Dr. Brian Smedley, Co-founder and Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity

Brian D. Smedley is co-founder and Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity (www.nationalcollaborative.org), a project that connects research, policy analysis, and communications with on-the-ground activism to advance health equity. In this role, Dr. Smedley oversees several initiatives designed to improve opportunities for good health for people of color and undo the health consequences of racism.

From 2008 to 2014, Dr. Smedley was Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC, a research and policy organization focused on addressing the needs of communities of color. Formerly, Dr. Smedley was Research Director and co-founder of a communications, research and policy organization, The Opportunity Agenda (www.opportunityagenda.org), which seeks to build the national will to expand opportunity for all. Prior to helping launch The Opportunity Agenda, Dr. Smedley was a Senior Program Officer in the Division of Health Sciences Policy of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as Study Director for the IOM reports, In the Nation’s Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce and Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, among other reports on diversity in the health professions and minority health research policy. Dr. Smedley came to the IOM from the American Psychological Association, where he worked on a wide range of social, health, and education policy topics in his capacity as Director for Public Interest Policy. Prior to working at the APA, Dr. Smedley served as a Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA), sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Among his awards and distinctions, in 2013 Smedley received the American Public Health Association’s Cornely Award for social activism; in 2009 Smedley received the Congressional Black Caucus Congressional Leadership in Advocacy Award; in 2004 he was honored by the Rainbow/PUSH coalition as a “Health Trailblazer” award winner; and in 2002 he was awarded the Congressional Black Caucus “Healthcare Hero” award.
Our Commitment to Inclusion and Equity

At Children’s of Minnesota we strive to integrate inclusion and equity into all that we do. Inclusion and equity is not just a nice thing to do, but it is the right thing to do if we are to become “every family’s essential partner in raising healthier children.” We are committed to building an inclusive workplace for all of our employees and providing equitable care for all of our patients and families. We know that establishing and maintaining environments that are inclusive, open, and equitable is a complex undertaking that requires understanding, acknowledging, and affirming similarities and differences among ourselves and in our experiences. It also requires that we are willing to examine how we can create an equitable health care system that addresses issues of stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination, unintentional biases, intolerance, structural racism, historical trauma, and many other barriers that underlie so many of the health care disparities we are seeing in our system and the community today. We believe in the importance of this work so much that we have integrated inclusion and equity into our values as well as included this work as part of our organizational strategy.

Questions? Want to get involved? Contact:

Lor Lee, Director of Inclusion and Equity