Designing for Behavior Change: A Human-Centered Approach to Research and Intervention

American Heart Association Health Care by Food



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Cooperative Studies Model: Human-Centered Design



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Designing for Behavior Change: A Human-Centered Approach to Research

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Understand and apply human-centered design (HCD) principles and the COM-B behavior change model to research and interventions.
- Use journey mapping and personas to analyze user experiences and identify critical behaviors across the "Food is Medicine" journey.
- 3. Design targeted interventions by integrating insights from HCD tools and behavior change models to inform your research strategy and approach.



Designing for Behavior Change: A Human-Centered Approach to Research









Foundations of Human-Centered Design and Behavior Change

Understand the principles of Human-Centered Design and Systems Design, apply the COM-B model, and differentiate between systemic and individual interventions.

Mapping the Journey: A Human-Centered Approach to "Food is Medicine"

Apply journey mapping to reframe "Food is Medicine," focusing on user experiences and integrating insights into research.

Designing Targeted
Interventions: Combining
COM-B and Journey
Mapping

Create nuanced behavior change strategies by merging COM-B and journey mapping, refining the "Food is Medicine" journey to enable critical behaviors Personas in Action: Driving Insights for Behavior Change

Develop and apply personas within the COM-B and journey mapping frameworks to generate actionable insights that inform your research strategy.

Session 1: **Foundations of Human-Centered Design and Behavior Change**

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Session 1 goal:

Understand the principles of Human-Centered Design and Systems Design, apply the COM-B model, and differentiate between systemic and individual interventions.

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Learning Objectives:

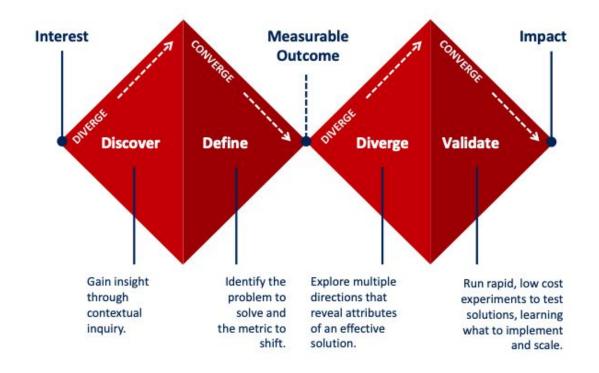
- Understand and describe the principles of human-centered design and systems design by exploring their key concepts and applications.
- Learn the COM-B model of behavior change, a human-centered framework, and apply it to your research.
- Differentiate between systemic and individual interventions, examining the key characteristics and the implications of each approach for designing study interventions.

Why Human-Centered Design?

To better understand current behavior and more rapidly iterate

Across GusNIP, program redemption rates of vouchers is only about 65%.

HCXF aims to use rapid-cycle iterative testing in contexts in which programs would be broadly implemented to increase engagement.

