

The CAEP Health Equity Working Group was formed at CAEP 2019. It was developed under the umbrella of the CAEP Public Affairs Committee, and it was meant as a way to advance goals of Health Equity and Social Emergency Medicine in our clinical, educational, and academic environments.

The working group has informal meetings every 2-3 months, which are avenues to discuss advances and issues related to health equity work in the ED. We continue to add new members to our working group each year. A lot of work was related to knowledge sharing and building collaboration between hospital groups and providers.

Featured Focus

1) CAEP Social Emergency Medicine Workshop

Members of the group are helping host a workshop at CAEP 2023 to identify and imagine what social emergency medicine means to EM providers in Canada. We spent time developing this into a report that will be shared with CAEP formally and will be presented at CAEP 2024 in the Society and EM track. The report will sit with CAEP as a white paper resource for practitioners to engage with their local hospitals about understanding social emergency medicine in their context and further disseminate.

2) Winter shelter capacity and planning.

There was considerable work on understanding how EDs can respond when there are no municipal shelter beds left when caring for houseless patients. This led to ongoing discussions and knowledge sharing between providers. A collaborative idea also emerged which will be featured during a concurrent session at CAEP 2024.

3) Learners and Health Equity

There was significant interest from medical students and residents this past year to get involved in health equity related initiatives. The group had active discussions on how to support learners. One commentary that came about was a publication for CanadiEM on a local initiative at one of the medical student's home program on collaboration between community organizations and

ED for people experiencing homelessness:
<https://canadiem.org/improving-care-for-homelessness/>

4) CAEPxGEM Health Equity Journal Club Rounds

We hosted journal clubs partnering with the Center for Global Equity in EM (GEM) group at UofT, with goals of continuing to host open virtual rounds 2-3x per year.

4) Idea Generation: Numerous future ideas came from the group which include:

- Encouraged creating a platform for sharing resources and best practices.
- Ideas for Collaboration:
- Discussed hospital roles in addressing systemic issues and social accountability.
- Proposed a community advisory group around the ED at UHN/Edmonton ED programs, focusing on a push-pull model to integrate community ideas and ongoing ED projects.
- Ongoing sharing resources around homelessness advocacy.

Future Goals

- Build a sustainability plan for the working group's future.
- Develop a standardized process for engaging equity-deserving groups, including compensation and recognition
- Develop a repository of initiatives taking place in the ED that improve care for people who face health inequities due to the social determinants of health.

Conclusion:

We extend our gratitude to all ED providers engaged in addressing health equity and social disparities. These systemic issues directly impact our work in the ED and collaborative efforts are vital.

If you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Sahil Gupta on behalf of the CAEP Health Equity Working Group