

GRASSROOTS TO ASPHALT: BUILDING AN ACTIVIST MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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Doctors for Camp Closure

North American Refugee Health Conference 2020



CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

- **Dr. Marie DeLuca has nothing to disclose**
- **Dr. Danielle Deines has nothing to disclose**
- **Dr. Bonnie Arzuaga discloses the following:**
National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD)
R01 HD094794-01A1



OUTLINE AND OBJECTIVES

1. Define activism
2. Provide historical context for activism, both in general and in medicine
3. Discuss health advocacy and common barriers to it
4. Introduce Doctors for Camp Closure
5. Discuss the toolkit D4CC has used to become a strong health activist network
6. Describe how healthcare professionals can get involved in activism spaces in useful ways.



Medicine is a social science, and politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale. Medicine, as a social science, as the science of human beings, has the obligation to point out problems and to attempt their theoretical solution.... The physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor, and social problems fall to a large extent within their jurisdiction.



- Dr. Rudolf Virchow, 1821– 1902



WHAT IS ACTIVISM?

- The policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change



HISTORY OF ACTIVIST MOVEMENTS



HISTORY OF PHYSICIANS AS ACTIVISTS

Doctors have long been on the front lines of major social upheavals, from protesting against torture, advocating for civil rights, to bringing attention to the AIDS crisis