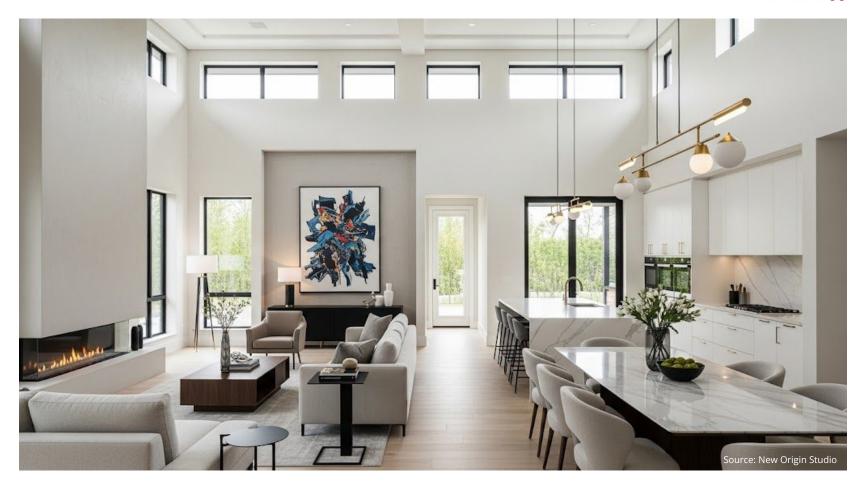


Source: Kevin Volpp, adapted from Design Council



Human-Centered Design

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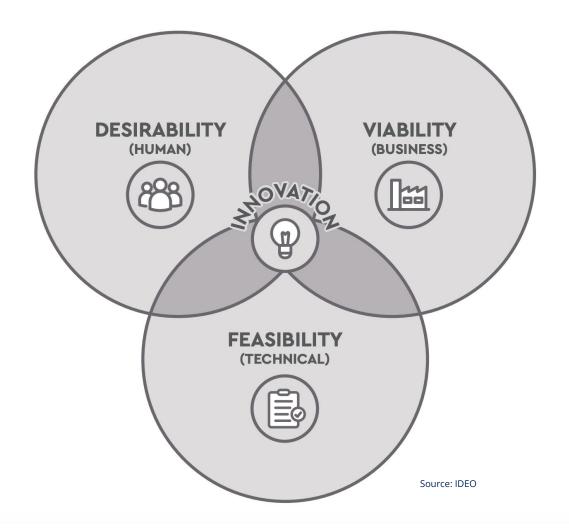






"It's not just what it looks like and feels like. **Design is how it works."**Steve Jobs









Forbes

Pfizer Kills Exubera

Oct 18, 2007, 09:51am EDT

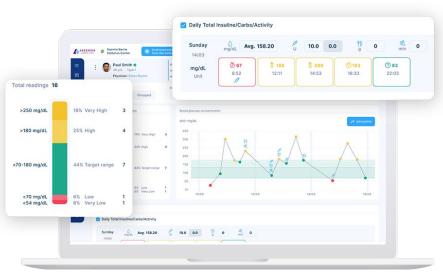
Pfizer Chief Executive Jeffrey Kindler Jeffrey Kindler announced "an important decision" Thursday morning, in the press release that carried Pfizer's third-quarter financial results. Pfizer was ending production of Exubera, its inhaled insulin, and taking a \$2.8 billion charge.

"Despite our best efforts, Exubera has failed to gain the acceptance of patients and physicians," Kindler said in a statement. "We have therefore concluded that further investment in this product is unwarranted."

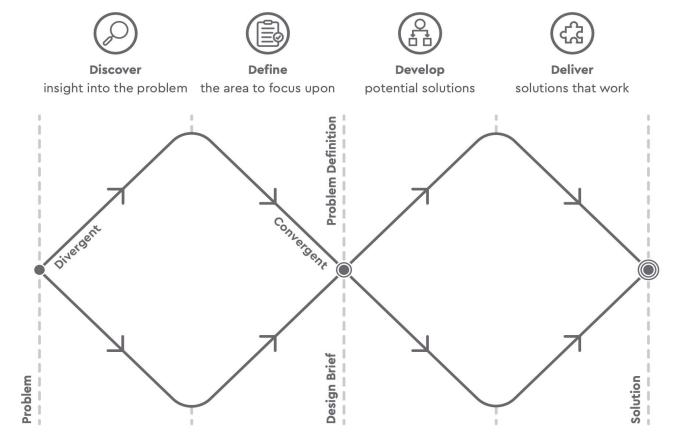






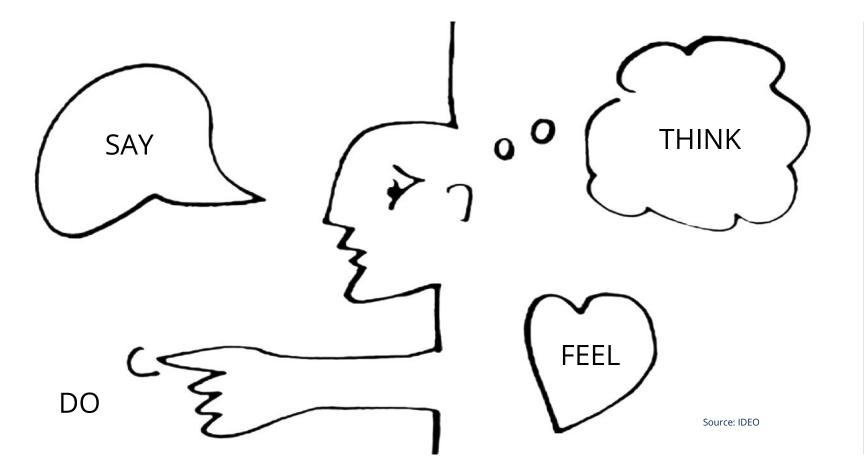


Human-Centered Design

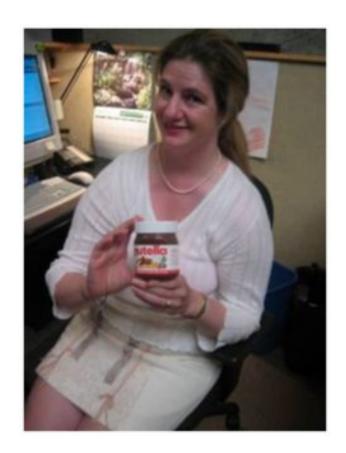


Source: Design Council

Behind the veneer



Between the lines



People do not always do what they say they do.

