

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a diagonal orientation.

Land of Opportunity

Discussion Guide



Cagney Gentry is a graduate of Wake Forest University where he majored in Communication with a minor in Film Studies. While at Wake Forest, he produced his first short documentary about a couple whose son is on death row.

Continuing with his interest in social justice filmmaking he directed this short documentary on an ailing healthcare system. Cagney now attends UNC-Greensboro Graduate School where he is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Film and Video Production with which he hopes to begin a career of teaching and making films.

Background

This documentary chronicles the journey that many Americans make every day. Their access to quality health care is very limited. The health departments across this state are expected to serve as safety nets for their communities. Although health departments are quality establishments, they cannot possibly deal with all of the complex problems that were not the original focus of public health. The documentary shows the negative impact that access to care issues have on all of us.

Question to ask before the DVD screening:

- What conditions play a role in why people who can receive Medicaid simply do not go to the doctor?
- If you and/or your spouse lost your job tomorrow would you be able to afford private health insurance?
- Does where you live effect you access to quality health care?
- Does preventive care really work for people who can't afford to keep up the process?

Questions to ask after the DVD screening:

- The African American woman who works and has three children says that she doesn't want to use government assistance, although it is all she has ever known; what changes need to be made in the health care system to break the cycle of poverty.
- Why do some immigrants feel discriminated against in certain areas of this state?
- With limited funding and budget cuts, how are the health departments supposed to hire "experts" and general physicians to treat such complex issues?

- The woman in the film who found a lump in her breast had to switch doctors because her current physician did not accept Medicaid. In cases like this do you think that the doctors who find such problems should treat the patient even if they don't take their insurance to avoid further health issues related to the problem?
- If you were an illegal citizen how would you feel seeking governmental help from a country that WILL deport you if they find out you are in this country illegally?
- As professional do you feel a sense of responsibility to report illegal aliens?
- How do transportation, child care, working and the stigma of the "Blue Card" factor in to the decision to not seek medical help?
- How do you get affordable insurance if you make too much money?
- If you work 40 hours per week at \$6.15 an hour, how do you decide what to spend your paycheck on?
- How many doctors in your area can you count that accept Medicaid?
- How accessible are these doctors to the average citizen?
- If a person has Medicaid, and then she returns to work, she will loose her Medicaid. Is this fair?
- If you knew a client was receiving services but was also getting paid "under the table," would you feel a desire to report him? Or would you ignore the fact that he is receiving government assistance based on the fact that he has "little or no income"?
- How much does public transportation generally cost in your area?
- If the client is receiving Medicaid transportation, what are the limitations to these services?
- How does having Medicaid affect one's ability to receive "top of the line" medical care?