

# Case Studies in Community-Based Collaborative Research



*The Institute for  
Community Research*

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Katz, D. L. (September 2001 - December 2003). *Healthy People 2010 Community Implementation Program*. Derby, CT: Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center (PRC).

Stone, A. (May 2004 - December 2005). *Hospital Discharge Planning Guide Project*. San Francisco, CA: Planning for Elders' Healthcare Action Team (HAT).

Lawrence, S. (October 1998 - November 1998). *Latino Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership* (Washington DC). Ft. Lauderdale, FL: Council of Latino Agencies and Puentes, Inc.

Stewart, V. (June 2002 - May 2004). *Oregon Stroke Centers' Prototype Registry (OScPREy)*. Portland, OR: Center for Outcomes Research and Education.

Chinman, M. (October 2002 - September 2005). *Participatory Research of an Empowerment Evaluation System*. Santa Monica, CA: The RAND Corporation.

Carter, T. (2001 - 2006). *Winnipeg Inner city Research Alliance (WIRA)*. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Winnipeg Inner city Research Alliance (WIRA).

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Tuominen, M. (May 2000 - January 2001). *The Family Child Care Initiative*. Seattle, WA: Seattle Worthy Wages.

Uttal, L. (October 2000 - Ongoing). *The Latino Family Child Care Project*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Wortsman, J. (June 2004 - June 2005). *South Madison Community Housing Initiative*. Madison WI: South Metropolitan Planning Council (SMPC).

Fendt, P. (September 2003 - December 2004). *Women, Work, and Family in Milwaukee*. Milwaukee, WI: Center for Economic Development (CED), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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Hill, M. N. (Fall 2000 - Summer 2003). *Community-based Participatory Translation Research: From a Clinical Trial-tested Intervention to an Inner-City Community-Owned Health Clinic*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Keifer, M. (September 2003 - August 2007). *El Proyecto Bienestar: A Community Health Intervention with Yakima Agricultural Workers*. Seattle, WA: Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center of the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Campbell, M. (July 2000 - June 2003). *Health Works After the Flood*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Weeks, M. R. (2001-2005). *HIV Prevention in High-Risk Drug Use Sites: Project RAP (Risk Avoidance Partnership)*. Hartford, CT: Institute for Community Research.

Schensul, J. J. (2001 - 2004). *Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Older Hartford Residents*. Hartford, CT: Institute for Community Research.

Pollard, R. (March 1993 - March 1994). *Mental Health Services and the Deaf Population: A Regional Consensus Planning Approach*. Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Medical Center's Deaf Wellness Center.

Christopher, S. (July 2001 - July 2005). *Messengers for Health*. Bozeman, MT: Montana State University.

Weeks, M. R. (May 2003 – May 2006) *Microbicide Acceptability for HIV/STD Prevention Among Female Sex Workers in Southern China*. Hartford, CT: Institute for Community Research.

Katz, D. L. (January 2003 - December 2005). *Partners Reducing Effects of Diabetes: Initiatives through Collaboration and Teamwork (PREDICT)*. Derby, CT: Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center.

Plescia, M. (Summer 2000 - Summer 2007). *REACH 2010 Biannual Community Survey*. Charlotte, NC: Carolinas Community Health Institute (CCHI).

Block, P. (January 2002 - December 2004). *Shake It Up!: Health Promotion and Capacity Building for Persons with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and Other Neuromuscular Disabilities*. Providence, RI: Brown University.

Sauaia, A. (August 1999 - July 2005). *Tepeyac Project: a community-based approach to increasing breast cancer screening among Latinas*. Aurora, CO: Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC), Division of Health Care Policy & Research at the University of Colorado, & Clinica Tepeyac.

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Berg, M. (October 2001 - September 2005). *Youth Action Research for Prevention (YARP)*. Hartford, CT: Institute for Community Research.

Mclaughlin, M. (September 2000 -). *Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning (YELL)*. Stanford, CA: John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities.

**Selected Publications on Community-Based Collaborative Research ..... 112-116**

## **Introduction to Case Study Compilation**

This compilation of case studies in CBCR was developed to facilitate the sharing of ideas among community-based researchers, and to support the dissemination of research concepts, models and outcomes. It is a dissemination product of the Institute for Community Research's three-day national conference, "**Crossroads I: Critical Issues in Community-Based Research Partnerships**" that took place June 10-13, 2004 in Hartford, CT. Conference participants submitted case studies, following an outline provided by ICR that described CBCR projects recently completed or ongoing during the time of the conference. All of the included projects represent the principles of community-based collaborative research (CBCR) and illustrate a wide range of local and national partnership research in the U.S. and Canada on the topics of arts and cultural heritage, capacity building and evaluation, economic and community development, and youth development.

### **Defining CBCR**

Community-based collaborative research (CBCR) is based on the fundamental principle that communities partnering with social scientists in collaborative inquiry can produce new culturally-situated knowledge and action to promote social justice and equity. CBCR focuses on engagement of social scientists with socially, culturally and economically marginalized communities and the social institutions that have concern for their struggles, and wish to join forces to bring about fundamental social change. CBCR is dedicated to democratizing research, and to rendering research methods and results transparent and usable for making local knowledge explicit, creating new local knowledge, supporting cultural conservation, promoting social activism and contributing

local voices to social science advancement. In the face of national and international efforts to disseminate science based intervention models, CBCR offers promise for effectively adapting research-based interventions to local needs and cultural strengths and constraints.

Ideally, CBCR involves all partners in the research process from beginning to end, but the realities of work in the field show that negotiated participation, as part of the collaboration process can produce variation in intensity or participation. The CBCR approach resembles other similar approaches that involve community engagement and participatory research, including community-based participatory research (CBPR), participatory action research, (PAR) and action research. Each of these approaches is claimed by different disciplines and reflects slightly different ideal and real modes of implementation. Regardless of whether the emphasis is on partner choices, research methods, or preferred outcomes, partnerships between communities and researchers are an essential component of any meaningful effort to develop synergistic research and social change agendas.

**Project Title: Al Norte de San Diego: Oral Histories of Latinos  
in Escondido, California, 1900s to Present**

**Project URL:**

<http://www.csusm.edu/nlrc/projects/Latino%20History/NorteSanDiego.html>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The purpose of this pilot community history project is to build social capital and community identity by engaging residents in documenting and celebrating the community's past and involve them in shaping the present and future. It documents the lives of some of the community residents in an effort to demonstrate the value of the Latino population in American society and excise some of the stigma associated with immigrant populations. Using oral histories of present and former residents, the project promotes a greater understanding for and by community residents thus fostering a greater sense of community and unity.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *National Latino Research Center (NLRC)*: under the auspices of Cal State University San Marcos' Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. The NLRC brings together faculty and professional staff who possess a broad range of research and program experience.

*Latino History Advisory Team*: meets to discuss the interpretation, representation, and preservation of Latino history in the city of Escondido. In collaboration with the NLRC, the team advances projects, ideas, seeks funding, and ensures ongoing implementation of activities related to Latino history throughout the City.

*San Diego Media Arts Center Teen Producers Project*: Professional media artists familiarize youth from all backgrounds, ages 9-18, with multiple media technologies and the art making process, stressing teamwork, creativity, self-esteem and critical thinking. Using video production, computer art and the Internet, these students address community issues, access advanced communication technology and gain inclusion in our information-based society.

*Escondido Public Library*: The library informs, enriches, educates and empowers a diverse community by providing universal access to library resources, services, materials and programs; celebrates the community's cultures and heritage and provides a bridge to a dynamic future; offers responsive, friendly and professional service; and provides a place and a forum for people to communicate and interact with others in the pursuit of knowledge and ideas, in a welcoming, courteous and efficient environment.

*Escondido Public Library (Pioneer Room)*: Established in 1992, with a bequest from the local historian Frances Beven Ryan (1901-1990), the Pioneer Room is a repository for the preservation and research of local and family history.

*Escondido Public Schools:* Collaborate with implementation of pilot curriculum and support presentations to community groups through hosting community forums.

*Kellogg Library:* Melanie Chu, Multicultural Studies Librarian at the Kellogg Library, will support the COPC project through collaboration on planning and design of community oral history exhibits to be hosted at the CSUSM library and in community settings.

*CSUSM Baharona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish:* Under the direction of Dr. Isabel Schon, the Baharona Center at California State University San Marcos, promotes literacy in English and Spanish and endeavors to inform current and future educational decision-makers about books centered around Latino people and culture. The Baharona Center will support English/Spanish literacy and Latino cultural awareness projects in the Mission Park area by sponsoring book readings and a bilingual book fair in Escondido.

*NLRC Faculty Associates:* The NLRC also draws upon the expertise and active support of NLRC Faculty Associates. Associates frequently serve as researchers, technical assistance consultants, and trainers on NLRC projects.

**Funding Source(s):**

California State University San Marcos, The Bravo Foundation, The California Council for the Humanities

**Project Start Date:** May 2003

**Project End Date:** Ongoing

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

Al Norte de San Diego seeks to empower Latinos to become active participants in the city's democratic process by piecing together the area's past, engaging outreach and activism to address current challenges, and developing intellectual capital to better inform decision-making processes for the future. Specifically, the project recovers and preserves the economic, cultural, and social contributions made by Latinos to the region's history from World War II to the present. This project seeks to increase knowledge and understanding of Escondido's Latino history through greater involvement of community residents, city officials, businesses, research institutions, and library/archive organizations serving the city of Escondido.

To this end, the project will achieve the following outcomes:

- Increasing levels of civic engagement, race relations, social capital, and positive interpretation and representation of Latinos in the community.
- Increase communication between City of Escondido, schools, service organizations, community residents, and California State University San Marcos
- Increase understanding of local history
- Decrease racial/ethnic conflict
- Positively represent Latino history in public exhibitions
- Involve youth in documentation of oral histories
- Form a Latino history advisory group of community residents.

***Population affected***

This project employs oral history methodology to find and recover the hidden history of Latinos in the city thereby generating a more inclusive understanding of Latino culture and traditions in the North San Diego County's multicultural environment.

***Research approach***

This project uses oral histories research methodology to recover the neglected history of Latinos in Escondido. This project integrates the study of Latinos with analysis of the histories, politics, culture, and economics of Escondido. Understanding the history of Latinos in Escondido sheds light on socio-economic challenges, the social costs of immigration, the impact of national economic trends on specific communities, and the degree to which community institutions like schools, health clinics, neighborhood associations, and other groups are able to mediate those changes and their impact on neighborhood residents. By engaging Latino residents of Escondido in interviews, making these interviews available to the broader public, and developing an appropriate depiction of the community's history, the Latino history project is seeking not only to record stories, but also reach out to a disenfranchised community in and around Escondido.

***Other project activities***

Work to draw the widest possible outreach plan to enlist participation for the community's Latino history project has been ongoing. The audience includes media as well as community forums in libraries, museums, schools, and parks and recreation. The audience also has been comprised of both Latino and non-Latino residents. For Latinos, the activities aim at empowering them through stories about the hard work, perseverance and vision of immigrants. For non-Latinos, the history productions dispel some of the misconceptions about Latino immigrants.

Community forums provide a space to meet and dialogue with community historians. Photographs, biographies, interview excerpts and primary documents are combined with historical photographs of Escondido and presented in PowerPoint and audio format at the community forums.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

This project would not have been possible without a partnership and collaboration. With the rapid urbanization and population growth, particularly among Latinos, in North San Diego County, the region will greatly benefit from a vibrant university community-campus partnership that builds on community assets and supports creative solutions to local challenges. Through the Al Norte de San Diego project, the NLRC works collaboratively to foster multi-disciplinary and cross-sector partnerships that leverage resources and builds community capacity in the target community. The project serves as a "gateway" for local community-based organizations, residents, and public agencies to more effectively build on current university outreach, educational, and research activities in the area of civic engagement, community development, and educational enrichment.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

NLRC staff will produce educational materials including a Latino Oral history manual, PowerPoint presentations, a literature review of the topic, and an oral history collection to be archived at the Escondido Public Library Pioneer Room. NLRC staff will write a summary report of the themes discussed in the oral history interviews. Additionally, NLRC will begin developing educational curriculum for fourth-grade California history curriculum that will facilitate their understanding of the history of this community and its impact on present life. Lastly, the NLRC will develop a website.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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**Key words:** Latino oral history, San Diego history, Chicano history, California history, Oral history

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**Project Title: New River Valley Coal Mining Heritage  
Oral History Project**

**Project URL:** <http://www.radford.edu/~mlalone/NRVCoalMiningHerProj.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

*Cultural Heritage Preservation:* Coal mining has now ceased in some areas of Appalachia where it once was a primary industry and a way of life. In Virginia's New River Valley, mining went into decline starting in the 1930s and the last mines had closed by the early 1970s. As time passed, former miners and their families were growing older and the potential increased for losing the first-hand knowledge of the mining way of life in this area. The goal of this project was to collect and document the mining oral history knowledge and to preserve it in a way that made it available for heritage education.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Dr. Mary B. LaLone of the *Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Radford University* directed the project. It linked Dr. LaLone's Radford University Anthropology classes (the lead organization) and a regional grassroots community group, the *Coal*

*Mining Heritage Association of Montgomery County* (Virginia), in a collaborative research/teaching partnership to preserve the region's mining heritage through oral history collection. The collaborative partnership served as the foundation for a three-year oral history project.

The *Coal Mining Heritage Association* was instrumental in helping the academic research team build the needed rapport among the mining community and in establishing initial contacts for the interviews.

The academic research team directed by Dr. LaLone was comprised of *undergraduate students* in three successive classes (her Fall 1995 and Fall 1997 Economic Anthropology classes, and a Spring 1996 Practicum class; totaling 31 students). The project gave students an experiential component to their classes, enabling them to learn/practice the skills of anthropological interviewing and learn from Appalachian natives about mining household economic strategies, while making contributions to a systematic documentation project of value for regional heritage preservation. The academic research team was responsible for conducting and taping the interviews, then transcribing the tapes and doing content analysis as class activities. The academic team then organized the project results into two volumes of oral histories for dissemination back to the community for heritage education purposes.

The urgency of collecting the interviews in this heritage preservation effort was the clear motivation uniting mining association members and academic members in this collaborative effort.

**Funding Source(s)**

Radford University Foundation and multiple in-kind services provided by the Coal Mining Heritage Association.

**Project Start Date:** 1995

**Project End Date:** 1998

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

The aim of the project was to join university students and a grassroots mining heritage association together in a collaborative heritage preservation effort to document first-hand memories of mining life before the elders with this knowledge passed away. The initial outcome was to collect the oral histories, but as the project progressed the outcome was expanded into an applied effort to compile the interviews into book format so that the data could be more widely available for use in Appalachian heritage education. An unanticipated outcome was that the project narrowed the gap between the university and community as mining families realized that students were interested in their histories and in helping them preserve their heritage.

