

RESIST & BUILD

COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH CARE

How can we build
community-
controlled health
infrastructure that
is safe, free and
accessible to all?



**IN THIS SERIES,
YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:**

**The legacies of the Black
Panther Party, the 504 Sit-Ins
& the Young Lords**

**Disability justice & mutual aid
responses to the pandemic and
natural disasters**

Health care cooperatives

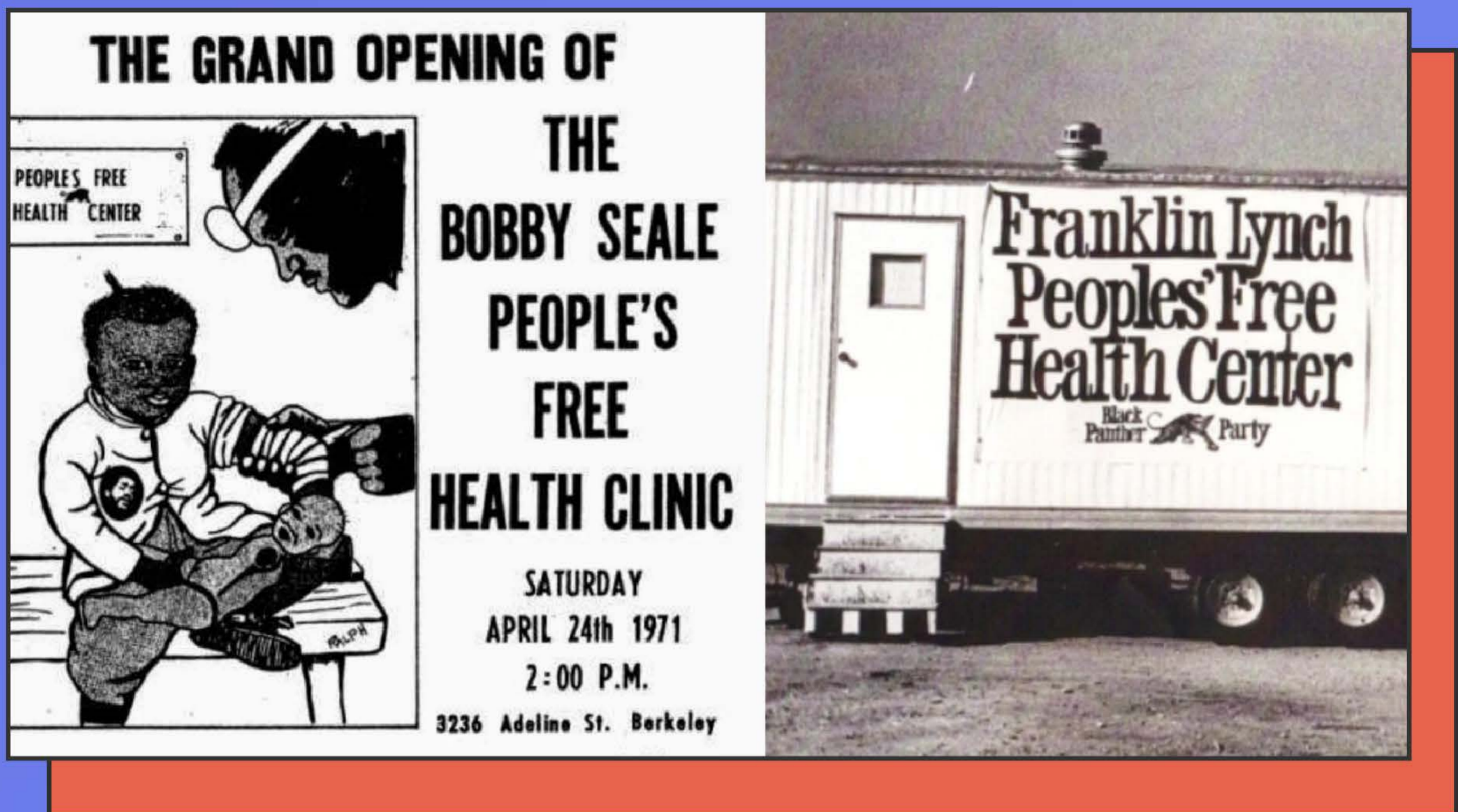
LEGACY: THE BLACK PANTHERS

“We want completely free health care for all Black and oppressed people. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities which will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but which will also develop preventative medical programs to guarantee our future survival”

- 1973 Black Panther Party 10 Point Program



LEGACY: THE BLACK PANTHERS



Throughout the late 60's and 70's, Black Panther Party members organized 13 Peoples' Free Medical Clinics across the country. At the clinics, volunteer doctors and nurses provided first aid, vaccinations, ambulance services, and community health screenings free of charge. In Seattle, the Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center clinic is still in operation and providing care to this day.

LEGACY: 504 SIT-INS

In April 1977, disabled people across the U.S. took to the streets and occupied federal buildings to demand their rights and legal protections from discrimination.

In San Francisco, protesters occupied federal buildings for 25 days, with members of the Black Panther Party bringing daily meals in solidarity. The protests forced the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act — the first federal civil rights protections for people with disabilities in the U.S.



LEGACY: THE YOUNG LORDS



Inspired by the Panthers, members of the New York chapter of the Young Lords Party took over the Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx in 1970. For 24 hours, they provided free medical services to the community, while demanding improved health care for the poor and an end to labor exploitation in the hospital. They also drafted one of the first Patient's Bill of Rights.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ACTION: OAKLAND

Disability Justice Culture Club (DJCC) is a collective of disabled and/or neurodivergent queer people of color operating out of East Oakland that has been organizing mutual aid support to disabled folks during the pandemic and California wildfires. At a time when disabled and chronically ill folks are often treated as disposable or unseen in our healthcare systems, DJCC is creating networks that center disabled folks through community care and mutual aid hubs.



COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ACTION: MATAWA FIRST NATION

The Matawa Health Co-operative (MHC) is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health cooperative that incorporates traditional healing and medicine to meet healthcare priorities of the community.

“A health co-operative means ownership by us and our communities. It is about providing the best services for our people, sharing resources, and managing our health system. We choose to work in unity, to break the barriers, to close the gaps and find true pathways to healing.”

– Matawa Health Co-operative Board of Directors

COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ACTION: NEW ORLEANS

“The Common Ground Health Clinic started on September 9, 2005 just days after hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Due to the humanitarian disaster and apparent lack of governmental response, Sharon Johnson and Malik Rahim put out a call for healthcare workers to help meet the overwhelming need. Nurses, physicians, herbalists, acupuncturists, EMTs, social workers, and community activists came from around the world to volunteer at the clinic. Since its inception, the clinic has served more than 60,000 patient visits – all at no charge to the patient.”

– Common Ground Health Clinic Website



COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ACTION: THE BRONX

Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA) in the Bronx is one of the largest worker co-ops in the U.S, providing high-quality home care, while supporting care providers with dignified jobs and training. In the height of PPE shortages at the start of the pandemic, CHCA teamed up with another cooperative, the Carolina Textile District, to manufacture and distribute 100,000 masks for home health care workers.



COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ACTION: KNOXVILLE



“When the [Black Lives Matter] uprisings started, we pivoted our work to how we could be supporting Black and Indigenous people of color on the frontlines not only in our community, but around the country. So we started sending medicine all over for free.”

– Knoxville Community Apothecary

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