

## **Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) First Annual Cultural Competence and Health Literacy Conference**

Earlier this month, we were extremely pleased to have the opportunity to partner with FLPPS as they held their [First Annual Conference on Cultural Competence and Health Literacy](#).

Individuals from more than 150 organizations across the 13-county FLPPS region came together to participate in this one-day conference, which featured national and regional experts as well as senior staff from the New York State Department of Health.

Presentation materials, along with tools and resources designed to help organizations strengthen practice in the areas of cultural competence and health literacy, which we know are central to effective patient engagement and better outcomes, are available on the [FLPPS website](#). Here's an "at a glance" view of this event:

**[Social Determinants of Mental Health and Discrimination](#):** Ruth Shim, MD, MPH, Luke & Grace Professor in Cultural Psychiatry, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, Davis: Dr. Shim's presentation focused on (a) Defining and describing the social determinants of mental health; (b) Considering the evidence base for discrimination and racism as a social determinant of mental health; and importantly (c) Identifying effective solutions to addressing discrimination and racism in health.

**[Roots of Health Equality & How Public Health Policy Can Improve Health Outcomes](#):** Brian Smedley, PhD, Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies: Dr. Smedley offered a definition of what we mean when we say "health equity," and walked through some national and regional data describing the current environment. He also shared examples of how to eliminate health status inequality through "Place-based Investments" (*reducing the concentration of community-level health risks while increasing geographic access to health-enhancing resources*) and "People-based Investments" (*investing in people through individual and family interventions designed to improve access to opportunity and maximize the ability to harness opportunities*.)

**[2017 NYS Health Equity Report – Identifying Minority Service Areas to Address Health Disparities](#):** Harrison Moss, MPS, DTR, CHES from the NYS DOH Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities. Harrison Moss reviewed the latest data from NYS DOH, including statistics from several communities in our region, and encouraged participants to check out the latest data reports, which can be found [here](#).

**[Intersection of Cultural Competence & Performance Measures](#):** Briannon O'Connor, PhD, Associate Director for CCSI's Center for Collaboration in Community Health Dr. O'Connor provided a practical illustration of how to incorporate the dimension of cultural and health literacy into agency performance measurement and quality improvement initiatives.