***Population affected***

The project directly affected a two-county region in Southwest Virginia, but the results of the project have been disseminated widely throughout the Appalachian region of the U.S. through the publication of two volumes of oral histories, Appalachian Coal Mining Memories (1997) and Coal Mining Lives (1998), and articles about the project design in the Journal of Appalachian Studies (1999) and Practicing Anthropology (2001).

***Research approach***

The project was structured as a university-community partnership. Principal members of the Coal Mining Heritage Association worked collaboratively with the project director in developing orientation sessions to educate the Radford University research team on the region's mining history and rapport-building techniques for interviewing. They helped guide the selection of interview questions and made initial contacts for interviews. The academic research team conducted 1-3 hour tape-recorded interviews with people in their homes using a semi-structured interview style, then transcribed the tapes in full. The director supervised the team as it analyzed the interviews and wrote ethnographic analyses for the books, selected the best excerpts from the interviews, and compiled all into two volumes of oral histories, Appalachian Coal Mining Memories (1997) and Coal Mining Lives (1998) for distribution and use in heritage education. The two volumes of oral histories together contain 61 interviews in which 43 men and 30 women describe their lives.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The project was structured on a partnership approach between the community group and the academic research team. The partnership was crucial – neither group would have been as successful working alone. The community group had the necessary local knowledge, connections, and rapport for setting up the interviews; the academic team contributed the necessary oral history interviewing/transcribing skills and were guided by an experiential learning class structure that enabled them to document a large number of interviews among an elderly population (where time was crucial in retrieving the oral histories).

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

LaLone, Mary B. (ed.) 1997 Appalachian Coal Mining Memories: Life in Virginia's New River Valley Coal Fields. Blacksburg, VA: Pocahontas Press.

LaLone, Mary B. 1997 "The Coal Mining Way of Life in Virginia's New River Valley: Hard Work, Family, and Community." The Smithfield Review 1:53-62, Spring.

LaLone, Mary B. (ed.) 1998 Coal Mining Lives: An Oral History Sequel to Appalachian Coal Mining Memories. Radford, VA: Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Radford University.

LaLone, Mary B. 1999 "Preserving Appalachian Heritage: A Model for Oral History Research and Teaching." Journal of Appalachian Studies 5(1):115-122.

LaLone, Mary B. 2001 "Putting Anthropology to Work to Preserve Appalachian Heritage." In *Practicing Anthropology* 23(2):5-9, Spring 2001.

A description of the project on Dr. Mary LaLone's web site:

<http://www.radford.edu/~mlalone>

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Dr. Mary B. LaLone, Project Director, Radford University

Radford University Student Research Team: Carol Adkins, Otis Jamie Bauguess, Jerusha Brooks, Elizabeth Franklin Bryant, Kara S. Burchinal, Mary Beth Charlton, Jane P. Delicate, Bryan Dilday, Rachael Eagan, Lauren M. England, Alicia Gallant, Parker Gillock, Stacie Spradlin Haynes, Kristen Hedrick, Katherine Heflin, Dana Michelle Heizer, Christine Hicks, Tommy Hunt, Mayumi Kurimoto, David Joyner, Sam L. Linkous, Heather McAllister, Kiera McReynolds, Michael J. Mirro, Jennifer Owings, Becky Prior, Alex Sweeney, Barbara Talbert, Ren Talbott, Rob Whitney, and Kumie Yagie

Principal Coordinators from the Coal Mining Heritage Association: Robert Freis, Jimmie L. Price and Fred Lawson

**Key words:** cultural heritage preservation, oral history project, heritage education

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**Project Title: New River Valley Farming Oral History Project**

**Project URL:** <http://www.radford.edu/~mlalone/NRVFarmingOralHistoryProj.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The "New River Valley Farming Oral History Project" had the goals of 1) collecting and documenting oral history knowledge of family farming in the New River Valley region of Appalachian Virginia; 2) gaining a solid understanding of farming livelihood strategies from the 1930s to the present; and 3) preserving the oral histories in a way that makes them available to residents, schools, and libraries for heritage education.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

Dr. Mary B. LaLone of *the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Radford University* directed the project. The project linked *Dr. LaLone's Radford University Anthropology classes* (the lead organization) and the regional *Montgomery County office of the Virginia Farm Bureau* in a collaborative research/teaching partnership to preserve the region's farming heritage through oral history collection. The collaborative partnership served as the foundation for a two-year oral history project.

The Farm Bureau was instrumental in helping to orient the academic research team to farming history and concerns, and to establish initial contacts for the interviews. The academic research team directed by Dr. LaLone was comprised of undergraduate students in her classes for three successive semesters (her Spring 2002 Economic Anthropology class, a Fall 2002 Practicum class, and a Spring 2003 degree project). The project gave students an experiential component to their classes, enabling them to learn/practice the skills of anthropological interviewing and learn firsthand from farm families about their household economic strategies, while making contributions to a documentation project of value for regional heritage preservation. The academic research team was responsible for conducting and taping the interviews, then transcribing the tapes and doing content analysis as class activities. The academic team then organized the project results into a book of oral histories for dissemination back to the community for heritage education purposes. The Farm Bureau worked to place the books in school libraries for heritage education.

The common bond in the partnership between the academic team and the Farm Bureau was the shared concern that the region's oral histories needed to be collected and made available to regional schools for heritage education.

### **Funding Source(s)**

Radford University Foundation and multiple in-kind services were provided by the Montgomery County and Pulaski County offices of the Virginia Farm Bureau.

**Project Start Date:** 2002

**Project End Date:** 2003

### **Description of Project**

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

The aim of the project was to join Radford University students and the Virginia Farm Bureau together in a collaborative heritage preservation effort to document the memories and perspectives of farm families in the region, and especially to document the changes in farming from the 1930s to the present. The desired outcome was to collect the oral histories and to compile the interviews into book format so that the data could be widely available for use in Appalachian heritage education.

#### ***Population affected***

The project directly affected a four-county region in Southwest Virginia, but the results of the project are being disseminated more widely in the Appalachian region

of the U.S. through the publication of a book of oral histories, Appalachian Farming Life (2003) and presentations at Appalachian Studies Association conferences.

***Research approach***

The project design was modeled on an earlier oral history project directed by Dr. LaLone that focused on the region's coal mining heritage (see the case study on the New River Valley Coal Mining Heritage Oral History Project), a collaborative university-community project with such success that we felt the model could be applied equally well to the farming project.

The project was structured as a university-community partnership. Principal members of the Virginia Farm Bureau worked collaboratively with the project director in developing orientation sessions to educate the Radford University research team on the region's farming history and concerns. They guided the selection of interview questions and made initial contacts for interviews. The academic research team conducted 30 tape-recorded interviews with members of farm families in their homes and on their farms using a semi-structured interview style, then transcribed the tapes in full. The director supervised the team as it analyzed the interviews and wrote an ethnographic analysis on the region's farming way of life, selected the best excerpts from the interviews, and compiled both into a book of oral histories, Appalachian Farming Life (2003) for distribution to the public and use in heritage education.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The partnership between the university research team and the Farm Bureau greatly facilitated the success of this heritage preservation project. Both groups had a common goal, heritage education. The Farm Bureau had the necessary local connections and rapport for setting up the interviews; the academic team contributed the needed oral history interviewing/transcribing skills guided by the director under an experiential learning class structure. Neither group would have been as successful on their own but in collaboration, pooling their complementary contributions, they met their common goal of collecting the region's farming oral histories and disseminating the project results in book form to regional schools for heritage education.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

LaLone, Mary B., Peg Wimmer, and Reva K. Spence (eds.) 2003 Appalachian Farming Life: Memories and Perspectives on Family Farming in Virginia's New River Valley. Radford, VA: Brightside Press.

A description of the project and research model on Dr. Mary LaLone's web site, <http://www.radford.edu/~mlalone>

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Dr. Mary B. LaLone, Project Director, Radford University

Radford University Student Research Team: Peg Wimmer, Research Assistant, Tiffany Beaver, Bobbi Jo Burnett, Jaime Iacobellis, Tracey McDonald, Maple Potts, Sarah Smith Adam Sowder, Kay Spence, and Britney Walton

Principal Coordinators from the Virginia Farm Bureau: Robert Holland and Charlotte Holland

**Key words:** cultural heritage preservation, oral history project, heritage education

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**Project Title: Urban Artists Initiative**

**Project URL:** <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/programs/uai.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The Urban Artists Initiative (UAI) provides culturally and ethnically diverse artists and organizations with the tools to thrive and to enrich the cultural life of their communities. With professional training, financial assistance and network-building, the program helps people develop and refine skills that will enhance their careers or facilitate the growth of their organizations. Our mission is to create a new vision for the role of arts in the cities by changing the cultural landscape of Connecticut's towns and cities.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

*Connecticut Commission on the Culture and Tourism (CCT)* (formerly Connecticut Commission on the Arts) is the chief fiscal agent of the program.

The UAI program began in 1991, as collaboration between the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the *Institute for Community Research*. It was one of ten programs nationally funded by the NEA to develop innovative programs for underserved urban artists. The program took advantage of the community experience of the ICR, and the arts funding and promotion experience of the CCA. The Institute for Community Research is involved with overall development and day-to-day operations of the program. UAI staff conducts field research to access the artists and organizations and to build partnerships in local communities that help to support and sustain the program over time. During field research we look for community partnerships with educational institutions, local

businesses and established arts institutions. We develop the training tools, run the training workshops, find mentors for participants, create opportunities for exhibition and performance, and provide opportunities for professional development through national and local conferences.

**Funding Source(s)**

Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the National Endowment for the Arts, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Waterbury Foundation

**Project Start Date:** 1992

**Project End Date:** 2006

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

- Create a vibrant network of artists and presenters within and among target cities
- Enhance the ability of artists to effectively produce, present and market their work to varied local, state and regional audiences through training and performance opportunities
- Expand the effectiveness of community-based, non-arts organizations and developing arts organizations in presenting to their audiences the work of artists in a wide variety of disciplines

*Population affected*

- *Participants:* Since its inception, UAI has expanded from two to ten cities across the state: Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, Bristol, New Britain, Norwalk, Stamford, New London and Norwich. In each site, six community-based organizations and 15 emerging individual artists are selected from a pool of applicants who reside in the city and surrounding towns. Artists and organizations represent a wide range of cultural, ethnic and disciplinary traditions.
- *Arts Funders:* CCT's arts rosters have become more diverse allowing Connecticut's citizens to experience a variety of culturally rich activities. Local arts agencies have broadened their constituencies with UAI artists and organizations.
- *Communities:* UAI has also expanded the use of arts-based educational strategies and has impacted community economic development with the creation of new arts venues and businesses in participating communities.

*Research approach*

Research in the UAI program takes several forms. The first involves building a base of information on the community, its artists and organizations, program readiness, and sustainability. The second involves finding emerging artists and presenting organizations, and building a rich database for inclusion in directories, and for promotional activities and websites. The UAI evaluation design involves collecting evaluation materials on training sessions, and other components of the program, as well as focus groups and interviews on the experiences of artists and organizations in the program. These materials are being summarized and synthesized into a book

documenting the history and evolution of the program, and organized for publications, and a larger and more detailed artists' directory.

***Other project activities***

The program has sponsored five two-day conferences and two regional convenings presenting national speakers bringing together artists and organizations beyond our ten-city network. We have annual art exhibitions, literary readings and performance showcases which enable our artists to highlight the artists' and organizations' work

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

- The partnership between these organizations is strengthened by the access to arts networks and resources provided by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the cultural fieldwork, outreach, documentation and support to communities and artists available through the Institute for Community Research.
- The program has also benefited from the relationships established in the ten regions in which it has been offered. Institutions, site coordinators and organizations have all provided resources and supports to improve the quality of the program and help to sustain and expand it once the program is over.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

**“The Artists Among Us”**

*A documentary video produced in 1995 by PBS portrays how artists, whether through active involvement in schools or through increased involvement in neighborhoods, help strengthen neighborhoods and contribute to revitalizing cities.*

**Urban Artists Initiative Directory**

Showcases the artists and organizations, including addresses and phone numbers.

A **coffee table book** that will highlight the artists and describe the communities that have been the focal points of the program is in the works.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

Maryland Grier, Director, UAI Program  
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John Ostrout, Executive Director, CT Commission on the Arts (CCA)  
David Marshall, Director, UAI Program CCA  
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Deborah Simmons, Site Coordinator, Hartford  
Jerilyn Nagel, Site Coordinator, New Britain & Program Assistant (ICR)  
Manola Sidara, Site Coordinator, New Britain  
Liliana Meijia, Site Coordinator, New Haven  
Warren Avery, Site Coordinator, New London  
Patricia Omonte, Site Coordinator, Norwalk  
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**Key words:** arts & culture, cultural diversity, arts education, professional development, urban revitalization, economic development

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**Project Title: ASSERT**  
**Aging Services Support for Evaluation and Research Training**

**Project URL:** [www.assertproject.org](http://www.assertproject.org)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

ASSERT offers training and consultation to community service organizations, to improve and expand expertise for conducting research and program evaluation, and to build internal capacity for sustaining program evaluation efforts through on-going data collection and information gathering activities. ASSERT represents a unique university/community partnership and engages agency personnel and university faculty in collaborative partnerships to address program evaluation needs.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *Buehler Center on Aging, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University*. The Buehler Center on Aging sponsors workshops and seminars to ASSERT partners, and provides technical assistance and consultation services. ASSERT maintains a web site, listserv and library to assist partners with their evaluation needs.

Community service organizational partners include: *North Shore Senior Center, Senior Action Services, Inc., the Presbyterian Homes, White Crane Wellness Center, Counseling Center or LakeView Older Adult Program, Suburban Area Agency on Aging, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly, Chinese American Service League, Rainbow Hospice, Family Alliance, Chicago Commons, Northwestern Alzheimer's Disease Center, and Easter Seals National Office*. Partner agencies identify a specific evaluation project to develop and participate in workshops and seminars.

**Funding Source(s)**

ASSERT is funded by the Retirement Research Foundation

**Project Start Date:** September 1, 2001    **Project End Date:** December 31, 2004

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

To address the continuing need for research and evaluation training and technical assistance and consultation for social service agencies serving the elderly, and to encourage the engagement of key stakeholders to ensure ongoing support for capacity-building efforts within the partner organizations. There are 4 broad project objectives: (1) Bring together community-based social and health services organizations and university-based researchers to foster relationships leading to improved quality in the on-going evaluation efforts of social services programs. (2) Engage in evaluation capacity building within partnering organizations and agencies, by implementing strategies previously proven to be successful at achieving this goal. (3) Offer opportunities for training and skill-building, tailored to the needs of aging and health services providers. (4) Foster opportunities for collaboration and information sharing amongst partner agencies, thereby furthering knowledge of service needs and improving outcomes of service provision.

