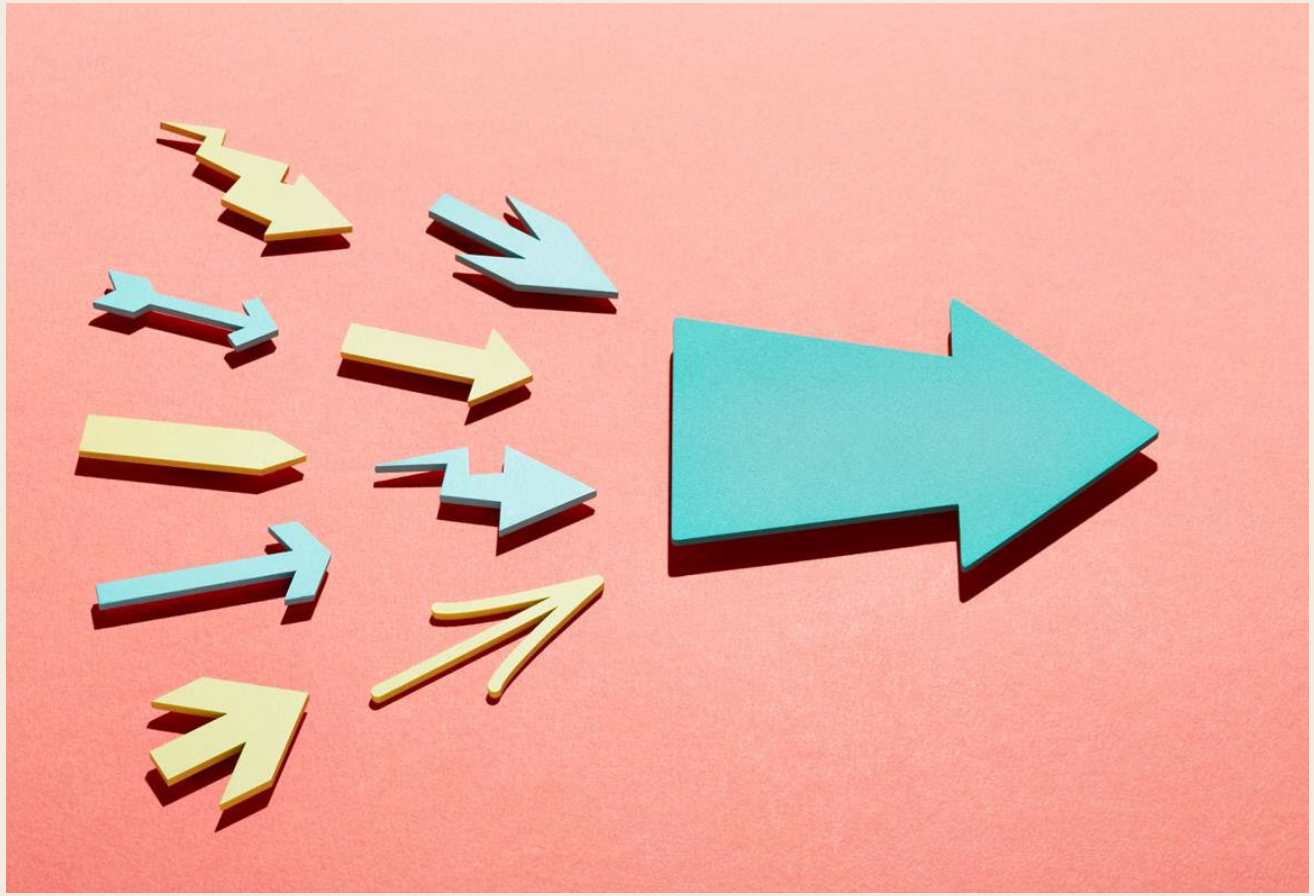
The Consortium Model: Integrating Care And Social Determinants Of Health

Collaborative Efforts Addressing Social Factors for Better Outcomes

Angela Morton, MA, CFRS
Consortium Director
Recovery is NWPA
Mortonal@upmc.edu
814-449-3089



Foundations of Integrated Care and Social Determinants of Health

The 5 domains of SDOH:

