The Family to Family Program: a Structural Intervention with implications for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other community epidemics.
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-Summary of a program objective in a community in Harlem. Aim is to strengthen the bonds connecting families to each other in order to improve the quality of life of individuals and to try and reduce the risk factors / behaviours which lend themselves to the contraction of HIV. I.e. to increase the ‘social capital’ available to the families in this community.

-‘Social Capital’ “the resources that result from social relationships and that enhance an individual’s or a group’s ability to function and achieve a given set of goals and objectives” (563).

-First provides an overview as to how and why the poverty-stricken communities of Harlem came to be and how the HIV / AIDS epidemic came to take hold of the area in the 1970’s-1980’s (mostly as a result of needle sharing and migration (due to fires and loss of housing) as a result of cut-backs to fire surfaces in poorer communities.

-Coleman’s definition of social capital is “the sum of personal, interpersonal, and community resources that can be used to enhance an individual’s social development and functioning” (564).

-Authors observe that as communities become more impoverished, their isolation and exclusion from the political and social aspects of mainstreams becomes heavier.

-Kelley observes that the problem with social networks is that “although it is loaded with strong family and friendship bonds, [in Harlem], it lacks bridges to other social networks that control access to a larger set of opportunities and meanings” (565).

-In this Family-to-Family program, they got people (with the help of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) in a secular manner to have ‘family nights’ in their houses once a week. Over 200 families participated. Every month they’d also have a ‘family reunion dinner’ and ascertained that kids had a major part in the evening’s events.

-Authors acknowledge that their program has only certain results, because it does NOT change the structures which have facilitated the fact that these families have poverty-related experiences. It aims only to alter their individual behaviours.

-Authors also hope that in allowing these community members to make connections with university volunteers and the university community, they will be able to enhance and increase the social capital of those that participate in these ‘family-to-family’ events.

The ideal situation, however, would be if mainstream institutions also complemented the efforts of these volunteers and researchers so as to increase the level of social capital of these individuals as well.