***Population affected***

Social service agencies and organizations serving the elderly

***Research approach***

Interactive workshops and seminars, individual consultation and technical assistance

***Other project activities***

Seminars on specific evaluation methodologies

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The partnership model is crucial to the success of ASSERT. The evolution of mutual trust underlies the development of shared understandings of agency and organizational work. This is critical to the conduct of exemplary evaluation.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

We have produced a guidebook to the evaluation project process called: *Learning Through Research And Evaluation: A Guide for Providers in the Aging Network*

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Madelyn Iris, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

Rebecca Berman, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator

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**Key words:** aging services, evaluation capacity building, research and evaluation methodology

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**Project Title: Building Evaluation Capacity in Rural Communities:  
Using Community-Based Participatory Research Strategies**

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The purpose of this project was to enhance the outcome evaluation capacity of rural community-based coalitions involved in the delivery of youth development programs.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Three organizations and 116 youth development coalitions throughout Idaho were involved in this participatory effort. The organizations were the *Association of Idaho Cities (AIC)*, *Idaho Children’s Trust Fund (ICTF)* and faculty associated with the *Center for Health Policy (CHP) at Boise State University*. The AIC and ICTF provided funding for faculty researchers and the community-based organizations and served as the conveners of the partnership. Faculty with the CHP focused on building community-based capacity using a participatory model.

**Funding Source(s)**

Association of Idaho Cities, a nonprofit corporation, owned, organized, and operated by Idaho’s city governments, Idaho Children’s Trust Fund, a non-profit, public-private partnership, and Boise State University, a public institution.

**Project Start Date:** September 2000      **Project End Date:** August 2003

**Description of Project**

***Aims and desired outcomes***

The aims and desired outcomes of this three-year project were to increase coalition capacity to employ evidenced-based evaluation strategies and to enhance linkages between communities, funders, and university researchers.

***Population affected***

The setting for this endeavor was the rural state of Idaho; a state with a landmass of 83,557 square miles and a population of 1.3 million citizens that value their independence and autonomy. The 116 participating youth development coalitions represented 30 communities from all regions of state. These entities exhibited a wide range of community needs and varying levels of coalition development and sustainability.

***Research approach***

A participatory approach was used to augment the outcome evaluation capacity of the community-based coalitions. University staff met with the partners via regional training workshops, community visits, conference calls and one-on-one sessions. The focus of these activities was to 1) gain an understanding of the context, needs and resources of each organization; 2) establish organizational and community relationships; 3) empower community partners to engage in evaluation activities; and 4) build organizational sustainability. Participant and researcher-directed learning activities included guidance in the use of logic models for program planning, management and evaluation, provision of one-on-one assistance in the development of outcome-specific evaluation plans, and discussions on how to use evaluation findings in strategic planning and funding requests.

On-going technical assistance was provided throughout the grant cycle and included midyear workshops focused on the analysis and reporting of evaluation findings. During each exchange with coalition members, information was gathered to assess the impact of the participatory approach.

Quantitative and qualitative data were used to evaluate the impact of the community-based participatory activities on each community organization. Results indicated an increase in participant awareness, confidence, and skill in the use of evidenced-based evaluation strategies. In addition, the majority of the coalitions implemented outcome evaluation activities and used the results to enhance program planning, delivery, and on-going funding requests.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

Due to the unique character of each coalition and community it was important to tailor the activities to meet diverse needs, levels of expertise, programmatic goals, and learning styles. The repeated contact and establishment of a history with the organizations had a positive impact on the level of trust between the consultants and the coalition members. Another dynamic that promoted relationship building and learning was utilizing a team of consultants (two faculty and a graduate student). This team approached facilitated the exchange of information and provided participants with multiple points of contact.

The results of this project demonstrate the efficacy of utilizing a community-based strategy to enhance evaluation capacity and to build sustainable partnerships. Ninety percent of the grantees implemented outcome evaluation strategies and many have used evaluation results to apply for funding, refine outreach efforts, and communicate the impact of programming to community stakeholders. Accomplishment of these outcomes has enabled the participating communities to institutionalize coalition initiatives that can sustain on-going, community-driven social change.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Toevs, Sarah E. RDH, PhD, Spear, Caile E. PhD, Malan, Dan BS. *Statewide Survey of Youth Development Coalitions Final Report*. Association of Idaho Cities, Center for Health Policy, Boise State University, 2003.

Toevs, Sarah E. RDH, PhD, Avery, Rhiannon MHS. *Impact of Participation in Asset Building Events: A report of findings from a Youth Questionnaire*, Association of Idaho Cities, Center for Health Policy, Boise State University, 2002.

Spear, Caile E. PhD, Toevs, Sarah E. RDH, PhD, Avery, Rhiannon BS. *Technical Assistance for the Development of Program Impact Evaluation Strategies*, Idaho Children's Trust Fund, Center for Health Policy, Boise State University, 2002.

Toevs, Sarah E. RDH, PhD, Spear, Caile E. PhD, Avery, Rhiannon BS. *Youth Asset Building Initiative Evaluation Final Report*. Association of Idaho Cities, Center for Health Policy, Boise State University, 2001.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Sarah E. Toevs, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Community and Environmental health and Director of the Master of Health Science Program at Boise State University.

Caile E. Spear, Ph.D., CHES, Director of the Health Promotion major at Boise State University.

**Key words:** community-based participatory research, community capacity building, program evaluation, youth development

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### **Project Title: Community Capacity and Diabetes Care: Hispanic Appalachians**

**Project URL:** <http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/PHResearch/grants/community/grant49.htm>

#### **Project Purpose or Mission**

The mission is to reduce the burden of diabetes on the Hispanic community in Northeast Tennessee and to facilitate an increase in the local Hispanic community's capacity to identify and effectively utilize community resources related to all aspects of health.

#### **Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *CHAS (Coalición Hispano-Americana de la Salud)* "Hispanic-American Health Coalition" is a group of representatives from the university and the Hispanic community, actively working together to educate themselves on topics that affect the health of the Hispanic community and to put their new knowledge to work in the form of educational and/or intervention activities in the community. CHAS meets biweekly and organizes projects and activities.

*The Hispanic Community of East Tennessee:* About 12 members of the local Hispanic community play a role in the project by serving as CHAS group members (they make up about 2/3 of the group). Other Hispanic community members contribute in a variety of ways, including offering their participation in the events planned and facilitated by CHAS and offering information about themselves and their community.

*East Tennessee State University:* Faculty and project personnel from ETSU assist in the facilitation of the events that CHAS plans and document the progress and activities of the coalition.

*Johnson City Downtown Clinic:* The Downtown Clinic has been a leader in the provision of primary health care services to the largely uninsured Hispanic population in Northeast Tennessee

for several years. Clinic staff assists in the education of CHAS members and participate in community health interventions, as well as serving as a source of referral when health care needs are identified.

**Funding Source(s)**

Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

**Project Start Date:** October 2002

**Project End Date:** September 2005

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

Increased community capacity with regard to accessing and effectively utilizing community resources, preventing and controlling Diabetes and other health concerns, and developing sustainable relationships with community members that will lead to long-term community change.

*Population affected*

Northeast Tennessee and the growing Hispanic population in the area.

*Research approach*

Community-Based Participatory Action Research led to the formation of a 12-member Hispanic coalition that generates and implements ideas for community activities and interventions.

*Other project activities*

The first phase was to use focus group discussion and community-member identification to form a coalition that would work together over the course of several years to impact the health of the local Hispanic community. The first major accomplishment of CHAS was a randomized community-wide survey of the Hispanic community that measured current beliefs and knowledge regarding diabetes and community capacity. The second major accomplishment was the initialization of a group-writing project, *Nuestro Cuento de Juan* (Our Story of Juan) that will capture community beliefs and experiences

*Utility of partnership for the approach*

Because our project is community-based and involves participatory action research, the partnership piece is *essential* to the success of our activities. The university researchers heavily rely on input from Hispanic community members as to what activities and/or approaches are both culturally appropriate and needed. In the same way, the Hispanic community members rely on university affiliates' ability to facilitate access to people and material resources to implement their desired community efforts.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Vazquez, A., Anderson, M.K., Kukulka, G., Macnee, C.L., Rayman, K., Melendez, H. Carroll, L., Childress, K., Walker, J., Ferguson, K.P. Community Capacity and Diabetes Care: Appalachian Hispanics. Overcoming Diabetes Health Disparities: Inaugural Health Disparity Conference, Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel, Nashville, TN, November, 13-15, 2003.

Anderson, M.K., Kukulka, G., Ferguson, K.P., Macnee, C. Rayman, K. Community Capacity and Diabetes Care: Appalachian Hispanics. North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), 31<sup>st</sup>. Annual Meeting, Linkages: Collaboration with Researcher, Communities, and Funders. Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, October 25-28, 2003.

Kukulka, G., Anderson, A., Carroll, L., Childress, K., Macnee, C., Melendez, H., Rayman, K., Vázquez, A., Walker, J. The “real story” from East Tennessee’s Hispanic hollers. Stories from the Beach: Community-based primary care in underserved populations, Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Island, SC, May 19-22, 2004.

Anderson, A., Carroll, L., Childress, K., Kukulka, G., Macnee, C., Melendez, H., Rayman, K., Vázquez, A., Walker, J. Puentes (Bridges): Approaches to spanning multiple boundaries in an Hispanic Appalachian participatory research project. Crossroads Conference: Institute of Community Research. Hartford, CT, June 10-12, 2004.

Rayman, K., Anderson, A., Carroll, L., Childress, K., Kukulka, G., Macnee, C., Melendez, H., Vázquez, A., Walker, J. Building Community Capacity and Diabetes Care: The Process of Coalition Formation in Hispanic Appalachia. APHA 2004 National State of the Science Conference. Washington, D.C., October 6-9, 2004.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

Anderson, Mary Kay. Associate Professor, College of Nursing, ETSU  
Childress, Karen. Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, Johnson City Downtown Clinic (Carroll) Cutlip, Luz. Interpreter/Translator, College of Nursing, ETSU  
Kukulka, Gary. Assistant Professor, College of Medicine, ETSU  
Melendez, Holly. Program Coordinator, College of Nursing, ETSU  
Rayman, Kathleen. Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, ETSU  
Vázquez, Alma. Community Liaison, Catholic Charities, Jonesborough, TN  
Walker, Jeanie. Administrative Assistant, College of Nursing, ETSU

\*We’d also like to acknowledge the 12 devoted Hispanic community members, whose names are omitted for confidentiality purposes.

**Key words:** community-based participatory action research, cultural competence, cultural diversity, Hispanic Appalachians, diabetes prevention and control, rural communities, translation/interpretation

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**Project Title: From Battleground to Common Ground: Veterans and Peace Activists Share Stories about Transformation and a Deeper Democracy**

**Project URL:** Upon publication, this book will be listed at [www.atwoodpublishing.com](http://www.atwoodpublishing.com)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

*From Battleground to Common Ground* will be a practical and concise workbook companion to “*Teaching and Learning Peace*” (Timpson, 2002) and serve to spark deeper conversations about patriotism and citizenship in local communities. It will utilize the reflections of people who have had active military service and/or a long standing commitment as peacemakers to frame new conversations about patriotism and think critically and creatively about the knowledge, understanding and skills required for democratic citizenship and a sustainable peace.

**Project Partners**

*Colorado State University*  
*Veterans for Peace*, Madison, WI and Nationally  
*Atwood Publishing*, Madison, WI

**Project Start Date:** July, 2003

**Project End Date:** December 2005

**Description of Project**

***Aims and desired outcomes***

Create a concise workbook companion to “*Teaching and Learning Peace*” (Timpson, 2002) that will serve to spark deeper conversations about patriotism and citizenship in local communities.

***Population affected***

People of all ages and especially those young people who are targeted by military recruiters.

***Research approach***

Interviews and written contributions will be analyzed for emergent and transformative themes.

***Other project activities***

Drafts of the *From Battleground to Common Ground* will be field tested with community residents and their reactions included in an Appendix.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

It will be important to cultivate the support of various community groups, their regional and national affiliates that are committed to peacemaking.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Atwood Publishing (Madison, WI) has already committed to publishing this as a book.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

William M. Timpson, Ph.D., School of Education, Colorado State University

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David Giffey, Veterans for Peace, Madison, WI

**Key words:** education, democratic education, citizenship education, peacemaking

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**Project Title: Health Data in Action: A Community-Based Approach to Enhancing Data Skills among Local Community Partners**

**Project URL:** <http://www.khi.org>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The purpose of this study was to illustrate how participatory research can be used in a training model of health improvement.

**Project Partners**

Lead Organization: *Kansas Health Institute*

*Kansas Department of Health & Environment*

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Turning Point Initiative*

*University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita*

**Funding Source(s)**

Foundation support was provided for this project.

**Project Start Date:** May 2002

**Project End Date:** December 2004

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

The aim of this program was to increase the capacity of local health departments and community-based organizations to serve their minority constituents through the improved use and interpretation of health data.

The desired outcomes were to:

- Increase competency in using health data among program participants
- Improve perception of participants' access to health data and related resources

- Expand knowledge and use of health data among participants

***Population affected***

The populations that were affected by the training provided in the program were local health departments and community-based organizations as well as the minority constituents they serve.

***Research approach***

Two two-day workshops were conducted. These provided interactive data training for 26 individuals from across the state of Kansas. Training consisted of traditional instruction augmented with individual hands-on computer interaction. The following topics were covered: Day One included the value of data, data sources, terminology, and epidemiologic concepts; and Day Two covered additional epidemiologic concepts, data resources, Internet resource searching, display and use of data, and individualized use of data. Training was provided without cost to participants, who were also provided free hotel stay and meals and were reimbursed for travel.

Evaluation instruments consisted of 1) satisfaction surveys, which were administered immediately following training; 2) follow-up telephone interviews, which were conducted approximately two months after training to determine whether participants utilized the skills they learned and whether these skills were helpful in better serving their constituents; and 3) a twelve-item follow-up questionnaire, which was electronically mailed to participants approximately six months after training.

*Results* of the study showed positive results for the first desired outcome of this project, which was to increase competency in the use of health data among participants. There was a ninety-two percent (92%) response rate for the satisfaction surveys, which showed that 75% of the participants in the first workshop and 100% in the second workshop rated the training as “good” or “excellent” on a five-point Likert scale. None of the participants rated the workshops lower.

