

Toward a National Policy of Community Participation in Health Care

April 16th 2010



Washington, DC

An international symposium on
community participation in the
context of US health care
system

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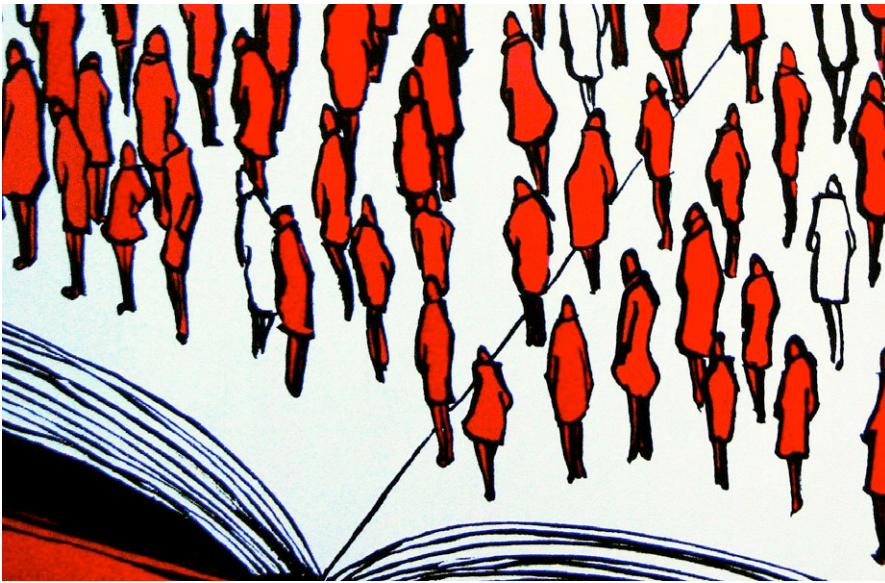
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Community participation can be defined as an active involvement of citizens, social groups and/or the community in local decision-making processes. It is a vital element in the WHO's 1948 constitution, which states: "Informed opinion and active cooperation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people."

Gaining a clearer view of the use of community participation in the US will be essential in informing the development of health policy. Lessons from community-driven projects can also facilitate the development of more responsive and efficient services, which is a high priority in the current economic climate.



This event is organized with the following sponsors & partners:

George Washington University
Careum Foundation, Zurich
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The Swiss Embassy, Washington

&

The Commonwealth Fund
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Primary Care Coalition Of
Montgomery County, MD
Consumer Health Foundation

This symposium focuses on addressing the following critical questions:

- What impact could community participation have on communities in the US if it were made a priority in national health policy?
- What role should schools of public health play? Are they a resource for community-based health development initiatives? Should partnership work with communities be made a priority in the education and training of health professionals?
- What do grassroots organizations and communities expect from collaborations with academics and health policy leaders? How can capacity be created to meet these expectations?

The event will be held on April 16th 2010 from **9:00am** to **5:30pm** at The Swiss Embassy in Washington, DC. A reception will follow immediately thereafter.

Lunch will be served and refreshments available throughout the day.

Attendance is **free**, but it is necessary to **register** to enter the Embassy. To register, please send an email to **maya.tuchman@gwumc.edu** with your **first and last name as well as the name of your institution**. Students are most welcome! Place limited to 60 guests.

Come and debate these questions and many more with an international panel of national policy makers, academics, representatives from international agencies, community leaders and safety net

Location:

The Swiss Embassy
2900 Cathedral Avenue
Northwest Washington,
DC 20008-3405
(202) 745-7900