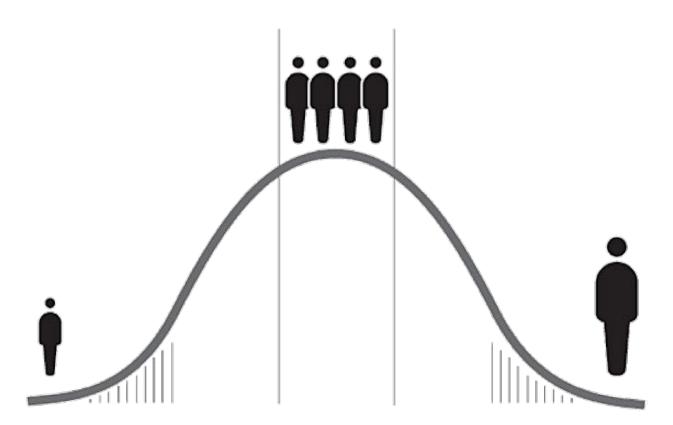
People do not always do what they think they do.

People cannot always do what you think they do.

People cannot always tell you what they need.



Appreciating variation



Appreciating variation





Source: Birkenstock

Exercise 1

Who are your typical users?
Who are the extreme versions of your users?

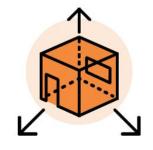
In what ways are they extreme?

Areas of Practice





Product Design



Environments Design



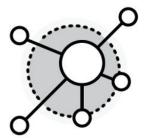
Communication Design



Service Design



Organization Design



Systems Design

Areas of Practice





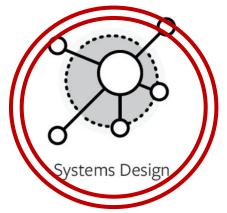














Systems Design

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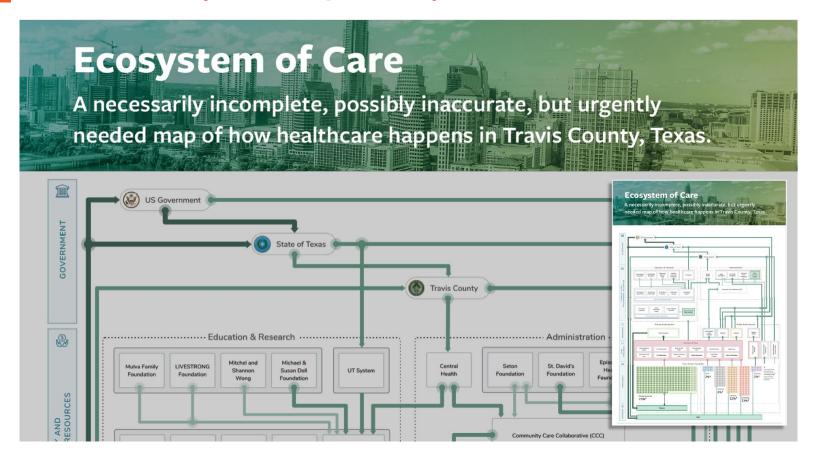
Complex Adaptive Systems

Very few of our most difficult modern challenges can be solved in silos, or with point solutions. Our biggest challenges are those of a systemic nature.

Socially-constructed systems, like food and healthcare, are non-deterministic, both because they don't answer to a single authority and because their outcomes emerge from the dynamic interplay between inherently unpredictable stakeholders. Solving for complex system problems requires different tools and approaches.