All participants (100%) were contacted for the two-month follow-up telephone interviews. The results were positive and demonstrated improved perception of participants’ access to health data and related resources, and expanded knowledge and use of health and organizational data. Most of the participants discussed how they felt empowered to find, interpret and use data as a result of the training. They also shared the information they learned in the workshop with others, including co-workers, other management personnel and leaders in the organization, and with board and committee members. They also talked about how they further planned to use the knowledge they obtained.

Finally, the results of the six-month follow-up questionnaires (54% response rate) further supported the program’s desired outcome to expand participants’ knowledge and use of health data and organizational data. For instance, 64% of the participants reported that they examined and/or expanded their organizations’ data system for the collection of race, ethnicity, and primary language. In addition, 57% of the participants indicated that they used Internet resources that were shared at the training, and 57% also indicated that they

incorporated race/ethnicity in a grant or in a funding request or proposal as a result of the training.

***Other project activities***

Other project activities included free on-going technical assistance provided to participants after workshop completion for a period of nine months.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

First, development of the health data training workshops were based on the results of over one-hundred structured interviews and several focus groups conducted with key minority communities and individuals that represented African American, Native American and Hispanic/Latino communities. Second, feedback from the satisfaction surveys from the first health data-training workshop was used to modify the second workshop, which as a result received improved scores on the satisfaction survey.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

There are no program publications or materials at this time.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

Kim Kimminau, PhD (Kansas Health Foundation) – Project Director

Barbara Starrett, MHA (Kansas Health Foundation) – Project Manager

Angelia Paschal, PhD (University of Kansas School of Medicine) – Project Staff

**Key words:** education, data training, health data, health disparities, community level, community training

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**Project Title: *Healthy People 2010* Community Implementation Program**

**Project URL:** [www.yalegriffinprc.org](http://www.yalegriffinprc.org)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center awarded over 100 mini-grants of up to \$2010 to non-profit community-based organizations/agencies throughout Connecticut to support health promotion and disease prevention activities that address the national Healthy People 2010

objectives. Each “microgrant” recipient submitted an application and was selected on a competitive basis by an external panel. The objectives, activities, and population served by each project were diverse, but all addressed the national health agenda defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). During the funding period, grant recipients were eligible to receive technical assistance through training workshops and contact with Y-G PRC staff. The grant distribution mechanism, management/monitoring structure, success of funded projects, impact on collaborations/partnerships and changes in organizational capacity was assessed with a robust evaluation.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center (PRC)* is responsible for administering, monitoring, and evaluating mini-grant initiative.

*103 non-profit organizations across the state of Connecticut* applied and received mini-grants on a competitive basis.

*National, state and local leaders in public health* provided technical assistance to the Yale-Griffin PRC on program implementation and the evaluation plan.

**Funding Source(s)**

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODHP) – Federal grant.

**Project Start Date:** September 2001

**Project End Date:** December 2003

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

- To establish a demonstration project in a nationally representative community for the assessment of the utility of distributing “microgrants” for promoting progress toward Healthy People 2010 objectives.
- To establish an efficient, effective, and economical administrative structure for the distribution of community microgrants.
- To convene local, state, and national experts in community-based public health to refine and implement a replicable process for the merit and objective-based distribution of funds.
- To refine and implement a grant award mechanism that is streamlined, objective, equitable, and replicable.
- To establish and apply appropriate methods of process, and as indicated, outcome evaluation to the funded projects.
- To evaluate the effect of the micro-finance mechanism applied on prevailing measures of community mobilization and capacity building.
- To evaluate, critique and report on the effectiveness of the demonstration project, and generate all such documentation as is indicated and needed to support efforts at replication throughout the United States.

***Population affected***

The people and communities affected by the microgrant initiative were diverse in age, ethnicity, and gender. One hundred and three non-profit organizations were funded throughout the state of Connecticut. Table 1 indicates the types of organizations funded.

***Research approach***

A quasi-experimental design with intervention and control groups. Pre/post implementation phase surveys were administered to microgrant recipients and control groups to assess organization capacity and partnerships. The impact of the grant program was also assessed through project reports and focus groups. Surveys were analyzed with SAS, and qualitative data was analyzed with ATLAS.ti software.

***Other project activities***

- The Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center provided technical assistance through site visits, telephone and email contact.
- Workshops on project management, evaluation, and presenting findings were offered in collaboration with MATRIX Public Health Consultants, Inc.
- An end of project conference was held to foster networking opportunities and bridge project experiences. Grant recipients had the opportunity to present their findings and learn about other funding opportunities.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

Community partnerships were developed through the networking opportunities provided at the training sessions and conference. Organizations fostered partnerships in their local communities through outreach activities and the engagement of volunteers. The Yale-Griffin PRC established relationships with the grant recipients that have continued after the funding period.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Abridged final report.

Oral presentations: American Public Health Association 2002 and 2003; Steps to a Healthier USA National Summit 2003.

Poster presentation: Crossroads Conference, Institute for Community Research, 2004.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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**Key words:** organizational capacity; *Healthy People 2010*

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## **Project Title: Hospital Discharge Planning Guide Project**

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

To improve and bring about systems change regarding hospital discharge planning for older adults and people with disabilities.

### **Project Partners**

Lead organization: *Planning for Elders' Healthcare Action Team (HAT)*

Community Advisory Committee Member Organizations: *North of Market Senior Services, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Consortium, IHSS Public Authority, Senior Action Network, Office on the Aging Advisory Council, San Francisco Ombudsman Office, City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California, Mayor's Office of Disability, SEIU Local 250, San Francisco Senior Centers, City and County of San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services, City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health*

### **Funding Source(s)**

**Project Start Date:** May 2004

**Project End Date:** December 2005

### **Description of Project**

#### *Aims and desired outcomes*

To inform advocates in other cities and counties about the Healthcare Action Team's work with hospital discharge planning in San Francisco, and demonstrate in a "How-To Guide" how other cities and counties can plan and improve discharge planning in their own communities. We want to engage advocates in other cities and counties to work collaboratively on this issue.

***Population affected***

Older adults and people with disabilities; advocates/community workers; caregivers; service providers; and hospital discharge planners.

***Research approach***

Ombudsmen and independent living center staff in 10 to 15 California counties representing a diversity of populations and geographic regions will be surveyed to determine what problems they face in discharge planning, and how a Guide can assist them in planning improvement. Informational interviews will be held with San Francisco Discharge Planning Task Force members and other stakeholders to elicit how their work was done, including accomplishments and lessons learned. Project team members will analyze surveys and interviews.

***Other project activities***

Project team members will write the Guide, which will include illustrations, photos and/or song lyrics to creatively illustrate how hospital discharge planning was done in San Francisco, and how other counties can organize and plan regarding this issue.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

A community advisory committee made up of community members active in hospital discharge planning, including older adults, people with disabilities, and service providers is actively meeting currently. Members will be engaged in each phase of the research, including stakeholder interviews, surveys of other counties, and Guide creation/distribution.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

The Guide will be available in printed form, and, if funding is secured, via the Internet through a link from the PECC website.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Amy Stone, Project and Executive Director  
Abbi Coursolle, HAT Coordinator  
Debra Howell, MPH, Project Coordinator/Consultant

**Key words:** hospital discharge planning, systems change, policy change, advocacy empowerment, education and planning, health care, people with disabilities, older adults, seniors

**Contact Person:** Abbi Coursolle/Debra Howell

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**Project Title: Latino Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership  
(Washington DC)**

**Project Partners and their Roles**

*Council of Latino Agencies:* Consortium of 26 social service providers for District’s Latino population. Roles: 1. Successfully lobbied the Department of Health for a CBCR approach in order to ensure active Latino involvement in its design and implementation. 2. Reviewed and approved the use of all project materials, including all survey instruments, and translated all materials for use by the target audience. 3. Conducted a 3-week community awareness campaign through local churches and media. 4. Provided bilingual staff and recruited additional bilingual personnel to conduct the door-to-door surveys.

*Puentes, Inc:* Community-based Latino non-profit research and training organization. Roles: 1. Represented the CLA before city agencies in order to ensure that CLA had the technical wherewithal and credibility to conduct a rigorous survey that would meet city parameters. 2. Designed and pre-tested the survey questionnaire and oversaw the training and field supervision of CLA staff and consultants. 3. Conducted all data analysis and wrote the final project report for submission to the DOH.

**Funding Source(s)**

\$95,000 grant from the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration of District of Columbia Government.

**Project Start Date:** October 1, 1998

**Project End Date:** November 15, 1998

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

- To identify patterns of substance use/abuse among DC Latinos to gain first-ever city funding for Latino prevention and treatment programs.
- To “de-stigmatize” Latino substance abuse by contextualizing issue within use/abuse patterns of ALL city ethnic groups.
- To demonstrate indigenous Latino community research capability in partnership with city health agencies and other prospective funders.
- To contribute to the development of a Latino community research capacity through capacitating of Latino researchers.

*Population affected*

Estimated 60,000 Latino residents of Washington, DC

*Research approach*

Collaborative design and supervision of a combined telephone and door-to-door survey of Latino residents to determine their substance use patterns (prevalence) and overall health status, including barriers to health care and substance abuse treatment specifically.

***Other project activities***

Social marketing, including 3-week community awareness campaign through local media that ensured that Latinos viewed the project as “their own” rather than as a government-mandated and –administered survey “imposed” on the community.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

Partnership between CLA/Puentes and City DOH ensured that the Latino community would participate fully in a survey dealing with a highly sensitive and risky health behavior such as substance abuse. Full inclusion and trust of the Latino community allowed for a high degree of statistical reliability (representativeness of the survey sample) and statistical validity (honesty and accuracy of respondent reporting). City agencies were able to draw on the best scientific data available in order to accurately program their prevention and treatment funding for a long-neglected population. Latino agencies were able to utilize the results to de-stigmatize Latino substance abuse by clarifying Latino patterns in relation to the general population. The partnership in the research allowed city agencies and Latino agencies to develop a foundation of trust to collaborate effectively in the follow-up prevention and treatment phases of the project. The example of this successful partnership has served as a catalyst for more comprehensive Latino-city collaboration across the full range of public health issues affecting Latinos.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Stewart Lawrence, Principal Investigator, Puentes, Inc.  
Tiffany Tatar, Project Manager, CLA  
Raul Lopez, Telephone Survey Director

**Key words:** substance abuse, Latinos

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## Project Title: Oregon Stroke Centers' Prototype Registry (OScPRey)

**Project URL:** <http://www.oregonstrokeregistry.org>

### Project Purpose or Mission

The purpose of this project was to determine feasibility of quality measurement for acute stroke care in community, academic, and government hospitals and to develop an observational dataset of acute stroke care.

### Project Partners

Lead organization: *Providence Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE)*  
*Oregon Health and Sciences University*  
*Clackamas County*  
*Oregon State Health Department*  
*16 hospitals*

### Funding Source(s)

Public initiative from CDC in Atlanta, GA, under the Paul Coverdell National Stroke Registry Initiative.

**Project Start Date:** June 1, 2002

**Project End Date:** May 31, 2004

### Description of Project

#### *Aims and desired outcomes*

Reduce burdens of data collection. Increase quality of stroke care through improvement plans. Strengthen collaborative atmosphere between emergency responders and hospitals. Strengthen relationships between hospitals and the state health departments. Understand why Oregon has the fifth highest death rate from stroke in the nation.

#### *Population affected*

People who have stroke and are treated at these hospitals.

#### *Research approach*

Sample of hospitals and observational methods of individual stroke cases. Quantitative analysis where possible.

#### *Other project activities*

Focused patient/family discussions, analysis of end-of-life documents, pilot interviews with stroke survivors.

#### *Utility of partnership for the approach*

Only one academic center for entire state. This requires a community approach particularly for rural areas of the state without access to technology.

### Key Project Publications/Materials

Abstract poster presentations and Legacy video are available on the website

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Valerie Stewart, Ph. D., PI  
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Tina Edlund, MS  
Ted Lowenkopf, MD  
Wayne Clark, MD  
Denise Curti, RN  
Allen Brown, BS  
Tina McClure, BA  
Bonnie Skakel, BA  
Sydney Edlund-Jermain, BA  
Rich Hyde, technical and internet

**Key words:** health, acute stroke care, community hospitals

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**Project Title: Participatory Research of an Empowerment Evaluation System**

**Project URL:** [http://www.rand.org/health/projects/substance\\_abuse/](http://www.rand.org/health/projects/substance_abuse/)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

Positive outcomes of substance abuse prevention typically found in controlled research can often be difficult to achieve in community-based settings. These local programs need tools for improving the quality of prevention programs. The framework Getting To Outcomes 2004: Methods and Tools for Planning, Evaluation, & Accountability (GTO) is a participatory model emphasizing collaboration between prevention experts and local practitioners. It is designed to enhance the prevention competencies of providers while also empowering them to adequately address all aspects of planning, implementation, and evaluation of their prevention programs themselves. Our CDC-funded project uses a participatory research approach to assess in two substance abuse prevention coalitions the utilization of GTO and its impact on prevention competencies.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *The RAND Corporation*. RAND staff are responsible for providing training

and technical assistance on the GTO model to the project partners and working with these partners to implement the research activities.

This project has two community partners who are both substance abuse prevention coalitions: *Santa Barbara Fighting Back in California (CA)* and *Lexington/Richland in South Carolina (SC)*: The GTO approach implemented in the Santa Barbara Fighting Back and Lexington/Richland coalitions uses an interactive process to engage local practitioners in 1) the assessment of their own prevention needs and competencies, 2) the design of training and technical assistance tailored to those needs, 3) the implementation of the various steps of prevention outlined in GTO using those newly acquired competencies, and 4) the research on all the above activities.

**Funding Source(s):** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Project Start Date:** October 2002

**Project End Date:** October 2005

### **Description of Project**

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

- How and to what extent do community-based coalitions utilize a participatory method (i.e., Getting to Outcomes or GTO) designed to enhance their prevention competencies to plan, implement, and evaluate their own successful prevention and health promotion programs?
- To what extent does the Getting to Outcomes method enhance the prevention competencies of community-based coalitions?
- To what extent does enhanced planning, implementation, and evaluation competencies lead to more effective prevention programming and outcomes in community-based coalitions?
- What factors are related to the extent and quality of community participation in the research involved in the above three aims?

#### ***Population affected***

The populations affected by the project are at two levels. First, project staff work directly with coalition members and staff on implementing the GTO model and on the project's research. These efforts have indirect effects on the second population: the recipients of the coalitions' programming. According to the theory of the project, efforts to implement GTO (and the corresponding research on GTO, which would lead to GTO's refinement) would improve the coalitions' programming and therefore yield improved program outcomes for the participants.