H. Jack Geiger
b. 1926



Ben Reitman
1879 – 1943



Ruth Harriet Bleier
1923 – 1988



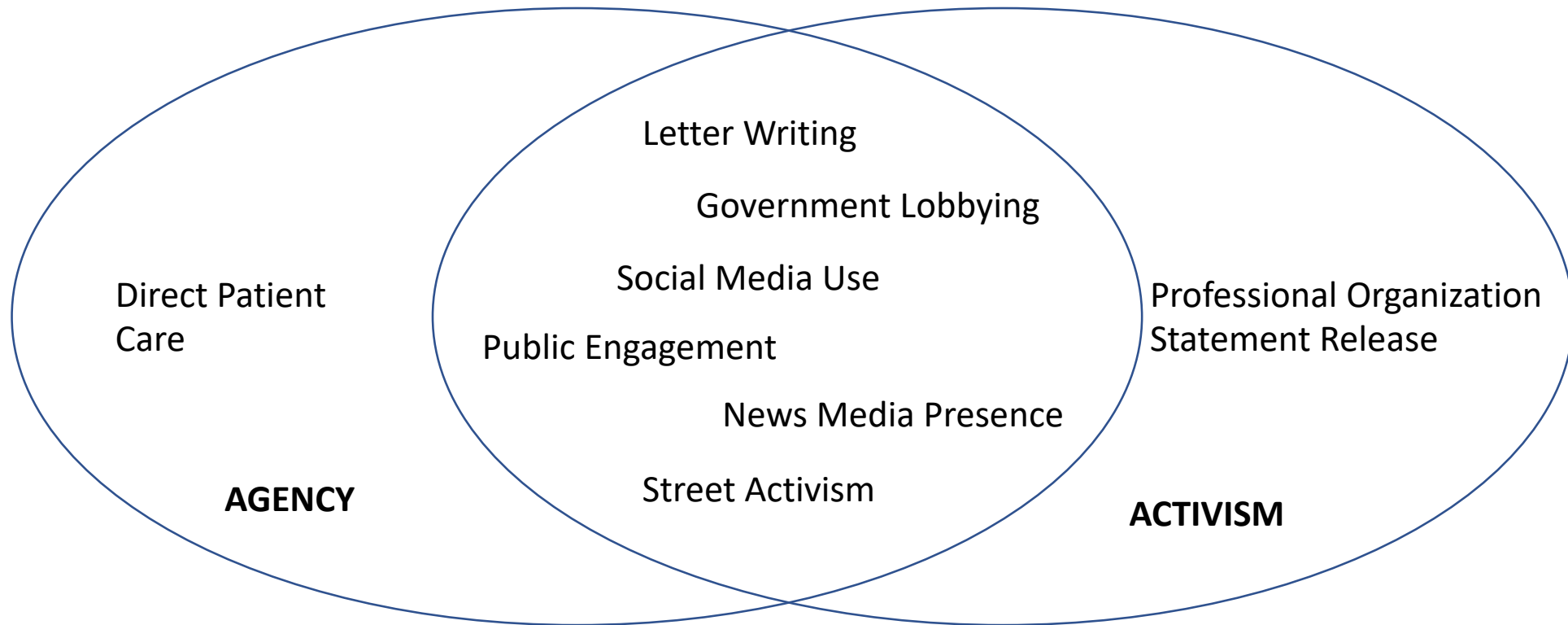
ACTIVISM AS A PART OF HEALTH ADVOCACY

- **Agency:** influencing others on behalf of the interests of a specific patient
- **Activism:** changing social conditions that impact health

From: Dobson S, Voyer S, Regehr G. Agency and activism: rethinking health advocacy in the medical profession. Acad Med. 2012;87(9):1161-1164



TOOLS OF HEALTH ADVOCACY



BARRIERS TO HEALTH ADVOCACY

- **Personal Barriers:**
 - Ignorance of the issues; fear of reprisal; lack of time; lack of direction
- **Institutional Barriers:**
 - Institutional or leadership bias; worry over reputation
- **Professional Barriers:**
 - The fallacy of the “stoic professional;” notions of professionalism





WHY DO WE NEED HEALTH ACTIVISM FOR IMMIGRATION?

- Increasingly inhumane immigration policies in the U.S. pose a threat to the health and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers.

“All people should have access to essential health care services.”

AAFP 2019:
Migrant Health Care



American Academy
of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

“We must remember that immigrant children are still children.”

AAP 2018: Opposing Border
Security and Immigration
Reform Act



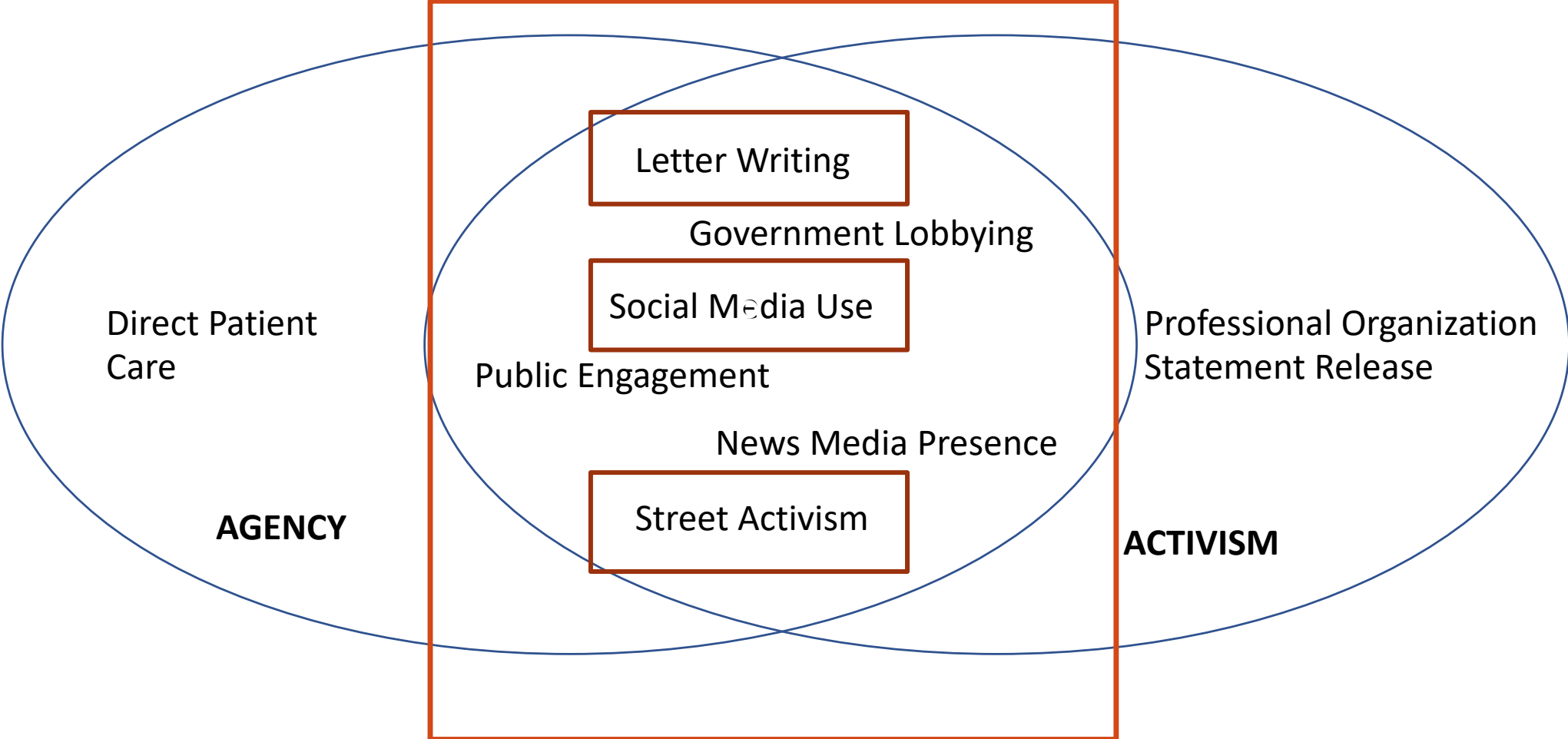
DOCTORS FOR CAMP CLOSURE (D4CC)