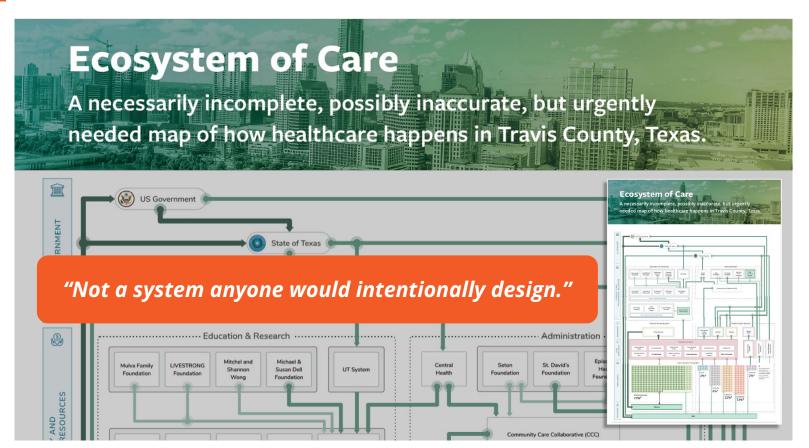


Collectively seeing the system as it is



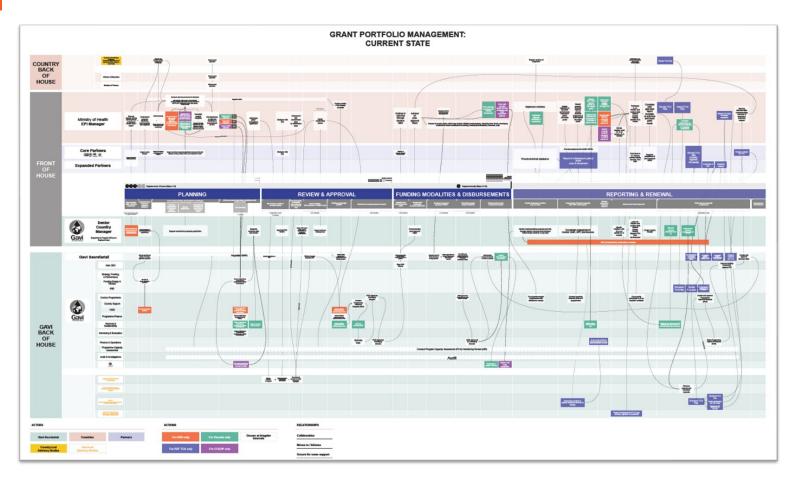


Seeing the system as it is

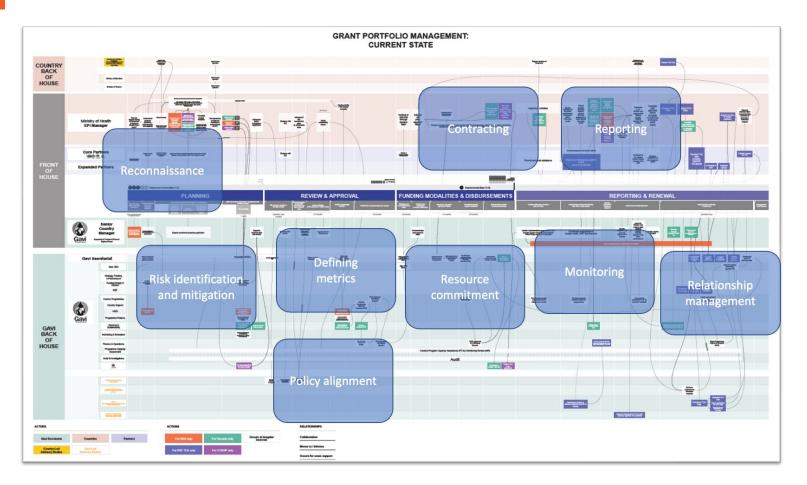


Stakeholders and functions



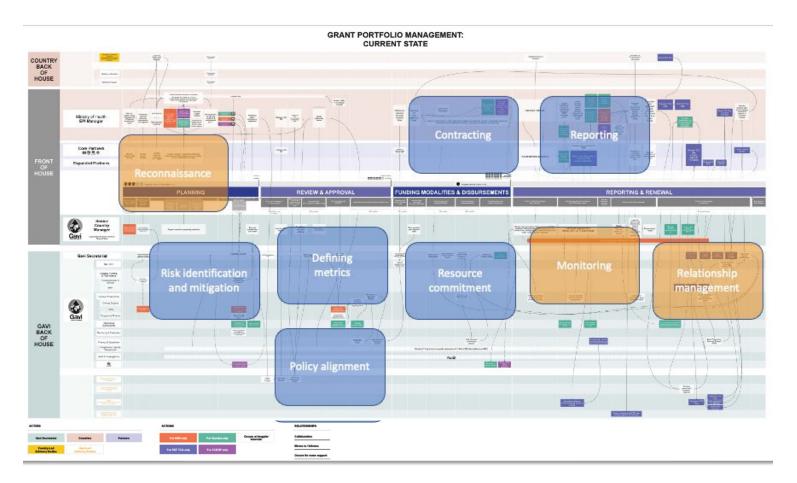


Stakeholders and functions



Stakeholders and functions





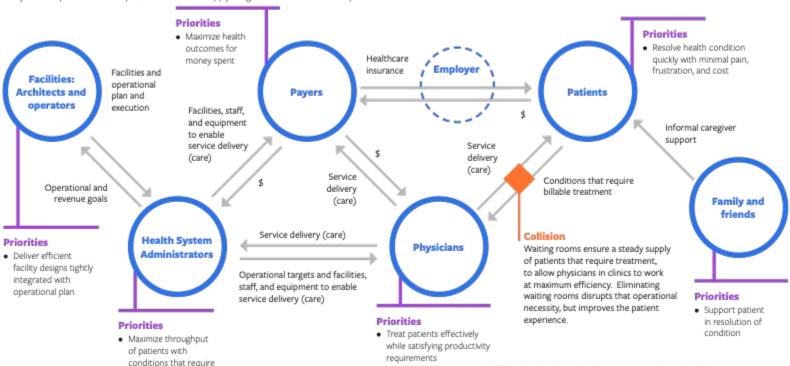
Emergent properties

billable treatment



Emergent Property