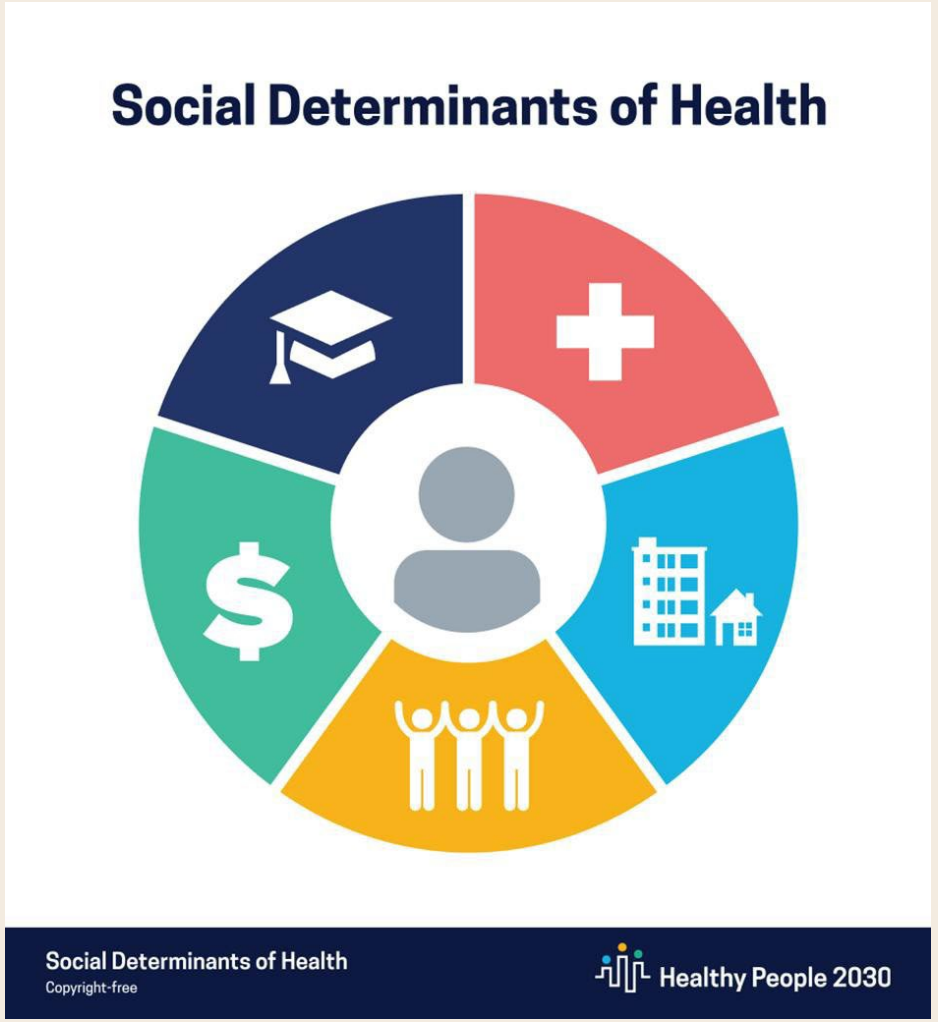
Health Care Access and Quality

Economic Stability

Education Access and Quality

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Social and Community Context



Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved [date graphic was accessed], from https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health

A consortium model supports integrated care and addresses social determinants of health by:

- Aligning healthcare, behavioral health, and community-based organizations around shared goals, coordinated workflows, and collective accountability.

- Ensures that both clinical needs and social barriers—such as housing, transportation, and food access—are addressed simultaneously.

- This coordinated approach reduces fragmentation, strengthens care continuity, and improves engagement and recovery outcomes by delivering truly **whole-person, system-connected care**.

The role of social determinants of health in mental health and substance use care

Understanding Social Determinants of Health

SDOH include housing, food security, transportation, education, income, and social connectedness – factors that impact health outcomes.

Impact on Mental Health Care

Unmet social needs hinder appointment attendance, treatment adherence, and recovery in mental health and substance use care.