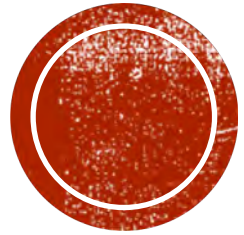


- **National activist group of 3000+ healthcare professionals**
- Advocate for:
 - Closure of CBP and ICE detention facilities
 - Until they are closed, we demand that independent medical oversight be implemented
 - Demand an end to all forms of family separation
 - Demand an end to MPP
 - Oppose deportations



WHAT MAJOR TOOLS DOES D4CC UTILIZE?





LETTER WRITING

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

PARTNERING FOR FREEDOM

- Detained people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable
- Physicians are needed to write letters of support for currently detained people



**FREEDOM
FOR IMMIGRANTS**

NYLPI
JUSTICE THROUGH
COMMUNITY POWER

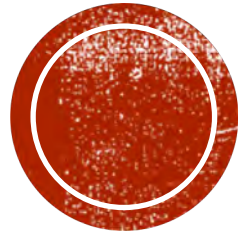
Northwest
**IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS**
Project



IMPACT – SLOW BUT STEADY

- D4CC has written 58 letters since May 2020
- Locations all over the U.S.
 - Washington state
 - New York
 - New Jersey
 - Texas
 - California
 - Kentucky





SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISM

NETWORKING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INCEPTION OF D4CC

- **Social media can be a powerful networking tool**
 - **Thousands of like-minded individuals**
 - **Organizations have solid social media presence**
 - **Large collective actions can be accomplished easily**



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



SOCIAL MEDIA COLLABORATIONS



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK



- Partnering with other organizations is a great way to amplify our messages



“GOING VIRAL”



Elizabeth Warren @ewarren · Dec 10, 2019

Children are dying in CBP custody due to the flu. Refusing to administer flu vaccines is neglectful and cruel. I'll end the unnecessary detention of children and families—and enforce strict standards for medical care for anyone in our care.