Waiting is the result of a system of uncoordinated providers of care, each with a revenue stream that can be unlocked only with the presence of an ill patient. This creates supply congestion at each care intake point.



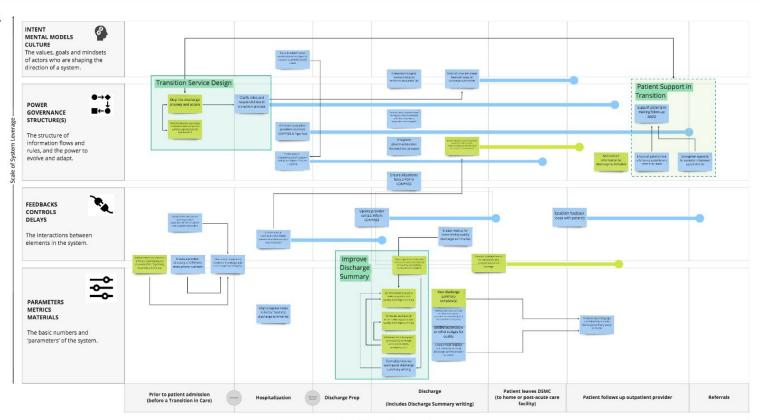
Source: Design Institute for Health

NOTE: Traditional fee-for-service clinical environment, where hospitals/clinics serve as venues and do not employ physicians, and patient buy healthcare insurance through their employers.