SDOH in Mental Health and Substance Use Services

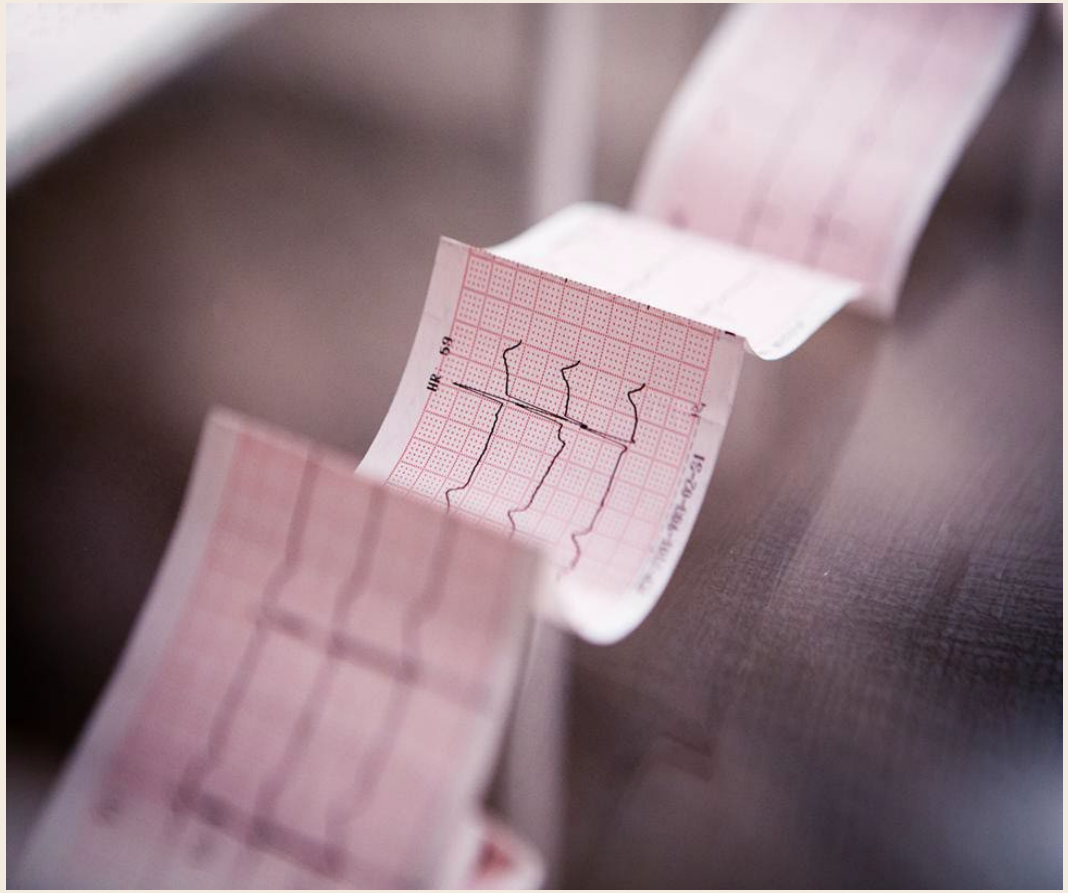
Integrated Care and SDOH

Integrated care models that address (or make referrals) for SDOH needs improve screening, referral acceptance and treatment adherence, follow-up, and reduce crisis-driven healthcare use.

Equity and Recovery-Oriented Care

Addressing SDOH promotes equity and supports recovery by tackling social barriers affecting marginalized populations.

SDOH may influence a range of functioning, health outcomes, quality-of-life and risks.



SDOH can tip the scales for or against people who are already struggling with primary and behavioral health conditions.

The Consortium Model as a **Framework for Cross-sector Collaboration**

Key Components Of A Consortium Model

Collaborative Governance

Shared leadership and clear decision-making processes ensure all partners have an equal voice in the consortium.

Shared Referral Pathways

Standardized referral systems with care coordinators and closed-loop processes enhance coordinated service delivery.

Community Engagement

Active involvement of community organizations ensures culturally responsive and accessible services addressing social needs.

How Consortium-based Collaboration Improves Engagement and Continuity of Care

Reducing Service Fragmentation

Consortium collaboration reduces gaps in care by addressing fragmented health and social services for better support.

Coordinated Screening and Referral

Screening for social determinants across partners allows early identification and seamless referrals, easing patient navigation.

Relationship-Based Engagement

Warm hand-offs and shared care planning build trust, improving patient engagement and reducing stigma-related barriers.

Sustained Continuity of Care

Consortium aligns partners around long-term recovery goals, integrating social supports to enhance continuity of care.

Practical Strategies and Experiential Learning in Consortium-based Integrated Care

Incorporating SDOH Screening and Referral Into Everyday Workflows

Integrating SDOH Screening

Standardized SDOH screening tools should be integrated into routine clinical workflows to normalize social needs assessment.