Families Belong Together @fams2gether · Dec 9, 2019

We are outside the Chula Vista border patrol station with @Doc4CampClosure and @NeverAgainActn demanding to be let in to vaccinate the kids inside. #CloseTheCamps #FluVaccines4Migrants [Thread]

[Show this thread](#)



0:05 77.8K views

193

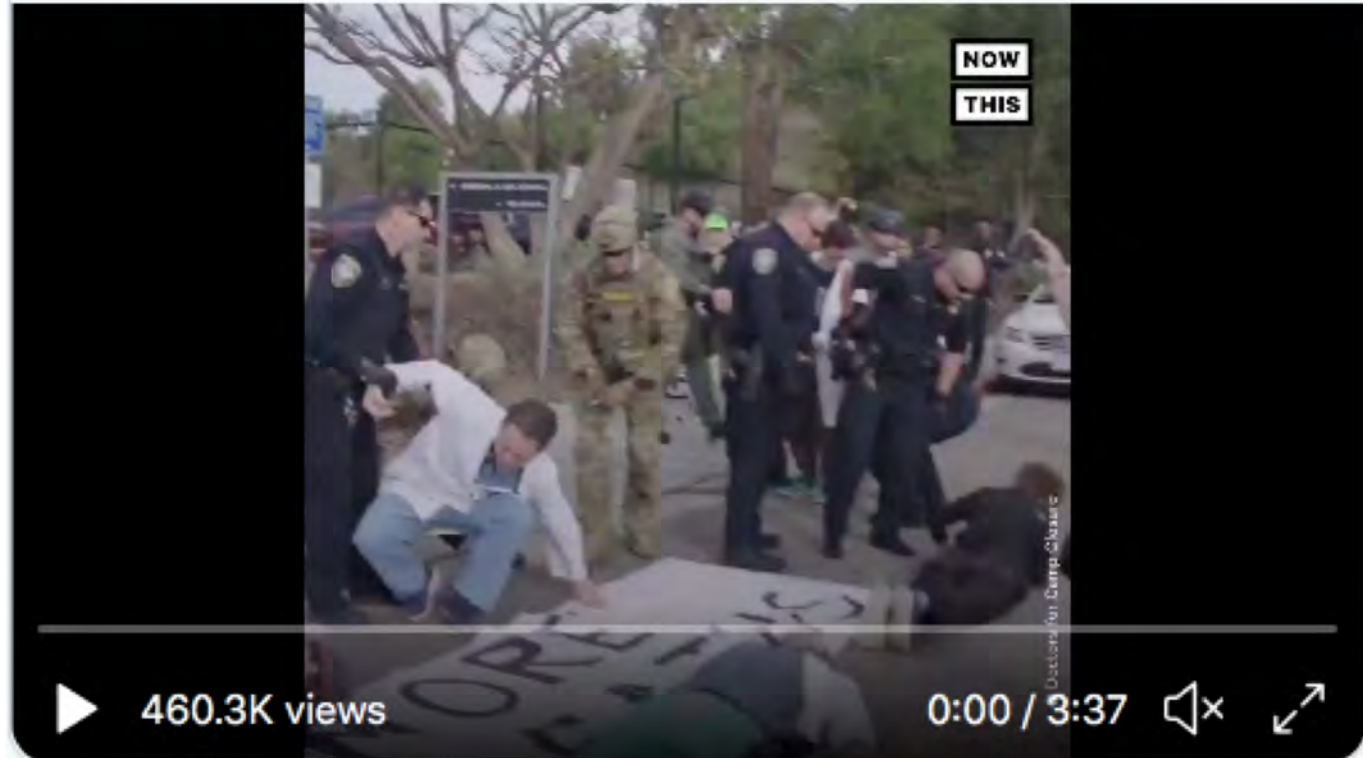
2.1K

7.2K



NowThis @nowthisnews · Dec 13, 2019

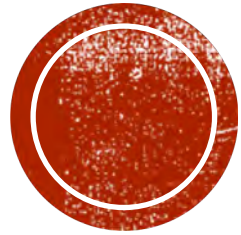
'We won't leave this gate until you let us vaccinate!' — Border Patrol arrested these doctors who were trying to give flu shots to detained immigrant kids



460.3K views

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STREET ACTIVISM

THE POWER OF DIRECT ACTION

WHY IS STREET ACTIVISM SO POWERFUL?