#### ***Research approach***

**Aim 1:** Assess GTO utilization

**Measure:** Levels of Use (LoU) (Hall & Hord, 2001); the LoU monitors the process that individuals go through as they implement an innovation, in this case the GTO model

**Method:** Structured interview with key staff at 12 and 24 months

**Results:** After one year, programs have begun to incorporate GTO into their routine operations.

Aim 2: Improve prevention competencies

*Measure:* Coalition survey of prevention competencies; Innovation Configuration Map (IC Map: Hall & Hord, 2001)

*Methods:* Assess at baseline, 12 and 24 months. Also measure potential covariates: coalition climate, leadership roles, staff-volunteer relations, member satisfaction, member expectations, member training, communication patterns, decision-making processes, problem solving and conflict resolution, community linkages, member participation patterns, and member benefits and costs.

*Results:* Second round of survey data is still being collected; IC Map ratings after one year show that GTO programs have improved in several areas of prevention competency more than comparison programs

Aim 3: Link between improved prevention competencies and outcomes

*Measure:* Individual program evaluations

*Methods:* Compare individual program evaluations to competencies measured by IC Map and survey

*Results:* Data from these evaluations are still being collected and analyzed.

Aim 4: Factors related to community participation in research

*Measure/method:* Focus groups

*Results:* Plan to conduct focus groups with staff near the end of the project

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

We have found that our partnerships with the community organizations with which we work has greatly benefited our research. Perhaps the most helpful aspect of community partnership has been the feedback we received about the utility of the GTO model and methods used to provide training. These comments have helped us refine the model to make it more relevant to their day-to-day work and more user-friendly. The community organization's input into the coalition survey was also extremely useful.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Chinman M, Imm P, Wandersman A (2004). Getting to Outcomes 2004: Promoting Accountability Through Methods and Tools for Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, TR-TR101.  
<http://www.rand.org/publications/TR/TR101/>.

Chinman, M., Early, D., Ebener, P., Hunter, S., Imm, P., Jenkins, P., et al. (2004). Getting To Outcomes: A community-based participatory approach to preventive interventions. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 18(4), 441-443.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Santa Barbara Fighting Back Site

Patricia Ebener, B.A., Site Liaison

Sarah Hunter, Ph.D., Technical Assistant

Matthew Chinman, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

Penny Jenkins, B.S., Project Director, Community Partner

Lexington/Richland Site

Pamela Imm, Ph.D., Site Liaison

Jeffrey Sheldon, Ed.M., Technical Assistant

Abraham Wandersman, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator

Deborah Early, M.A., Prevention Director, Community Partner

**Key words:** substance abuse prevention, empowerment evaluation, planning

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**Project Title: Winnipeg Inner city Research Alliance (WIRA)**

**Project URL:** [http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira\\_overview.html](http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_overview.html)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

WIRA is committed to supporting a broad range of research, training and related activities through innovative partnerships between university-based researchers and a diverse range of community organizations. By combining their strengths, expertise and resources, partners work toward the social, cultural and economic development of Winnipeg's inner city neighbourhoods.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

WIRA provides support and funding to research partnerships that undertake small-scale research projects (currently 30 projects). Academic partners and community partners work collaboratively to undertake research to meet community needs, adopting research roles according to the skills, resources and knowledge-base of the partners.

See [http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira\\_whos\\_involved.html](http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_whos_involved.html) for a complete list

**Funding Sources**

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (federal government) under the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) initiative. And the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Federal government).

**Project Start Date:** 2001

**Project End Date:** 2006

## **Description of Project**

### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

Increased capacity in Winnipeg's inner city communities; increased understanding of community issues and complexities among academics; appropriate policy and program changes implemented based on research findings; broader public knowledge of Winnipeg's inner city communities; improved research skills among university students and community members; solid collaborative research partnerships that continue beyond the life of WIRA; increased interaction between communities and universities; overall improvement in the quality of life in Winnipeg's inner city.

### ***Population affected***

Winnipeg's inner city communities

### ***Research approach***

Collaborative, qualitative and quantitative, flexible, innovative, iterative

### ***Other project activities***

Summer Institute through the University of Winnipeg based on a different inner-city-related theme each year drawing on expertise of government, academics and community and with participants from university and community.

More info: [http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira\\_summer\\_institute.html](http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_summer_institute.html)

CUexpo2005 – Community University Research Partnerships: Leaders in Urban Change Conference to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada in September 2005.

More info: <http://cuexpo.uwinnipeg.ca/>

### ***Utility of partnership for the approach***

Varies according to each project

## **Key Project Publications/Materials**

Numerous: vary according to each project. Dissemination can include journal publications, community oriented brochures, posters, workshops, press releases, etc.

See website for some of these: [http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira\\_publications.html](http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_publications.html)

## **Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

Dr. Tom Carter, Principal Investigator and Research Liaison Director

Anita Friesen, Community Liaison Director:

Jillian Golby Borsa, Executive Assistant:

**Key words:** capacity building, cultural development, economic development

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**Project Title: Breaking up the Family: A Critical Analysis of Social Service Consolidations in Western Massachusetts**

**Project Purpose or Mission**

Facing a \$3 billion structural deficit in FY04, Massachusetts state lawmakers dramatically reduced the scope of and subsequent funding to social services. One of the hardest hit was the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) – more commonly known as the “welfare office” – as it closed several regional offices to consolidate operations, including one located in the town of Northampton in western Massachusetts. Study of this situation was worthwhile for a host of reasons, chief among them being the fact that neither DTA nor any of the affiliated community-based organizations had the time or resources (financial or otherwise) to assess the post-consolidation environment. Moreover, little or no effort had been made to examine the effects that a particular closing would have on a particular community.

That said, this study focuses specifically on how the consolidation of DTA services has affected caseworkers and service-users at a homeless shelter in Northampton, Massachusetts. Furthermore, this study critically examines the worlds of these individuals, pre- and post-consolidation, to not only depict how they have historically functioned, but also explain how their lives have been disrupted due to the DTA decision. It also seeks to describe and detail the nature of interactions among service-users and caseworkers both within this particular homeless shelter and with government officials & DTA representatives who control their funding and benefits. Lastly, it offers a series of strategic recommendations for homeless shelter personnel to implement in order to better acclimate themselves and their residents to the new situation.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

*Kim Leahey, Jessie’s House [lead organization]*

Ms. Leahey was our point person at the homeless shelter, serving as our entrance into the community, itself. She assisted us by: introducing us to the staff at the shelter, setting up interviews with caseworkers and residents; and providing access to a variety of written materials on the shelter. Her role was also one of giving credibility to the study and its researchers, by assuring residents and caseworkers about the trustworthiness and integrity of the researchers – thus, facilitating the gathering of information and ensuring a safe environment for interviewees to share their thoughts and experiences openly.

*John Wilson, SRO Outreach Program*

In addition to the research at Jessie’s House, we also interviewed Mr. John Wilson of the Single Room Occupancy Program [SRO] to further gauge the effects of the DTA consolidations on other social service organizations in the town.

**Funding Source(s)**

All research and analysis costs were absorbed by the principal investigators in conjunction with their doctoral work in the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

**Project Start Date:** September 20, 2003

**Project End Date:** December 25, 2003

## **Description of Project**

### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

This project assesses the effects of the DTA consolidation on homeless families in Northampton, Massachusetts. Furthermore, it offers a series of practical, strategic recommendations that community leaders and caseworkers may find useful, as they adjust to the post-consolidation environment.

### ***Population affected***

Approximately eight families and numerous employees of the homeless shelter are the primary focus of this research. Therefore, many of the findings are specific to this specific organization and its community. Since multiple other social service organizations in Northampton have also been affected by these DTA consolidations, these findings could be useful to caseworkers and service-users from these other organizations.

### ***Research approach***

Firstly, data was gathered through: a series of respondent interviews with shelter residents/service-users and caseworkers; public documents on the town of Northampton and its various service operations; and a series of observations on the workings of and interactions at the homeless shelter. Secondly, a multi-tiered, theoretical framework was constructed. A macro perspective of the situation was rooted in and interpreted through Habermas's (1984, 1987) theory of communicative action. This was used to look at the interplay between organizations – in other words, between the homeless shelter and the DTA – as well as how this plays out in the lives of these residents/service-users. The micro perspective was analyzed through a dramaturgical approach to social interaction rooted particularly in Goffman (1959, 1981). On this level, we could consider not only how homeless shelter residents and caseworkers manage themselves in interactions with DTA caseworkers, but also how the effects of the consolidations of the DTA office emerge in these regular interactions.

### ***Other project activities***

In addition to the research activities detailed above, we also made several visits to DTA branch locations to gather on-site information as to how the organization operates.

### ***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The project demonstrated the natural – if underutilized – synergies that can form between academic institutions and social service organizations. As academics, we were able to offer technical expertise (e.g. qualitative research methods, theoretical constructions, etc.) and devote a significant portion of time to the project. Such an undertaking, however, would be a non-starter without access to the “on the ground” know-how (e.g. understanding of the day-to-day social interactions, knowledge of the myriad of relationships, etc.) of the social service agents. By working together, we were able to effectively channel our energies in the direction of finding innovative solutions to a shared public policy challenge.

**Key Project Publications/Materials:**

D'Aprile, M. & Baldwin, B. (2004, June). *Breaking up the family: A critical analysis of social service consolidations in western Massachusetts*. Poster session presented at the Crossroads: Critical Issues in Community Based Partnerships Conference, Hartford.

Baldwin, B., & D'Aprile, M. R. (2004, November 11). *'Losing One's Voice': The Effects of DTA Consolidations on a Homeless Shelter in Western Massachusetts*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Key Researchers/Project Staff

**Researcher: Bryan Baldwin, M.A.**

Researcher: Matthew R. D'Aprile, M.S.

Both Mr. Baldwin and Mr. D'Aprile are PhD students in the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst

**Key words:** DTA consolidation, homeless shelters, social services, western Massachusetts, Habermas, theory of communicative action, race relations, relationships with and interactions among service-users, caseworkers and government employees

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**Project Title: Cooperative Care Participatory Research Project: Building a Unified Worker-owned Home Care Cooperative in Rural Wisconsin**

**Project URL:** <http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc>, <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CED> or <http://www.co-opcare.com>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

Cooperative Care is a worker-owned home care agency serving elderly people and people with disabilities in their homes. The worker-owners of Cooperative Care reside in dispersed areas throughout a sparsely populated rural county, working independently in clients' homes.

Cooperative Care or the community research team members feel that there is a lack of member

involvement, an absence of dialogue and, at times, conflicts between workers. Thus, there are two community research goals: 1. To conduct research that will help workers build more cooperation and communication among cooperative members. 2. To ascertain how the cooperative can better support its members physically and emotionally and the work they do with clients.

The outside researchers have an interest in workplace governance in home care work. On the one hand, home care work is performed under legalistic and bureaucratic conditions due to the nature of publicly funded home care service. Based on discussions with the home care workers involved in the community research team, care workers appear to make individual informal decisions on a regular basis regarding client care. As a result of years of informal decision-making and close client contact, care workers likely have untapped ideas for effective organizational policies and ways in which the cooperative can support them and their work. This study will test these assumptions in order to assess whether and how business ownership in the context of home care work can empower care workers to address their own needs, as well as those of their clients. The researchers are also assessing the efficacy of participatory research methods for worker-owned organizations in terms of developing workers' research and presentation skills, collaborative potential, and knowledge.

**Project Partners and their Roles:**

Members of the community research team are Louise Mankowski, Donna Tompkins, Joan Vroman and Vicki Walejko from *Cooperative Care*.

Outside research team members are Margaret Bau, a Cooperative Development Specialist, *Wisconsin USDA Rural Development*.

Andrea Robles, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development* (team leader/lead organization) and Julie Whitaker, *University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Cooperatives*.

The grant recipient for the project was Lucy Rowley, Director, *Waushara County Department of Human Services*.

**Funding Source(s)**

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services  
In-kind support from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development and the Wisconsin USDA

**Project Start Date:**

Phase 1      May 2003  
Phase 2      January 2005

**Project End Date:**

December 2004  
June 2005

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

At minimum, this research seeks to identify barriers to worker involvement in home care cooperatives and solicit ideas for improving communication between workers. More

ambitiously, it seeks to empower home care workers to become more involved in the promotion of the cooperative model of home care work, as well as in formal decision-making and policy making within and outside of their organization.

***Population affected***

Low-income rural residents who are members of a cooperatively owned and managed home care agency in rural Wisconsin.

***Research approach***

The research is community based in that it involves a research team that includes members of the community under study. Four direct care worker-owners of Cooperative Care have been trained and are collecting and analyzing data alongside a cooperative development specialist from the USDA and two academic researchers. The specific research methods include primarily taped semi-structured interviews with 61 Cooperative Care members. The research will take place in two phases: the first phase involves a team of community researchers trained by a researcher, and the second phase will extend the research goals, involving a new set of community researchers trained by those in Phase I.

***Other project activities***

The research team, including the community researchers from Cooperative Care, has given two presentations, one local (the 2004 Wisconsin Personal Service Association Conference) and the other national (the 2004 Crossroads: Critical Issues in Community-Based Research Community Based Research Conference in Hartford Connecticut). After the research findings are analyzed, community research team members will make presentations to the Department of Health and Family Service staff, a home care agency in Madison, Wisconsin, workers and cooperative developers involved in the initiation of another home care cooperative in Outagamie County, Wisconsin and other interested audiences.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The project brings together researchers and a USDA cooperative development specialist, all of whom have an interest in women, work, cooperatively structured businesses and economic development with a community of home care workers who know their organization, their clients, and home care work and have an interest in improving their jobs and their organization. The academic researchers offer training in research methods and analysis and a perspective on home care policies and cooperatives. The home care workers have extensive experience in caring for clients, have untapped insights into how to improve their own jobs and client care and have rapport with the home care workers in their organization.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

In progress

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Andrea Robles, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development  
Julie Whitaker, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Cooperatives

**Key words:** health, home care, long-term care; rural economic development; cooperative; work

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## **Project Title: The Family Child Care Initiative**

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

The goals of the Family Child Care Initiative are to increase the wages, upgrade the status, and improve the working conditions of paid child care providers.<sup>1</sup> The Family Child Care initiative is a vehicle for paid child care providers to identify our concerns, develop our leadership and organizing skills, and effectively address our concerns through community education, organizing and legislative advocacy.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead Organization: Seattle Worthy Wages (a local chapter of the national Worthy Wages Movement and the Center for the Child Care Workforce/AFT)

[http://www.ccw.org/about\\_wage.html](http://www.ccw.org/about_wage.html)

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<sup>1</sup> Family child care providers, women who provide paid group child care in their own homes, are proportionately women of color. More than one-half of family child care providers nationwide earn income below the poverty level.