System leverage for change

of System Leverage

Effectiveness

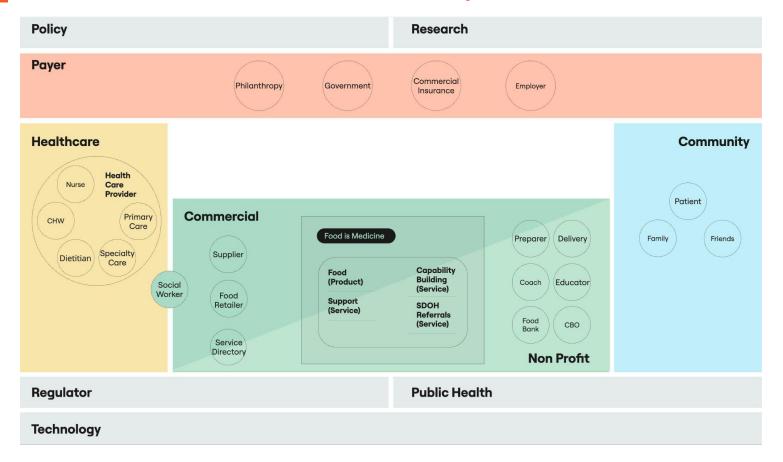


Source: Design Institute for Health

Timeline

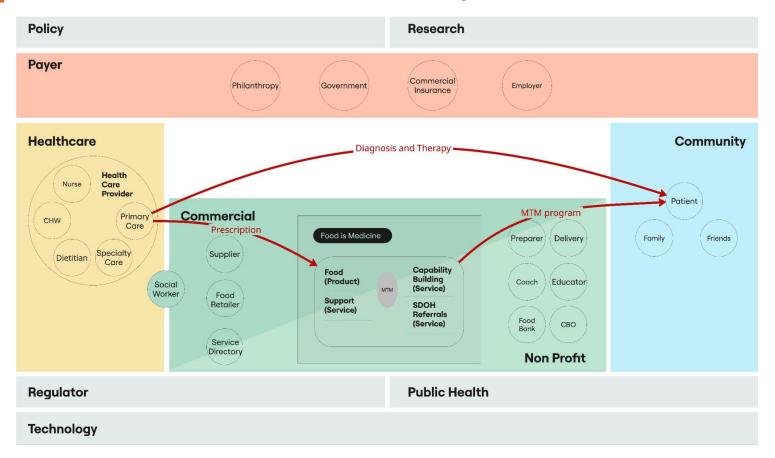


The Food Is Medicine Ecosystem



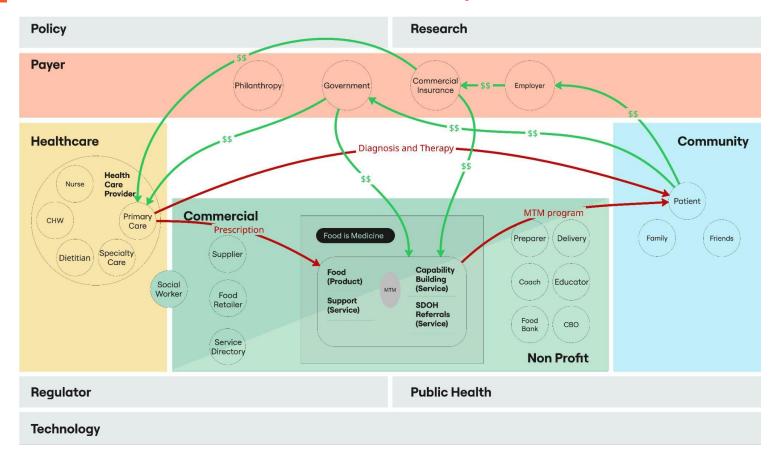


The Food Is Medicine Ecosystem



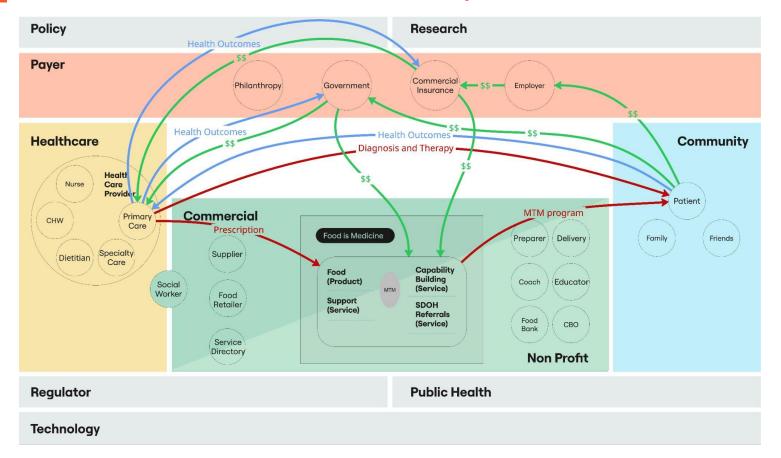


The Food Is Medicine Ecosystem



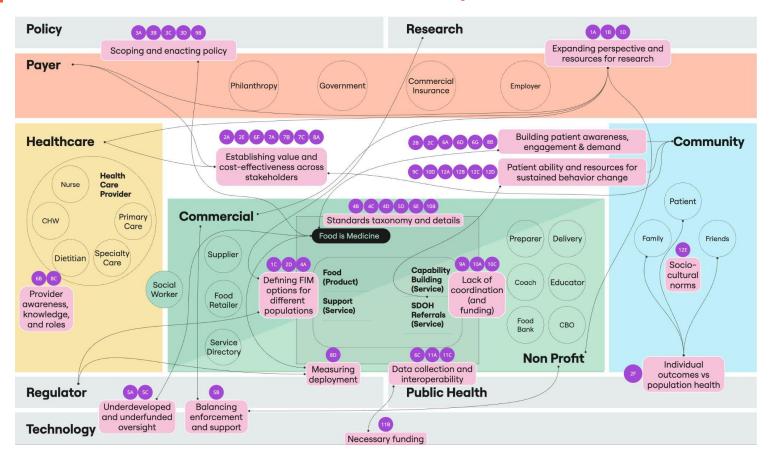


The Food Is Medicine Ecosystem





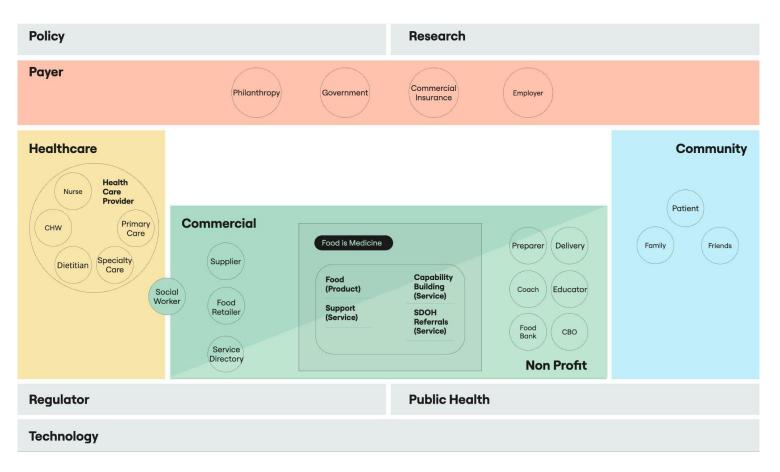
The Food Is Medicine Ecosystem



Exercise 2