THE US GOVERNMENT SEES THIS:



AS MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN THIS:



USA TODAY

Follow

NATION

**Deaths in custody.
Sexual violence.
Hunger strikes. What
we uncovered inside
ICE facilities across the
US**

A USA TODAY Network investigation

REUTERS

WORLD NEWS
DECEMBER 18, 2019 / 8:03 PM / 19 DAYS AGO

Mexican children shiver in tents at U.S. border as temperature freezes

Julio-Cesar Chavez

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (Reuters) -



ments

Share ...

iot Spagat, Associated Press

Tally of children split at border tops 5,400 in new count

Nation Oct 25, 2019 10:54 AM EST

SAN DIEGO — U.S. immigration authorities



DIRECT ACTION ASKS: WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?



PRIVILEGE AND OPPRESSION

- Work in solidarity, not as a savior
- People with more privilege are at less risk from police and state violence
- Consider your intersectional identities:
 - What privileges do you have? What actions are more risky for you?
 - What support do you want from people with more privilege than you?
 - How can you leverage your privilege?
 - How can you support the work of activists from communities most affected by violence?
- Center the voices, leadership, and stories of people most affected
- All movements for liberation are intertwined. Work to uplift other movements as you work on your own.



WHAT DOES PROTEST EVEN DO?

- Draws attention to an issue
- Peaceful demonstration of numbers and force
- Disrupts business as usual
- Builds community and creates a vision of what a better world could look like
- Allows organizers and participants to meet one another and plan new actions for the movement



BASIC STRATEGY

- What are your goals for the movement?
- What is your desired outcome for this action?
- Who has the power to give you what you want?
- How do you put pressure on the people in power?



TACTICS

- What tools do you use to create pressure? (from www.ruckus.org)
 - Protest: speaking out, being vocal about dissent (marches, letter writing, petitions)
 - Non-cooperation: withdrawal from a system to impair functioning (strikes, boycotts)
 - Intervention: directly preventing system from functioning (blocking streets, disrupt meetings)
 - Creative solutions: develop community-based alternatives (free clinics, community gardens)



POINTS OF INTERVENTION

(from: <https://beautifultrouble.org/theory/points-of-intervention/>)

- **Point of Production** (e.g. Factory A which is collaborating with ICE): usually an economic target, tactics may include strikes, picket lines, factory takeover
- **Point of destruction** (e.g. detention center): a place where harm/injustice is happening, frequently these locations are less visible to the public, tactic include blockades
- **Point of consumption** (e.g. retail store selling product from Factory A): where people are interacting with the product or service, tactics include consumer boycott
- **Point of decision** (e.g. CBP headquarters): the place where the people with power to act are located, tactics include meeting disruption
- **Point of assumption** (e.g. Border wall): places that build the ideology of problematic systems, tactics highlight the unexamined nature of these beliefs and call attention to them



TACTICS DEPEND ON YOUR RESOURCES

- Tactics depend on how many participants you have and individual risk interest
 - 10,000+ people/lower risk: Women's March - shows large scale dissent and opposition to policy, demonstration of force
 - 50 people/varied risk: rally with some participants blocking entrances
 - 1 person/higher risk: Julia Butterfly Hill's 738 day tree sit, usually requires a small support team of people in lower risk roles
- **If you are proposing a tactic that is higher risk, you should be comfortable taking that risk yourself**



IMPORTANCE OF CO-ORGANIZING

- Talk with other local activist and community organizations about your proposed action early in the planning process
- Key info to gather:
 - Will the action cause harm to more vulnerable people?
 - Will the action conflict with other events in the area?
 - Are there recent local actions you can build off?
 - Are there groups that want to co-sponsor the action?



