

# **Learnings on Embedding Equity into Law & Policy Work**

## Session road map:

- Introductions
- Framing
- Stories of equity-center policy efforts
  - Gas stoves in multi-unit housing
  - Menthol in commercial tobacco products
  - Breastfeeding/chestfeeding policy implementation in service sector jobs
- Discussion

# THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW CENTER



# THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW CENTER



# WHAT WE DO



Improving health through the power of law:

- Eliminate commercial tobacco
- Promote healthy food & physical activity
- Support Tribal public health policy
- Advance climate justice

**EQUALITY:**

Everyone gets the same – regardless if it's needed or right for them.









**EQUITY:**

Everyone gets what they need – understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



Copyright 2022 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# LEGAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

-  Legal Research
-  Policy Development, Implementation, Defense
-  Publications
-  Trainings
-  Direct Representation
-  Lobby

# FRAMING LAW ≠ JUSTICE

*For the master's tools  
will never dismantle  
the master's house.*

*-- Audre Lorde*





# FRAMING PUBLIC HEALTH ≠ GOOD

*The science of settler colonialism is a three-step process: first, Indigenous peoples are subjected to the relocating, malnourishing, and traumatizing impacts of federal Indian policy; second, settlers are sent on research trips to observe and gather data on the impacts of this intervention; and third, these data are interpreted and assembled in way that blame Indigenous people for their own poor health outcomes.*

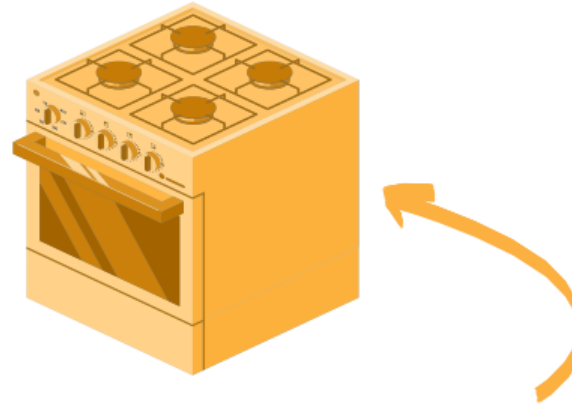
-- Inventing the Thrifty Gene, the Science of Settler Colonialism by Travis Hay, p.1

# STORY TIME

## Gas stoves in multiunit housing

# ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION!

## DO YOU USE A GAS STOVE?



!!  
**PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR HEALTHY HOUSING FOCUS GROUP**

*Refreshments will be served and participants will receive a \$50 gift card.  
For more information, email [publichealthlawcenter@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:publichealthlawcenter@mitchellhamline.edu).*

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

**CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ALTGELD BRANCH**

**955 E 131st ST  
CHICAGO, IL 60827**

**SESSION 1: 10-11:30 AM**

**SESSION 2: 1-2:30PM**

# PETITIONING HUD FOR ACTION!

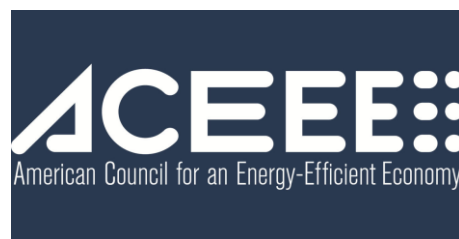
## OUR COALITION



SUNSTONE  
STRATEGIES



REWIRING  
AMERICA



Green & Healthy  
Homes Initiative®

# STORY TIME

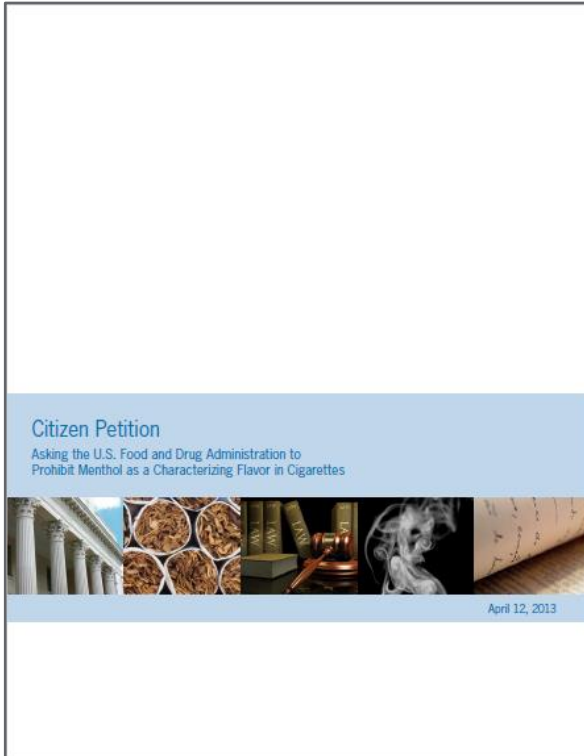
## Getting menthol cigarettes off the market

# 2009 FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT



- Banned sale of most flavored cigarettes.
- Exempts menthol.
- Divides tobacco regulatory authority between FDA and states.

# MENTHOL OVER A DECADE OF PRESSING THE FDA



# MENTHOL OVER A DECADE OF PRESSING THE FDA





# MENTHOL OVER A DECADE OF PRESSING THE FDA



"Black people ARE NOT born with a Newport or Swisher Sweets in their mouth. The tobacco industry's pernicious persistent racial targeting of our community does that.

We're celebrating Juneteenth & want to be FREE of all these things damaging our community, especially menthol cigarettes."

- Carol McGruder, Co-Chair  
African American Tobacco Control  
Leadership Council



Biden administration looks to ban menthol cigarettes: 'There's no going back'



# **STORY TIME**

## Breastfeeding/Chestfeeding Policy Implementation in Service Sector Jobs

# **BREASTFEEDING/CHESTFEEDING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN SERVICE SECTOR JOBS**

## **Purpose:**

To explore and understand the unique challenges relating to breastfeeding/chestfeeding policy implementation in service sector jobs and other work settings where people of color and low-income people are disproportionately represented and to recommend ways to improve policy implementation in these work settings.

# THE WORKGROUP



Prof. Whitney Hamilton,  
Georgia State University



Kezi Jones, Healthy  
Families, Mothers &  
Babies Initiative



Shawn Meyer, WI  
Dept of Health  
Services



Jessica Lee, Center for  
WorkLife Law



Sekeita Lewis-Johnson,  
Southeast Michigan IBCLCs  
of Color



Margaret Whitley,  
RAND Corp.



Tina Sherman,  
Momsrising



Pa Shasky, Ramsey  
County (MN) Public  
Health, Hmong  
Breastfeeding  
Coalition



Corey Walton, US  
Dept of Labor



Dave Skovholt, MN  
Dept of Labor and  
Industry



# THEMES

- Direct supervisors/managers should be a focus—they have the power to make a difference
- Comprehensive policy is the best policy
- Enforcement is primarily accomplished through building compliance
  - And complaint-based enforcement
- People at intersections of racism, sexism and classism are not well-served
- Education and awareness are helpful, and more is needed
- Culturally specific lactation support is necessary
- Supportive workplace cultures are necessary for meaningful policy implementation

# CONTACT US



651.290.7506



[publichealthlawcenter@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:publichealthlawcenter@mitchellhamline.edu)



[www.publichealthlawcenter.org](http://www.publichealthlawcenter.org)



[@phealthlawctr](https://twitter.com/phealthlawctr)



[facebook.com/publichealthlawcenter](https://facebook.com/publichealthlawcenter)

**THANK YOU**