Project Coordinator: Mary Tuominen, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Denison University (<http://personal.denison.edu/~tuominen/>)

**Funding Source(s):**

The American Sociological Association's Spivack Community Action Research Initiative (small grants for funding of sociologists in academic settings, research institutions, private and non-profit organizations, and government who are working in community action projects) (See <http://www.asanet.org/student/commact.html>)

**Project Start Date:** May 1, 2000

**Project End Date:** January 31, 2001

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

- To assess and document the self-identified employment concerns of family child care providers in Seattle's low-income communities of color
- To produce a written report of these findings
- To make this report available for use in community education and legislative advocacy regarding family child care providers.

*Population affected*

Licensed family child care providers in communities of color in Central and South Seattle. Specifically, forty-six licensed family child care providers (approximately 25% of the licensed family child care providers in Central and South Seattle) participated in our project. The self-identified race ethnicity of the providers interviewed included 32 Black/African American, 6 White, 5 Asian, 2 Biracial and 1 Hispanic provider.

*Research approach*

Community Based Collaborative Research including the use of survey techniques: Our research design drew on the local knowledge of Seattle child care teachers and providers. After deciding to undertake a survey of family child care providers, we designed and pre-tested our survey instrument with input from Seattle Worthy Wages members and family child care providers. In addition, Seattle Worthy Wage members and two family child care providers reviewed and critiqued drafts of our final report to ensure its clarity and its usefulness in community education and legislative advocacy campaigns.

While we conducted telephone interviews with the majority of participants, home-visits were scheduled with non-native English speakers to facilitate communication. English was not the native language of five of the participants and five of the 46 providers identified as immigrants.

*Other project activities*

Seattle Worthy Wages members used our research report ("I'm Not a Babysitter") as a resource in conducting three community education/action workshops for family child care providers. In addition, members used the survey as an organizing tool through which to

contact providers and organize the Family Child Care Alliance (a grassroots, self-advocacy organization of family child care providers in Central and South Seattle).

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

In an evaluation currently underway, organizers report that the project was particularly effective as an organizing tool. The Family Child Care Initiative survey enabled providers (isolated, home-based workers) to identify each other and, subsequently, form a community coalition to address their common concerns.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Project Report: “I’m Not a Babysitter: The Findings of the Family Child Care Initiative”

“The Right and Responsibility to Care: Family Child Care Work in Communities of Color” (a journal length manuscript currently under review)

Both available from Mary Tuominen, [tuominen@denison.edu](mailto:tuominen@denison.edu), (740) 587-6646

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

We used funds from the Spivack Research Award to train and hire family child care provider Kathy Schirman as Field Researcher and Lauren Tozzi, child care center teacher and long time Worthy Wages activist, as on-site Field Research Supervisor. Mary Tuominen served as Project Coordinator.

**Key words:** child care; race and gender; low-wage employment; community organizing

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**Project Title: The Latino Family Child Care Project**

**Project Purpose or Mission**

This project is a community-university partnership that promotes research-based family-centered community development. The project is

- Training Spanish speaking family childcare providers
- Providing childrearing information to Latino immigrant and family childcare providers on how to raise children biculturally

- Promoting individual development that also builds community strength
- Building community cohesion by giving Latina women a place to gather
- Culturally adapting child development knowledge from a child-centered approach to a family-centered one.
- Generating new knowledge about Latino immigrant experiences in the Midwest.
- Delivering an educational program with data collection integrated into the curriculum

Workshops have been provided in child development, childrearing values and practices, parent-provider relationships, self-employment and small business practices, SIDS, CPR, nutrition, and home safety.

The project is:

- A plan to increase the quality of childcare services for the Latino immigrant community in Dane County, Wisconsin.
- An educational program to increase the child development knowledge of Latino immigrant parents and to assist their cultural adjustment to parenting in the United States.
- A professional development program for Latino/a caregivers to become certified and accredited family childcare providers.
- A guide for how to culturally adapt existing programs to professionally develop and strengthen the childcare services provided by Spanish speaking family childcare providers.
- A gathering site that strengthens the Latino community by supporting young families.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

*Lynet Uttal*, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison (research and consultation)

*Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc.*, Madison, Wisconsin (workshop facilitation)

*Satellite Family Child Care*, Madison, Wisconsin (workshop facilitation, support groups)

### **Funding Source(s)**

Grant from American Sociological Association, Spivack Award \$2,500

Grant from School of Human Ecology, Beckner Award \$15,000

Grant from Oscar Mayer Foundation \$65,000

**Project Start Date:** October 2000

**Project End Date:** Ongoing

### **Description of Project**

#### *Aims and desired outcomes*

The project originally began to increase the number of certified Spanish speaking family childcare providers and provide professional development, and has evolved in response to community interests to also provide childrearing support to new immigrant families, parenting and child development education to childcare providers and parents, and general community development and support for the Latino community. We hope to see the quality

of childcare services and level of understanding about childrearing rise, as well as a more cohesive sense of community among Latino immigrants.

***Population affected***

Children who will receive higher quality childcare services, Latino immigrant families, Latina women who become professional family childcare providers and develop their own small businesses, & the Latino community in Dane County, Wisconsin.

***Research approach***

Participant observations, indepth interviews, focus groups, formative and post pre-test evaluation surveys. We have developed a unique technique that uses small slips of paper that ask for written responses from all workshop participants to collect data during the workshops. The participants experience these as part of thinking about the topic of the workshop. We call these “Research Moments” during workshops. Information collected has been used to improve and culturally adapt the workshop curriculums.

***Other project activities***

We are developing a culturally specific way of teaching principles of child development through a family-centered approach instead of a child-centered approach to new immigrant families. The childcare agencies also provide business classes, help with completing certification and accreditation applications, and family childcare home inspections. Materials are being translated into Spanish and culturally adapted.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

A partnership is essential to deliver the workshops. The workshops that recruit potential providers to become family childcare providers are the incentives for people to come. The relationship between the workshop facilitator and the workshop participants are the essential components that bring people together for these workshops. The connection between the staff at the agencies and the community is also essential for the trust that the community has for the presence of the researchers.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Workshop curriculums

Reports on different aspects of culturally adapting the certification program and recruitment issues.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Lynet Uttal, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison,

Betzaida Vera-Heredia, First program director, now a graduate student and project assistant in Human Development and Family Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison,

Leticia Frausto, Project Assistant and Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Varinia del Moral, Bilingual Outreach Specialist, Satellite Family Child Care, Inc. Madison, Wisconsin

Eunice Gomez-Fuller, Second program director, Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc.,  
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**Key words:** latino immigrant families, parent education, childcare providers, culturally specific programs, family-centered community development

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### **Project Title: South Madison Community Housing Initiative**

**Project URL:** [www.southmadison.org](http://www.southmadison.org), [www.ccp.wisc.edu](http://www.ccp.wisc.edu), [www.uwm.edu/Dept/CED](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CED)

#### **Project Purpose or Mission**

The goal is for South Madison residents to gain expertise about affordable housing; learn and strengthen skills; increase collaboration with neighbors, universities, government, local organizations and businesses; and recommend and implement housing plans that reflect the concerns and interests of the South Madison community.

#### **Project Partners and their Roles**

*South Metropolitan Planning Council (SMPC)* (lead organization): involved in design, proposal writing, resident recruitment, coordination and supervision of project.

*Community Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison)*: involved in design, proposal writing, resident recruitment, coordination and supervision of project.

*Center for Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*: involved in project design, proposal writing; training local residents on community based participatory research, facilitating research process.

#### **Funding Sources**

Sociological Initiatives Foundation; private foundation

City of Madison Neighborhood Leadership/Capacity Building Fund Program

South Metropolitan Planning Council, in-kind contributions

Community Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor, UW-Madison, in-kind contributions

Center for Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in-kind-contributions

Applied Population Laboratory, in-kind contribution for GIS and database work

**Project Start Date:** June 2004

**Project End Date:** June 2005

### **Description of Project**

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

A diverse group of residents from South Madison and surrounding neighborhoods will form a research team. Once the research team is formed the team will learn research techniques, set fieldwork objectives, and use a variety of research techniques (e.g. interviews, mapping, etc.) to gather information on housing and develop a fuller understanding of the local realities regarding this issue in South Madison. The outcomes for the project include developing and implementing short and long-term action plans to improve the housing situation, which will be based on the research findings. Project partners will continue to improve this community based research and organizing design so that it can be institutionalized as part of SMPC's work in South Madison as well as serve as a model for other community revitalization efforts in South Madison and the greater Madison area.

Some outcomes for the research team members include increased knowledge of the affordable housing issue in South Madison, skill development including research skills, public speaking skills, leadership capabilities, and increased collaboration with other organizations and South Madison partners. The coordinators have incorporated an evaluation plan to assess outcomes for team members and the project.

#### ***Population affected***

SMPC's geographic area includes 13,697 households. Though this project affects the entire SMPC geographic area, which includes 15 neighborhoods, this research project will target three neighborhoods that surround Park Street, the main street of South Madison. The three targeted neighborhoods have a diverse population, 68% are persons of color compared to 16% for the City of Madison (Census, 2000). In addition, from 1990 to 2000, these neighborhoods experienced a 503.8% increase of persons of Hispanic origin compared to 119.6% for City of Madison. This area is economically disadvantaged. In 1999, families living in poverty were four times higher in the project area (26.9%) than the City of Madison (5.8%). This is reflected in the low rates of owner occupied housing that is 21.8% in the project area compared to 47.7% citywide.

#### ***Research approach***

This project uses community based participatory methodology. The coordinators have advertised the project and received over 30 applicants from diverse residents. Stipends are available for 10 community residents to be on the research team. The coordinators are interviewing each person to ascertain the best candidates and learn of everyone's interests and skills so people not chosen for the team can be connected to other community projects. Once the team is formed, the facilitator will train them on general concepts of research (e.g. triangulation, bias, confidentiality, taking notes) and the tools and techniques of participatory research (e.g. semi-structured interviewing, diagrams such as social mapping, oral histories). The research team will also decide on their objectives.

Based on the research objectives, checklists of questions will be prepared that will guide their information gathering techniques (e.g. interviews, mapping, oral histories). The research team will interview in pairs and will meet weekly to analyze the information. During analysis, the research team will focus on emerging themes and issues that need follow-up. With this approach, analysis is a collaborative process and is carried out each time team member's present information. As a result of this process, the research team members learn about the variety of perspectives and complexities of the housing issue.

***Other project activities***

Besides developing and implementing action plans, the research team will disseminate the findings to inform and increase collaboration with other residents, groups, or institutions, interested in housing issues in South Madison. Second, the research team will develop written material (see below under Materials). In addition, the research team will select information (both written and visual) for the websites. The information will be able to be accessed through SMPC, Community Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor, UW-Madison, and the Center for Economic Development, UW-Milwaukee. Finally, the research team will plan their involvement in the affordable housing and revitalization efforts and how to engage other collaborators in implementing the affordable housing recommendations.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

Collaboration is key to the success of this project. The SMP C is a non-profit coalition of South Madison neighborhood and business groups that have been working together since 1996 as a catalyst to connect people, resources, and organizations to build a stronger South Madison community. Because of its connection to South side residents and a key role in the revitalization plans for South Madison, SMPC is able to recruit members for this project, coordinate activities for the research project, and disseminate information.

Community Partnerships in the Office of the Chancellor at UW-Madison, is providing financial and staff support and expertise to develop neighborhood community teams.

Community Teams are comprised of volunteer residents that work to gather information on a topic of interest to the community; exchange this information and acquire feedback from the larger South Madison community; and collaborate with their neighbors, businesses, and government, to implement physical and policy improvements. UW-Madison will continue to support the community teams, and is actively involved in the coordination and supervision of this project.

The Center for Economic Development applies university-based research and technical expertise to improve the quality of life in our region. The Center supports economic development efforts informs public debate on issues and policies. In this project, a researcher from the Center staff is training community residents on participatory research, facilitating the research process including information gathering and analysis, and assisting in writing and disseminating information.

Finally, the South Madison Housing Community Team Members, who are diverse residents from South Madison neighborhoods, share a passion for their community and a vision that all residents have access to fair and affordable housing, have spent many hours volunteering in activities to make that vision a reality. These participants have a variety of social networks

in South Madison that is vital to the revitalization reflecting the needs and concerns of the community.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Project in process/ materials forthcoming. Materials expected include pieces for the South side newspaper, community newsletters, an easy-to-use booklet for people from different socio-economic and educational backgrounds, a comprehensive report, and one or two journal articles. Information will be posted on the websites.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

**Project Supervisors:** Jodi Wortsman (Volunteer and Project Coordinator, SMPC) and Ariel Kaufman (South Madison Community Team Coordinator, Community Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor, UW-Madison)

Trainer and Researcher: Andrea Robles, a Sociologist who works as a research at the UW-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development

Researchers: Residents from South Madison and surrounding neighborhoods. They vary in age, education, socio-economic levels, home-ownership, professions, cultures, and engagement in the community.

Advisors and Collaborators: Lori Kay is director of Community Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor, and coordinates the University's South Madison overall Community Program Development. Boyd Rossing, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies at the School of Human Ecology, Sue Thering and Sam Dennis, Assistant Professors at the School of Landscape Architecture, and Margaret Nellis, Lecturer at the School of Human Ecology.

**Key words:** affordable housing, urban neighborhoods, economic development, revitalization

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## **Project Title: Women, Work, and Family in Milwaukee**

**Project URL:** [www.ced.uwm.edu](http://www.ced.uwm.edu) and [www.newhopeproject.org](http://www.newhopeproject.org)

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

The main goals of this project are to use a participatory research approach that is inclusive of women from different socio-economic backgrounds and to investigate common concerns of lower and higher income women regarding work and family balance in Milwaukee. The findings will be used to stimulate discussion and to educate others such as members of community organizations and state program administrators and lawmakers about these issues in the hope of affecting public policy and legislation.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

*Center for Economic Development (CED), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee* (lead organization): designed project, wrote proposal, supervising project, training, and facilitating research and analysis

*New Hope Project, Milwaukee, WI*, administered project funds, staff member is participating in the research team, will assist in disseminating information.

### **Funding Source(s)**

Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy, Community Action Research Initiative, American Sociological Association.

Center for Economic Development (CED), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in-kind contributions, mainly staff time and supplies

New Hope Project, Milwaukee, in-kind contributions, mainly administrative support

**Project Start Date:** September 2003

**Project End Date:** December 2004

## **Description of Project**

### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

The objectives of Women, Work, and Family in Milwaukee are to teach researchers who work in the field of community economic development and a group of low and middle-income women to use participatory research methods, gather information and analyze issues regarding work and family balance among women in different socio-economic groups, and

disseminate the information through written material and presentations. Ultimately, the aim is to educate and attempt to change legislation to improve women's ability in Wisconsin to balance work and family.