Which stakeholders does your intervention include?

And what value exchanges are they making?





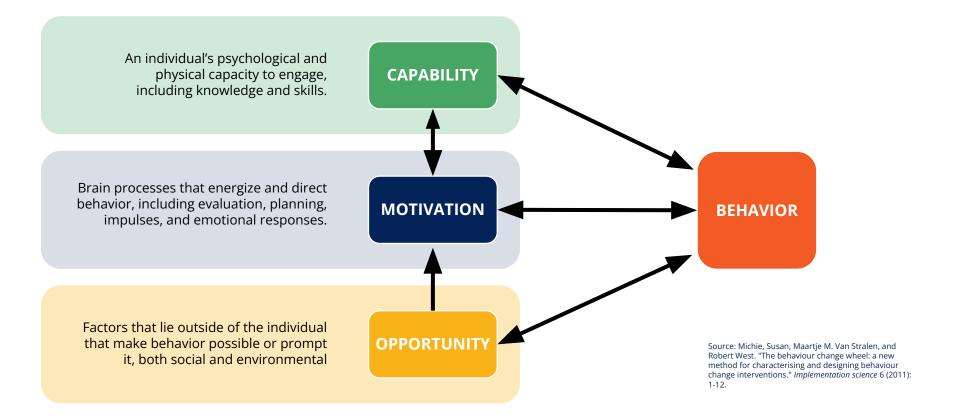
COM-B

A framework for behavior change

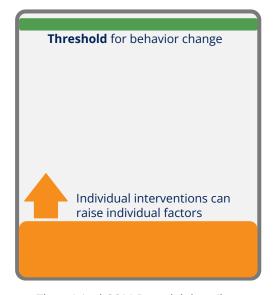
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COM-B: A model for behavior change



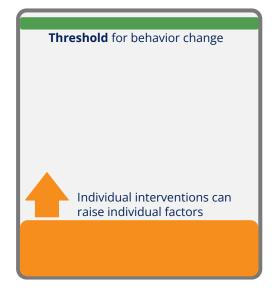
COM-B: A model for behavior change



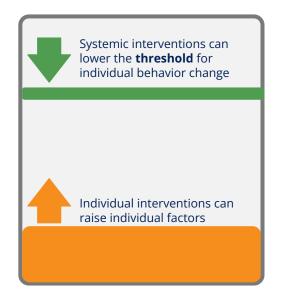
The original COM-B model describes individual factors (capability, motivation, or opportunity), and how interventions can shift those factors to enable behavior change.