Trauma-Informed Staff Training

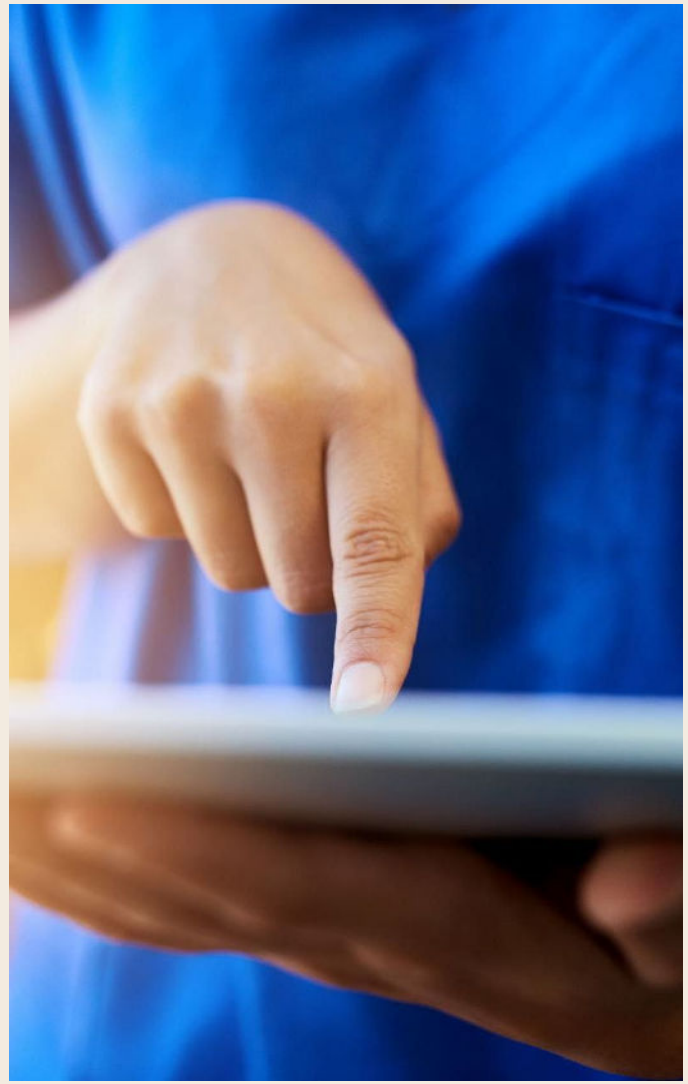
Staff must be trained in trauma-informed, culturally responsive communication to respectfully address sensitive social needs.

Efficient Referral Systems

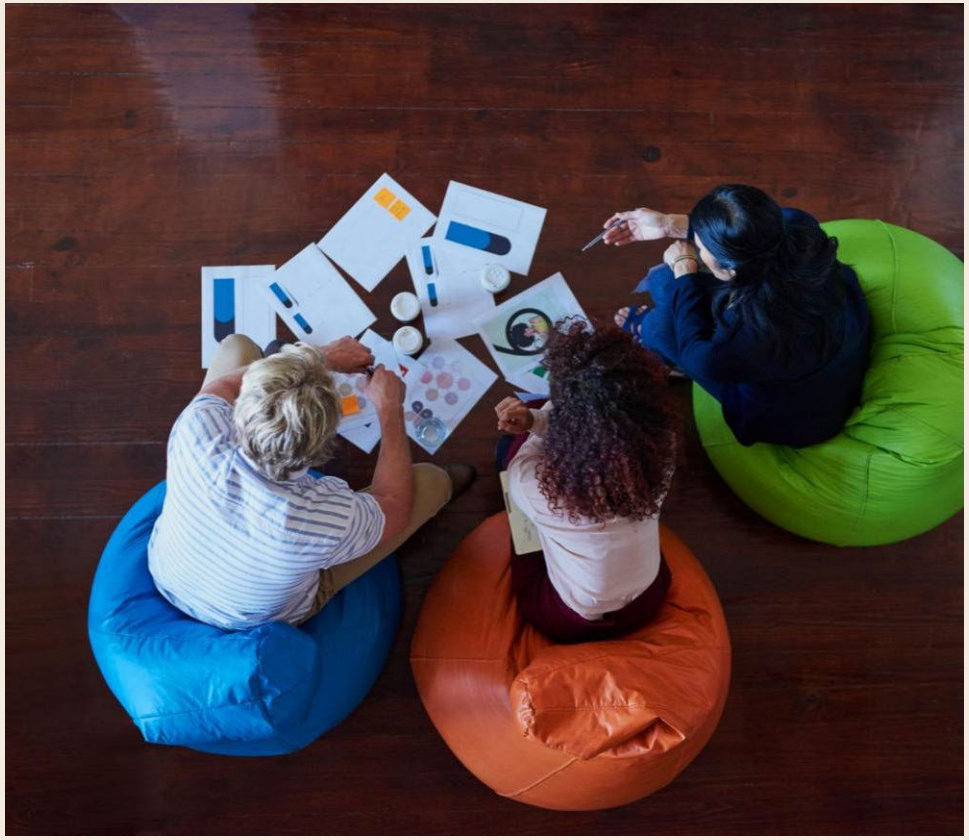
Simple, timely referrals supported by partnerships and closed-loop tracking improve follow-up and accountability.

Whole-Person Care Alignment

Embedding SDOH strategies aligns workflows towards holistic care[1,2], enhancing efficiency, engagement, and equity.



Experiential Learning Activity: Walking in Client's Shoes and Applying Insights to Practice



Simulating Client Experiences

This activity uses identity and resource cards to simulate real-life challenges.

Highlighting System Barriers

Participants experience how barriers accumulate and complicate access to mental health and substance use treatment.

Facilitated Reflection and Debrief

Debrief sessions help connect experiential insights to integrated care strategies and system coordination improvements.

Thank you!

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mortonal@upmc.edu
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