In Milwaukee, policy makers in public agencies rarely ask the women themselves their opinions and suggestions for how to better structure programs, such as welfare reform, workforce development, and childcare programs that can assist women in juggling work and family and raise their standard of living. Many research studies concerning low-income families in Milwaukee have acquired information by conducting interviews with case workers, state officials and policy makers, rather than interviewing the women affected by the programs. Furthermore, when information is disseminated, researchers or policy makers are the ones who give presentations about low-income women; rarely do we hear from the women themselves. We believe the goals of this project are part of the vision of using first-hand experience and knowledge as a means to finding local solutions for all types of women juggling work and family.

### ***Population affected***

According to the US Census (1996a, p. 399-400), women's labor force participation rates have increased in the twentieth century for married and single, White, Black and Latina women. In the mid-1990s women's labor force participation was 61.1% for married women and 65.5% for single women. Women's income has increased as they have joined the labor market, however so have their responsibilities for juggling work and home responsibilities. Therefore, regardless of women's racial and ethnic groups or class positions, women need to balance work and family; they do not simply go to work and leave their family behind. We believe better incorporating solution to address commonly identified needs for balancing and work and family will strengthen programs and policies.

### ***Research approach***

This project uses a participatory research approach that is inclusive of women from different socio-economic and racial backgrounds. This includes being inclusive both on the research team and with the people we interview. The research team consists of researchers, who are working in the field of community development, and women, who are low to middle income. Together they are learning about participatory research and research techniques, developing objectives, and formulating questions to investigate issues regarding work and family balance among women. Rather than solicit participation from members of an entire neighborhood or community, a more realistic possibility in a smaller sized town, the research team will gather information by interviewing people through their own networks. By networks we mean women associated to each other because of certain social ties such as family, neighborhood, workplace, faith community, and so forth. Once the information is collected we will analyze the information by identifying common and differing concerns between low and middle-income and professional women and develop short and long term action plans for the group on how the information can be made available to others and how to begin affecting public policy and practice.

Other outcomes of this approach include skill-building, which is particularly important for the low-income members of our group who do not always have access to this type of research

activity, and increased collaboration which can foster new relations between women in different socio-economic groups, thus building coalitions that have a greater impact in the policy realm. In addition, with community members doing the actual research, the research team can acquire rich information that would be more difficult, if not impossible, with only outside researchers.

***Other project activities***

The research team, CED, and the New Hope Project will disseminate the findings and hopes to educate others on findings regarding work and family. First, the research team will present their findings to concerned individuals and groups that are interested in the topic. Second, the research team will develop written material (see below under Materials). In addition, the research team will select information (both written and visual) for the CED website. Members of the research team will become actively involved in groups focusing on work/family/life balance.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The New Hope Project seeks to improve economic conditions for low-income workers through two major avenues—1) running employment assistance programs that effectively move people out of poverty and 2) working with elected officials to create policies that provide greater work opportunities. The goals of our project support New Hope’s objectives. The New Hope Project can use the information acquired from this research regarding work and family balance when giving technical assistance to other non-profit organizations and in their work with policy makers on efforts to “make work work” for low-income families. The Center for Economic Development applies university-based research and technical expertise to improve the quality of life in our region. The Center supports economic development efforts, informs public debate on issues and policies. In this project, the Center staff is applying their expertise in training, research and policy analysis, and disseminating information. Finally, the community women on the team, are mothers and workers juggling between work and family in a variety of capacities. They offer their experience and expertise on work and family issues.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Project in Process/Materials forthcoming. Materials expected include a newsletter or easy-to-use booklet with the major findings, a comprehensive report, and one or two journal articles.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Pamela Fendt, Policy Analyst, Center for Economic Development (CED), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Lisa Heuler-Williams, Policy Analyst, CED

Andrea Robles, Associate Researcher, CED

**Key words:** work and family, women and work, women and family, women and urban, economic self-sufficiency

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## **Project Title: The ACCESS Breast Cancer Outreach and Education Project of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

To partner with diverse Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and assist them in promoting breast cancer awareness and developing early detection programs for their constituencies.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

ACCESS partnered with 67 CBOs over a period of five years, all of whom assisted the medically underserved communities of New York City in such capacities as social services, health provision, recreation, immigrant services, and education. For this case study, the lead organization is *St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction* with whom breast cancer early detection programming was developed for their injection-drug using population.

### **Funding Source(s)**

National Cancer Institute Grant #2-R25-CA68812 and The Martell Family Foundation

**Project Start Date:** May 1998

**Project End Date:** May 2003

### **Description of Project**

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

ACCESS assisted CBOs in creating or augmenting breast cancer screening and awareness programs tailored specifically to their clients' economic, behavioral, and cultural needs.

#### ***Population affected***

Medically underserved communities of New York City, in this case study, intravenous drug-using women of the South Bronx, New York.

#### ***Research approach***

ACCESS conducted key informant interviews and informal surveying of organizational resources and needs; constituent needs regarding breast cancer screening, and media needs for tailored health promotion materials, speakers and tools. Based on the Health Belief Model and Stages of Change Model, findings from these assessments informed the flexible program development process and breast health education seminars ACCESS used to help the partner CBO develop or augment their breast cancer awareness and screening programs. The community surveys and process data demonstrate an increase in agency capacity to develop programming activities for their constituents.

#### ***Other project activities***

Local advisory board development; assisting CBOs in data-driven grant-writing; community-, state-, and national-level presentations on the ACCESS model of partnership and breast cancer screening; participation in New York City and State breast health networking activities.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The academic-community partnership model combines the resources of a comprehensive cancer center and the expertise of CBOs in reaching underserved communities. The ACCESS approach to needs assessment and program development increase the capacities of each partner CBO, thereby providing the tools necessary for the CBOs to create their own public health initiatives in the future.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Lounsbury, D., Marini, L., Jansky, E., Rapkin, B., Massie, M. (in press) “The Community Barometer: A Breast Health Needs Assessment Tool for Community-based Organizations,” *Health Education and Behavior*.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Mary Jane Massie, M.D.; Bruce Rapkin, Ph.D.; Elizabeth Jansky, M.A.; Lisa Marini, A.B.; David Lounsbury, Ph.D.; Paulette Murphy, Psy.D.

**Key words:** cancer screening, health promotion, substance use, harm reduction, education, outreach, disparities in care

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**Project Title: Community-based Participatory Translation Research:  
From a Clinical Trial-tested Intervention to an Inner-City  
Community-Owned Health Clinic**

**Project Purpose or Mission**

To translate a clinical trial-tested and efficacious model for high blood pressure care and control among young urban African American hypertensive males into educational information and services provided by a community-based health clinic in an underserved and impoverished inner-city.

**Project Partners and their Roles:**

Lead Organization: *The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing*, lead by Dean and Professor Martha N. Hill and a committed team of researchers, clinicians, and community health workers, championed translation of the findings of a 5-year randomized clinical trial among a

cohort of 309 underserved hypertensive African American men. The trial tested the efficacy of a more intensive comprehensive educational-behavioral-pharmacologic intervention provided by a nurse practitioner-community health worker-physician (NP-CHW-MD) team compared to a less intensive education and referral intervention. The findings indicated that helping to reduce barriers to access health care services, providing free medications, and assisting with life priorities (such as job training and housing) within the context of a research study helped poor inner-city black men control hypertension. Dr. Hill and her team believed that it was an ethical imperative to give back the results of the trial, to actively refer trial participants to appropriate and continuous blood pressure care immediately after the trials' conclusion at 60 months, and to translate the comprehensive NP-CHW-MD care model into an existing community health clinic serving the affected community.

Partnering Community-based Organization: *The Men's Center of East Baltimore*, a community-owned and operated health clinic and life skills training/development program provider serving African American men and their families, had a passion for improving the quality of clinical services it provided and wanted to increase its capacity to serve a greater number of men. The Men's Center, lead by Executive Director Leon Purnell, worked closely with the lead organization's staff to strategically integrate components of the high blood pressure care model into existing services.

**Funding Source(s)**

The clinic trial for which this partnership was based received support from the National Institute for Nursing Research (Principal Investigator: Dr. Martha N. Hill). In addition, the Community Health Scholars Program (a post-doctoral training program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation) provided two consecutive years of support (2000-2002) for a scholar at The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Dr. Lisa Benz Scott, to facilitate meetings and coordinate communication and translation activities among partners.

**Project Start Date:** Fall, 2000

**Project End Date:** Summer, 2003

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

See attached logic model

To apply community-based participatory research principles and methods to plan, implement, and evaluate a translational research project to integrate evidence-based components of an efficacious high blood pressure care and control model into services provided by a community-owned and operated inner-city free health clinic.

*Population affected*

Primarily African American men with high blood pressure living in East Baltimore, MD

*Research approach*

Specified in a logic model.

**Key Project Publications/Materials:**

- Hill, M. N., Han, H. R., Dennison, C. R., Kim, M. T., Roary, M. C., Blumenthal, R. S., et al. (2003). Hypertension care and control in underserved urban African American men: behavioral and physiologic outcomes at 36 months. *American Journal of Hypertension*, 16(11 Pt 1), 906-913.
- Hill, M. N., Bone, L. R., Kim, M. T., Miller, D. J., Dennison, C. R., & Levine, D. M. (1999). Barriers to hypertension care and control in young urban black men. *American Journal of Hypertension*, 12(10 Pt 1), 951-958.
- Roary, M. C., Hill, M. N., Bone, L. R., & Levine, D. M. (2000). Innovative Strategies That Dispel the Myths about Urban Young Black Men with High Blood Pressure. *Cardiology Review and Reports*, 21, 129-137.
- Rose, L., Kim, M. T., Dennison, C. R., & Hill, M. N. (2000). High blood pressure in young black males: A qualitative investigation of social and cultural context. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 32(3), 587-594.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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Project Staff (Johns Hopkins School of Nursing): Mary Roary, Dwyan Monroe, Sylvia Robinson, LaPricia Lewis, Cassia Lewis, and Anthony Weldon

Community-based Staff (Men's Center of East Baltimore): Leon Purnell, Anthony Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Gray

**Key words:** community-based participatory research, translation research, hypertension care and control

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## **Project Title: El Proyecto Bienestar: A Community Health Intervention with Yakima Agricultural Workers**

**Project URL:** Information about the project and project partners available at

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

<http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/>

<http://www.yvfwc.com/>

<http://www.heritage.edu>

### **Project Purpose or Mission:**

The primary purpose of this project is to develop strategies that will enable the Hispanic community in the Yakima Valley, Washington State, to effectively respond to the many occupational and environmental risks related to agricultural work. This will be achieved through a collaborative process that will yield active discussion and dialogue, appropriate training programs, and a research program that focuses on occupational and environmental risks. The target population will include seasonal and migrant farmworkers and other agricultural workers in the Yakima Valley.

### **Project Partners and their Roles:**

Lead Organization: *Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center* is part of the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine and one of nine NIOSH-funded agricultural centers in the United States. Its personnel will provide expertise in occupational and environmental health and research methods.

*Northwest Communities Education Center /Radio KDNA*, a community-based, nonprofit organization and public Spanish-language radio station with 25 years of community service, will lead community outreach.

*The Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (YVFWC)*, a community/migrant health center, will produce clinical protocols and guidelines on occupational and environmental health concerns. College students who participate in the Connecting Students to Health Careers (ConneX) summer program through YVFWC will receive training in public health research methods and carry out community-based research.

*Heritage University*, a four-year, independent, liberal-arts college in Toppenish, Washington, will be the training site and field research base.

### **Funding Source:**

This project is supported by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: Grant Number 1 R25 OH008143-01, Matthew Keifer, Principle Investigator.

**Project Start Date:** September 1, 2003    **Project End Date:** August 31, 2007

## Description of Project

### *Aims and desired outcomes*

- Develop structures and processes to facilitate the Latino community's involvement in the identification and prioritization of occupational and environmental risks among farm workers in the Yakima Valley.
- Create opportunities and mechanisms for this community to understand and actively participate in decision-making related to their occupational and environmental health.
- Develop an issues driven action plan that focuses on the needs articulated by Latino agricultural workers.
- Cultivate a cadre of new investigators with preliminary training related to the investigation and remediation of occupational and environmental health threats.
- Develop a sustainable partnership among the following entities: the Latino community in Yakima Valley, community organizations: Northwest Communities Education Center/KDNA and Heritage College, health care providers from the Yakima Valley Farm workers Clinic (YVFWC), and scientists from the University of Washington.

### *Population affected*

The target population will include seasonal and migrant farmworkers and other agricultural workers and their families in the Yakima Valley.

### *Research approach*

This descriptive and exploratory project has been designed to address the specific aims of this study. The research approach is based on empowerment, participatory action research and an ecological framework. The project will occur in four stages: 1) building coalitions and partnerships among the key groups involved in this project; 2) the identification and prioritization occupational and environmental risks among Hispanic farmworkers in the Yakima Valley; 3) the development of an issues driven action plan focused on the occupational and environmental risks of agricultural workers; and 4) the development of a community-generated proposal(s) to address the identified risks. Communication and evaluation will take place throughout the project. The ultimate results of this effort will be the development of sustainable partnerships among the primary entities involved in this work: the Hispanic community in Yakima Valley, NCEC/ Radio KDNA, Heritage College, YVFWC and scientists from the University of Washington. It is anticipated that these partnerships will lead to improved occupational and environmental health of Hispanic agricultural workers in the Yakima Valley.

### *Other project activities*

Undergraduate students in the ConneX program through YVFWC are spending the summer learning about and participating in a community research methods project. They are using PDAs to collect, enter and analyze data from community surveys about environmental and occupational health issues in the Yakima Valley.

Students at Heritage College have received college credit to build a website for the project.

Radio KDNA airs public service announcements and other information about the project and environmental justice issues.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The ultimate results of this effort will be the development of sustainable partnerships among the primary entities involved in this work: the Hispanic community in Yakima Valley, NCEC/ Radio KDNA, Heritage College, YVFWC and scientists from the University of Washington. It is anticipated that these partnerships will lead to improved occupational and environmental health of Hispanic agricultural workers in the Yakima Valley.

**Key Project Publications/Materials:**

Poster presentations at Institute for Community Research Conference, Hartford, CT, June 2004 and NIEHS / NIOSH Conference, Albuquerque, NM, June 2004.