LOCATION FOR YOUR ACTION

- Location will depend on the overall goals for the action, consider the points of intervention
- **Functional**: where people in power work or meet and may see your demonstration or be disrupted by it
- **Symbolic**: represents something important to the movement and allows participants to connect emotionally with the action
- **Public**: visibility for bystanders, press



PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

DOCTORS FOR CAMP CLOSURE
ANNOUNCING THE

D4CC MARCH FOR MIGRANTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 19TH, 2019 | 10:00AM - 3:00PM

RALLY AT U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL PLAZA

COME HEAR OUR SPEAKERS & JOIN US ON OUR MARCH TO DEMAND
AN END TO MASS INCARCERATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND TO
ENSURE THAT **ALL** OF THOSE WHO ARRIVE AT PORTS OF ENTRY
HAVE ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE, CONFIDENTIAL
MEDICAL CARE.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT: www.d4cc.squarespace.com



VACCINES for
MIGRANTS

SAN YSIDRO
DEC 9-11, 2019



JOIN US IN AN EMERGENCY ACTION
to demand CBP allow a pop-up flu vaccine clinic
to in order to provide vaccinations for families
being held in detention.

REGISTER YOUR EMAIL FOR INFORMATION AT
<https://tinyurl.com/wf828j2>
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



ACTION ROLES

- Liaisons
- Marshalls
- Street medics/medical team
- Care team
- Chant and song leaders
- Jail support
- Risking arrest



ACTIVISM IN THE AGE OF COVID-19: HOW CAN SOCIAL MEDIA AND STREET ACTIVISM WORK TOGETHER?



HOW TO SHOW UP IN MOVEMENT SPACES

- Accomplices not allies
- Understand your motivations
- You don't need experience to show up
 - The streets are full of people who are learning together how to build a world focused on liberation
- Movements are messy, conflict is a necessary part of growth and the ways we move through it become our greatest strengths
- Make space for this type of action in your life by prioritizing it.
 - We don't get paid for it, your boss may not give you the day off, but I don't see a way forward without people prioritizing this action as necessary, valuable work



WHAT SKILLS DO I HAVE?

- Direct medical care - I'm great at splinting
- Coordinating – I make a great spreadsheet
- Connecting – I'm good at introducing people to each other
- Conflict resolution – I'm great at de-escalating that fight between the cardiologist and the emergency medicine doctor
- Trauma informed psychological care
- Negotiating
- Persuasive writing
- Visual arts
- What skills do I want to learn?



MEETING PEOPLE, MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Show up, show up again, introduce yourself
- Listen: why are people here, what are their stories and motivations, be open to challenges
- Bring a friend! Invite new people
- Volunteer for a protest role
- Be honest with yourself and others about the time you have available, recognize what you are prioritizing in your life – if you want more time available for direct action consider reprioritizing to make time



RISK

- What risks are you willing to take?
- What would need to change for you to take on a greater risk?
- What are the real costs of each risk? If you lay down in a driveway, it's unlikely that you will be sentenced to 10 years in prison
- Loss of privilege can feel like a huge risk, and it's part of the necessary work of tearing down toxic structures like white supremacy. In what ways does privilege encourage people to live “risk-free” lives?



CARE WORK

- Care work is a core to movements
- Jail support: supporting people who have been arrested, incarcerated, are facing deportation, etc.
- Direct medical care
- Psychological and emotional support
- Child care
- Creating spaces for rest
- Sharing care work allows more of us to show up in new ways, practice and learn new skills. Breaking the gender rules of care work.



CONCLUSIONS

- Social injustice leads to a wide range of adverse health consequences
- It usually takes large numbers of people to bring about significant progressive change through many different types of actions:
 - Documenting problems
 - Developing strategies and tactics
 - Raising awareness among the general public
 - Engaging in advocacy with policymakers
 - Participating in rallies and demonstrations
 - Raising and contributing money
 - Engaging in civil disobedience and other acts of resistance



CONCLUSIONS



D4CC, Never Again Action, and Jewish Action San Diego members who were arrested for an action at Border Patrol headquarters on December 10th, 2019



TRAININGS

- To set up a virtual training, email:
healthprofessionalhandbook@gmail.com
- Action guides available for the different action roles
- Local activist groups, Ruckus Society, and National Lawyers Guild also have trainings
- Other questions or to reach out to us, email:
doctorsforcampclosure@gmail.com

