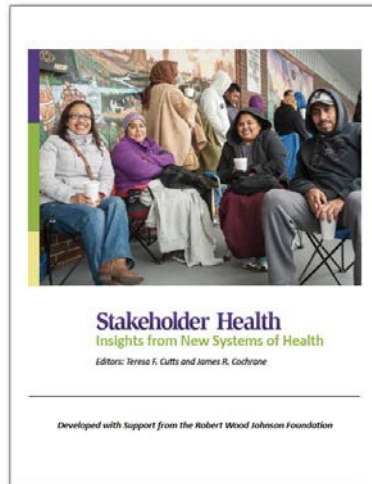


Stakeholder Health

Preface Letter Dr. Soma Stout



From

Stakeholder Health: Insights from New Systems of Health

Editors: Teresa F. Cutts and James R. Cochrane

Developed with Support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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www.stakeholderhealth.org

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Stakeholder Health, c/o FaithHealth Division, Wake Forest Medical Baptist Center, Medical Center Blvd., Winston-Salem, NC 27157

ISBN: 978-0-692-70728-9

Editors: Teresa F. Cutts and James R. Cochrane

Cover Picture: Community Members, North Carolina Event, 2016

Suggested Citation: Cutts, T. & Cochrane, J.R., Editors (2016). *Stakeholder Health: Insights from New Systems of Health*.

USA: Stakeholder Health Press.

Graphic Designer: Kelli Smith

Printed in the United States of America

This book is printed on archival-quality paper that meets requirements of the American National Standard for Information Sciences, Permanence of Paper, Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.



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March 31, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to write a letter of introduction and commendation for this second Stakeholder Health offering to our field: Insights from New Systems of Health.

As Lead Transformative Adviser and former Vice President of Patient Centered Medical Home Development at Cambridge Health Alliance and Executive Lead, 100 Million Healthier Lives at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, I am constantly involved in the gritty, illuminating and challenging work of trying to improve health, well-being and equity in our country and across the globe. I am honored to be a part of the Stakeholder Health movement and to have the members of Stakeholder Health as partners in the 100 Million Healthier Lives movement.

As stewards in this shared movement together, we recognize that to truly improve health, we need to embrace that health is created by the mental, physical, social and spiritual dimensions of our lives interacting together in a beautiful and complex whole—and that it is created in the context of community. In addition, we believe it is not possible to move the needle on health outcomes for the population without a dedicated focus on health equity. In a country where two children growing up two miles apart can expect a 25 year difference in life expectancy, this is both a practical and a moral imperative. We cannot improve our health rankings in the world without improving the well-being of those who aren't thriving; by unleashing the trapped and untapped potential of our most vulnerable and marginalized residents, we have the potential to create wholeness in our communities and in our country. In a shrinking world where the developing world and the developed world coexist in our own hearts, in our communities and around the globe, it is a deep recognition of our interconnectedness as a human family that offers us the opportunity to create the beloved community envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

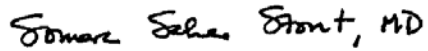
Stakeholder Health's movement has been dedicated to creating this wholeness in our communities since its inception. Stakeholder Health's members are unabashedly focused on care for the poor and marginalized and are not afraid to embrace their faith and/or missional heritage and responsibilities for caring for all. They constantly focus on pushing the language and traditional views of the field on health and health care far beyond the comfort zone of most health systems. As other health systems begin the journey to population health, this narrative, along with the real world examples of what it means to walk on this journey to whole person, whole community health and well-being, is critically needed.

This book offers a rich and detailed review of some of the best and most promising work being done to build health system and community partnerships. From a new platform for how to re-invent the electronic medical or health record to reflect the person's journey of health (vs. a billing or service delivery capture) to disruptive leadership practices to adapt to our chaotic times to how trauma-informed care to building resiliency and mental health prevention efforts can be implemented both within and across health systems and the broader community, I found the book to be chockful of illuminating examples that help create a path for health systems on the journey. It serves as both a fantastic resource guide and a thoughtful and delightfully written "textbook" for community health improvement that appeals to a broad

audience: those working clinically, operationally and administratively inside health systems, in faith and other communities, as well as in public health and other clinical settings.

In short, I highly recommend this book to all readers who care deeply about growing health, well-being, equity, justice and interconnectedness in our broader world. I hope that it serves as a useful resource guide for you, whatever your role in health and health care is, whatever your specific aims or passions are. It has deeply enriched our path in 100 Million Healthier Lives; we look forward to growing into the lessons learned and invite you to contribute to the next stage of the path.

Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Somava Saha Stout, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Somava Saha Stout, MD MS
Executive Lead, 100 Million Healthier Lives
Institute for Healthcare Improvement