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COM-B: A model for behavior change



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Nutrition Education





Improves knowledge and skills, thereby raising the **capability** of the individual

CAPABILITY

psychological or physical ability to enact a behavior

OPPORTUNITY

physical or social environment that enables behavior



MOTIVATION

reflective and automatic mechanisms that activate or inhibit behavior

Produce Boxes



Eliminates the need for food selection, thereby lowering the **threshold** for knowledge and skills



Requires planning and prep, thereby raising the **threshold** for knowledge and skills

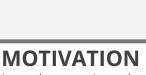
CAPABILITY

psychological or physical ability to enact a behavior



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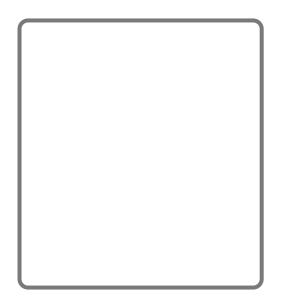
physical or social environment that enables behavior



reflective and automatic mechanisms that activate or inhibit behavior

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Family and caregiver education



CAPABILITY

psychological or physical ability to enact a behavior



OPPORTUNITY

physical or social environment that enables behavior



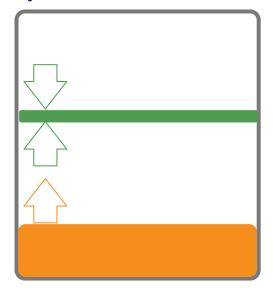
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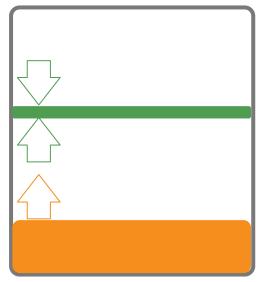
Exercise 3

Which elements of your intervention are individual interventions and which are systemic interventions? Do they target capability, opportunity, or motivation?



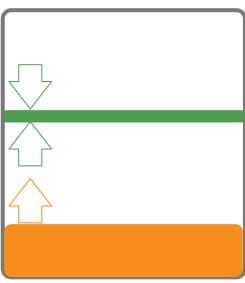
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Exercise Recap

Exercise 1: Who are you typical users and your extreme users? What makes them extreme?

Exercise 2: Which stakeholders does your intervention include? And what value exchanges are they making?

Exercise 3: Which elements of your intervention are individual interventions and which are systemic interventions? Do they target capability, opportunity, or motivation?



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Human-Centered Design Task Force



Stacey Chang is a designer of new creative solutions to age-old dilemmas in health. He focuses on building complex adaptive systems that can respond to the dynamic challenge of producing health in human society, and currently advises a broad array of efforts seeking to build more sustainable, equitable, and effective models. Prior to founding New Origin

Studio, Stacey served as the Founding and Executive Director of the Design Institute for Health at the University of Texas at Austin. The Design Institute was a first-of-its-kind institution, dedicated to creating systemic human-centered solutions in clinical and community contexts.

Embedded as an integrated part of an operating health system and a medical education and training program, the Institute considered topics as broad as the design of products and services, the built environment, integration of social and medical interventions, the structure and strategy of national health systems, and new models for societal health at a global scale.

Before his academic tenure, Stacey served as the Managing Director of the Healthcare practice at IDEO, the global design and innovation firm. Clients included governments, research institutions, hospitals, pharma, insurance, medtech, and all the upstarts trying to rewrite the script, in both established and emerging markets.

Stacey presents frequently and is widely published, including in the New England Journal of Medicine, NEJM Catalyst, Harvard Business Review, and Politico. He has served as a TEDMED Editorial Advisory Board member, a Thought Leader for NEJM Catalyst, an Eisenhower Fellow, and an advisor to the Global Delivery arm of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He holds degrees in engineering from MIT and Stanford. ©2025 New Origin Studio. All rights reserved.



Natalie Privett PhD leans into messy challenges and complex systems. She leverages deep expertise in systems theory, design, and health systems to reframe tenacious problems and design transformational action to advance health. Across her professional roles, Natalie has advanced systemic opportunities at every

level of health and care while also training future health systems change agents, from physicians to policy makers to designers.

Before joining New Origin Studio, Natalie was Director of Systems Design at the Design Institute for Health at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin, a first-of-its kind academic institution dedicated to developing and applying creative design approaches to solving complex large-scale health system challenges. Concurrently, she also launched and taught in the Masters of Arts in Design in Health. Prior to University of Texas, Natalie served as Lead System Design Engineer and Assistant Professor of Health Systems Design & Global Health at the Mount Sinai Health System and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She was also previously Assistant Professor at New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Natalie has a MS and PhD in Management Science & Engineering from Stanford University and a BS in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University. She was a Global Health Research Fellow at the MIT-Zaragoza Logistics Center.

