Urban Research and Systems Change

KARA S. FINNIGAN, PH.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION POLICY

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM
FEBRUARY 4, 2014
CLARK STANLEY'S

STRONGEST AND BEST LINIMENT
KNOWN FOR THE CURE OF ALL PAIN AND LAMENESS.

Used externally
ONLY FOR RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, SCIatica, LAME BACK, LUMBAGO, CONTRACTED MUSCLES, TOOTHACHE, SPRAINS, SWELLINGS, ETC.

CURES FROST BITES, CHILL BLAEMS, Sore Throat, Bites of Animals, Insects and Reptiles.

GOOD FOR EVERYTHING A LINIMENT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR.

PRICE 50 Cents

AMAZING SNAKE OIL LINIMENT

50¢
Diagnosing the Problem

Solution    ---->    Problem

Problem    ---->    Solution
Competing Narratives

Narrative 1) Change within the educational system:

- Low performance is the result of ..... a lack of standards and accountability

- Solution: improve incentives, sanctions, and governance structure
Prominent “Solutions” Within Education

- Standards, Assessment, Accountability (federal/state)
  - NCLB
  - Common Core State Standards
  - Teacher Evaluation

- Governance change (state/local)
  - Charter Schools
  - Portfolio Approach
  - Central Office Transformation
Other “Solutions” Within Education

Additional local strategies:

- Structural change (Extended Year/Day)
- Curricular change (pacing, vertical alignment)
- Human capital change (Retraining of Teachers, Recruitment, Incentives for Placement)
Competing Narratives

Narrative 2) Within education and broader social services communities:

- Low performance is the result of ....
  lack of coordination and lack of targeted resources toward youth

- Solution: increase collaborative action, develop shared (community-wide) goals, target resources
President’s Early Learning Initiative

STRIVE Theory of Action

Harlem Children’s Zone
Competing Narratives

Narrative 3) largely outside of educational system:

- Low performance is the result of......
  
  decades of discriminatory policies that have created inequities between cities/towns in a metropolitan area.
Figure 1-15.
Percent of Total Population Living in Metropolitan Areas and in Their Central Cities and Suburbs: 1910 to 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1910 to 2000.
Narrative 3) largely outside of educational system:

- Solution: address inequities causing urban school “failure” through regional policies that address transit, housing, land use, and education.
Prominent Metro “Solutions”

Reshaping Opportunity

- Interdistrict-Choice/Open Enrollment
Rochester’s USITP
Omaha’s Learning Community
Prominent Metro “Solutions”

Reshaping Opportunity

- Interdistrict-Choice/Open Enrollment
- Affordable Housing Solutions
- Regional Coordination
Twin Cities Metropolitan Council

- **Challenge:** to address the significant disparities in school achievement, employment, and poverty between the region’s people of color and its white population.

- **Advancing equity through:**
  - Equitable decision making around community engagement, housing, and transit;
  - Making decisions WITH people, not FOR people;
  - Promoting development in the poorest neighborhoods;
  - Improving regional transportation systems.
Conditions to Support Metro Solutions

- State or Federal Policy Support/Incentives
- Political Will
- “Brokers” or Liaisons

IMPORTANT: Crisis can trigger a call to action
Reducing the Opportunity Gap to Improve the Outcomes for Youth

“Raise a ruckus people. It is time to raise a ruckus!”
Marian Wright Edelman