As the project is still in the early stages, we have not produced many publications or materials yet.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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Karen Snyder, PhD MPH, Co-Investigator

***Northwest Communities Education Center***

Ricardo Garcia, Co-Investigator  
Martin Yanez, Co-Investigator  
Guadalupe Sotelo, Program Coordinator

**Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic**

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Vickie Ybarra, RN MPH, Co-Investigator

**Heritage University**

Eric Leber, PhD, Co-Investigator

**Key words:** environmental justice, occupational health, worker health and safety, environmental health, agricultural workers, Latino/a workers and their families, Hispanic workers, Washington State

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## **Project Title: Health Works After the Flood**

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

To develop and test the effectiveness of intervention models to address issues of stress and intimate partner violence (IPV) that were exacerbated due to the hurricane and floods that occurred in eastern NC in Sept. 1999. The interventions were based on a participatory model and included components at the community and worksite level, as well as social network level (lay health advisor programs) and individual level (tailored health messages) strategies. Stress was assessed using salivary cortisol, a biomarker of physiological response to stress. Measure development of social capital and collective efficacy was also undertaken.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (lead organization); Center for HPDP Community Advisory Committee (advisors for all aspects of the project); UCARE Domestic Violence Agency (assisted with development and intervention for all IPV components); 12 manufacturing plants in 5 eastern NC counties (sites where intervention took place).

### **Funding Source(s)**

Association of Schools of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Project Start Date:** July 2000

**Project End Date:** June 2003

### **Description of Project**

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

- Assess individual stress and associated effects (e.g. depression, substance use, violence) and coping mechanisms over time among blue-collar women workers, comparing this assessment with related data from another study gathered prior to the flood.
- Assess organizational and environmental stress and correlate these measures with the individual-level measures and track changes over time, comparing this assessment with related data from another study gathered prior to the flood.
- Develop and evaluate, over time, interventions to reduce the adverse health effects of stress using a worksite lay health advisor and tailored message model and workplace and community-level organizational & environmental interventions, giving special attention to the reduction of intimate partner violence and working in close collaboration with other community resources.

#### ***Population affected***

Low-income women working in 12 manufacturing and food processing plants in eastern North Carolina

#### ***Research approach***

The study took place in 5 counties in eastern NC that were affected by the disaster. The study evaluation used a factorial (2x2) research design with the main unit of randomization being the county (2 counties were combined into one for research purposes). The counties were randomized to one of four intervention or delayed intervention/control treatment groups. There were 3 workplaces enrolled in each of the counties. Workplaces in one

county received a tailored message/lay health advisor program; workplaces in one county received the organizational/community program; workplaces in one county received both programs; workplaces in the fourth county served as a control and were offered minimal intervention activities that were not related to the major study aims.

***Other project activities***

The Community Advisory Committee initiated and held two Women's Empowerment Days at local community colleges to address lack of employment, education and wellness issues.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The project would not have happened without the partnership. Following the floods, the Community Advisory Committee told Center for HPDP staff that critical concerns related to the disaster in the community were stress including PTSD, and IPV, and they helped us design the intervention and partner with new community agencies, particularly local domestic violence agencies.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Frasier, P. Y., Belton, L., Hooten, E., Campbell, M. K., DeVellis, B., Benedict, S., et al. (2004). Disaster down east: Using participatory action research to explore intimate partner violence in eastern north Carolina. *Health Education & Behavior, 31*(4), 69S-84S.

Moore, S., Daniel, M., Linnan, L., Campbell, M., Benedict, S., & Meier, A. (2004). After Hurricane Floyd passed: investigating the social determinants of disaster preparedness and recovery. *Family & Community Health, 27*(3), 204-217.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

**UNC:** Marci Campbell, PhD, Principal Investigator, Laura Linnan, ScD, Mark Daniel, PhD, Pamela Frasier, PhD, Leigh Belton, MA, Salli Benedict, MPH, Elizabeth Hooten, ScD, Brenda DeVellis, Phd, Kristine Kelsey, Phd, Andrea Meier, Phd, Spencer Moore, Phd, Alan Cross, MD, Margaret Bentley, Phd.

**Community Advisory Committee:** Pamela Gonzales, Juvencio Rocha Peralta, Katie Barnes, David Barnes, Dothula Baron Hall, Sharon Brown, Mike Doolen, Anne Doolen, Susan Clifton, Karen Klein, Patricia Fuentes, Donna Kelly, Helen Harris, Jennifer Kjos, Carolyn Williams, Anna Peele, Wanda Robinson.

**Key words:** women's health, worksite health promotion, tailored messages, lay health advisors, community based participatory research, disaster, intimate partner violence, stress

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**Project Title: HIV Prevention in High-Risk Drug Use Sites:  
Project RAP (Risk Avoidance Partnership)**

**Project URL:** <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/programs/projectrap.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

To reach active drug users and provide them with information and materials to support HIV prevention and to disseminate harm reduction information and model prevention behavior in locations where individual are using drugs and where risky exchanges of syringes and works actually occur.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

*Institute for Community Research* (lead organization): Using a harm-reduction framework, staff from ICR recruited and trained active drug users to become peer health advocates (PHAs) to develop harm reduction messages and products designed to promote risk prevention. ICR staff also trained PHAs to disseminate the prevention messages to their peers in the settings in which they carry out their daily activities.

*Peer Health Advocates* (PHAs): With ICR facilitators, PHAs developed harm reduction messages and products designed to promote risk reduction. PHAs participated in a 13-week training program in HIV prevention strategies, based upon messages, products and procedures developed by active drug users for use with their networks and in drug use settings.

*Hispanic Health Council*: Data analysis (year 1)

**Funding Source(s):** National Institute on Drug Abuse (1-R01-DA13356)

**Project Start Date:** 2001

**Project End Date:** 2005

## Description of Project

### *Aims and desired outcomes*

- Develop, document and evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention approach that is based in drug using locations and uses peer leaders and drug-using networks for the distribution of HIV prevention materials and information.
- Train and educate active drug users to become "leaders," or Peer Health Advocates, who educate and model HIV prevention to members of their drug using networks.
- Describe the characteristics and relationships of effective Peer Health Advocates who are most successful in bringing about the long-term adoption of HIV prevention behavior amongst their friends and relations.
- Initiate and document the development of, and activities associated with, a drug-user-led Community Health Advocacy group as a way to address issues identified by, and of concern to, active drug users and to support sustainability of the intervention over time.

### *Population affected*

Active, adult drug users and their social networks in Hartford, CT.

### *Research approach*

The Risk Avoidance Partnership (RAP) project is measuring HIV prevention adoption by drug users and their social networks in Hartford, CT. Using a harm-reduction framework and working with active drug users - peer leaders trained to be peer health advocates - in the settings in which they carry out their daily activities, the study is introducing peer developed harm reduction messages and products designed to promote risk prevention. Through surveys, ethnographic observation and tracking of peer-led intervention activities, the study evaluates the efficacy of this prevention approach.

A community-wide survey and 360 individual interviews will be used to assess changes in prevention behavior and the impact of the PHAs in the drug-using community of Hartford over time. The model's strength lies in its potential for sustainability, as most PHAs are long-term drug users who are committed to the local community, regardless of their drug use status.

### *Other project activities*

The project also developed a drug-user-led community advocacy group as a vehicle for addressing issues of concern to the drug using community.

## Key Project Publications/Materials

- Dickson-Gomez, J., Weeks, M., Martinez, M., & Convey, M. (2006). Times and places: Process evaluation of a peer-led HIV prevention intervention. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 41(5), 669-690.
- Weeks, M. R., Dickson-Gomez, J., Mosack, K. E., Convey, M., Martinez, M., & Clair, S. (2006). The risk avoidance partnership: Training active drug users as peer health advocates. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 36(3), 541-570.
- Weeks, M. R., Convey, M., Martinez, M., Dickson-Gomez, J., Woods, O., Ortiz, C., et al. (2004). *Risk Avoidance Partnership: A Training Curriculum for Peer Health Advocates*

*to Prevent HIV and other Drug Related Risks and Harm.* Hartford, CT: Institute for Community Research.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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Mark Convey, M.A., Ethnographer  
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Oscar Woods, H.S., Intervention Facilitator  
Chris Ortiz, H.S., Intervention Facilitator  
Maria Martinez, Intervention Coordinator

**Key words:** AIDS education & prevention, substance use

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**Project Title: Improving Access to Mental Health Services for  
Older Hartford Residents**

**Project URL:** <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/programs/mhaccessolder.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The purpose of this three-year study (2001-2004) was to describe the epidemiology of depression and anxiety in a multiethnic community population of older adults residing in senior housing in Hartford, CT; to understand residents' ideas about loss and sadness in relation to depression, to evaluate barriers to care, and to use the information to improve service quality and accessibility. The study was designed as a partnership so that information collected could be used for preparing advocacy and service improvement approaches, while the data were being collected.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *Institute for Community Research*: (Grantee) providing project direction

*Institute of Living*: providing input on instrument development and psychiatric backup and referral

*North Central Area Agency on Aging*: providing advocacy support and training on needs of older low income and minority adults

*Hartford Housing Authority*: providing support and organizational inputs with regard to resident engagement and organizing resident response systems

*Private residential building management*: providing support and organizational inputs and organizing resident response systems

*Resident committees*: helping to mobilize resident participation and promote resident educational experiences and feedback

*Hartford Hospital Outpatient Mental Health Clinic*: providing follow-up onsite mental health treatment and care post study

*Coalition of clinical service providers*: providing referral services and information on barriers to mental health treatment for older adults.

**Funding Source(s)**

Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation 01-201

**Project Start Date:** 2001

**Project End Date:** 2004

**Description of Project**

***Aims and desired outcomes***

- To provide information on linguistic, cultural, systemic and structural factors impeding appropriate mental health treatment for older low income and minority adults in senior housing; to provide building based health education and mental health service delivery in concert with the study; to advocate for structural improvements in mental health delivery to older adults.
- Determine the extent to which adults aged 50 and older, residing in public and private senior housing in Hartford, CT, are experiencing depression, anxiety or other mental health problems.
- Determine the factors that assist or impede the ability of older adults to access clinical mental health treatment.
- Determine the extent to which older adults are utilizing non-clinical, community helping resources or family and community support systems to deal with depression or anxiety
- Identify what older, minority adults understand as definitions of depression and anxiety, and compare these to definitions used by medical practitioners
- Develop a building-based education, support and referral system for depression, anxiety and other related mental health problems
- Develop an advocacy network focused on improving funding for mental health service delivery to older adults

**Population affected**

Older adult residents in public and private buildings designated for adults over fifty, in the city of Hartford.

**Research approach**

Participant observation, surveys including diagnostic screening instruments, indepth interviews with a sample of residents (depressed and nondepressed), indepth interviews with service providers in various treatment facilities.

**Other project activities**

Meetings with residents, health education programs with residents, information on mental health and treatment options for older adults, support for resident committees.

**Utility of partnership for the approach**

Studies intended to understand and intervene effectively in a complex psychosocial study design with implications for intervention require the support of multiple sectors, as well as an interdisciplinary perspective. The partnership made it possible to develop effective ongoing participatory health education programs on topics of interest to residents; provide improved access to limited treatment resources, obtain psychiatric backup for cases involving suicidal tendencies or psychosis, theoretical complexity, improved instrumentation, multilingual translation, and a multiethnic research team.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Schensul, J. J., Robison, J., Reyes, C., Radda, K., Gaztambide, S., & Disch, W. (2006). Building Interdisciplinary/Intersectoral Research Partnerships for Community-Based Mental Health Research with Older Minority Adults. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 38(1-2), 79-93.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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Michelle So, B.A. (*Data Manager*)  
Evelyn Baez, B.A. (*Community Researcher*)  
Ken Brockman, H.S. (*Community Researcher*)  
Leslie Escobales, B.A. (*Research Assistant*)

**Key words:** mental health, older adults, senior housing, barriers to care

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## **Project Title: Mental Health Services and the Deaf Population: A Regional Consensus Planning Approach**

**Project URL:** <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/dwc/scholarship/pubs.htm>

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

To bring together key figures from the public mental health arena with key figures from the Deaf community/services arena and develop a blueprint for service enhancement by using the nominal group technique during a two-day consensus planning conference.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

This project was led by the University of Rochester Medical Center's Deaf Wellness Center. It was driven by a steering committee comprised of 22 people, mostly from the Deaf community/services arena. Sixty-three individuals participated in the consensus planning conference itself.

### **Funding Source(s)**

A grant from the Mental Health Association of Rochester, New York and numerous donations from community organizations.

**Project Start Date:** March, 1993

**Project End Date:** March, 1994

### **Description of Project**

#### *Aims and desired outcomes*

To bring together "two halves of the equation" necessary to effectively plan service access and quality of care enhancements in the public mental health system as it pertains to the deaf population. The first half of the equation were key individuals in the public mental health arena (e.g., administrators, policy makers, funders, insurers, politicians). The second half of the equation were key individuals in the Deaf community and deaf mental health services arena. Both "halves of the equation" needed to learn much more about the other for effective service planning to occur. Through utilization of the nominal group technique during a two day conference, this learning occurred and consensus was reached on a complex action plan that considered both the impact and the likelihood of removing 87 "barriers" that the participants identified as impeding service access and quality of care.

***Population affected***

Deaf individuals in Rochester, NY, which has the highest per capita population of deaf people in the world.

***Research approach***

First, a goal statement was drafted by the steering committee and edited until there was unanimous approval. This statement envisioned equity in access and quality of care for deaf people, in contrast to the state of public mental health services available to hearing people. Then, 87 "barrier statements" were identified that currently impeded the realization of the goal statement. At the two-day conference, the nominal group technique was employed to foster discussion between the "two halves of the equation" until the participants reached consensus on ranking each barrier statement in terms of "impact" of its removal (on achieving the goal statement) and "likelihood" of the barriers' removal. This resulted in a matrix where each barrier statement had been ranked by impact and likelihood, which yielded an educated and consensus-supported action plan for post-conference follow-up activity. The planning, conduct, and outcomes of the conference are reported in detail in Pollard, R. Q (1995). Mental health services and the deaf population: A regional consensus planning approach [Special issue]. Journal of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association, 28 (3), 1-47.

***Other project activities***

A variety of follow-up activities resulted from the impact-likelihood matrix that the conference yielded.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Pollard, R. Q (1995). Mental health services and the deaf population: A regional consensus planning approach [Special issue]. Journal of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association, 28 (3), 1-47.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

Robert Pollard, Ph.D., (University of Rochester Medical Center, Deaf Wellness Center) and a steering committee of 21 other individuals.

**Key words:** deaf, mental health, nominal group technique, consensus planning, public mental health, sign language, interpreters, interpretation, mental illness

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## Project Title: Messengers for Health

**Project URL:** <http://www.montana.edu/messengers/>

### Project Purpose or Mission

Messengers for Health, a community-based participatory project based on the Apsáalooke (Crow Indian) reservation, utilizes a lay health advisor approach to decrease cervical cancer screening barriers, increase knowledge regarding screening and prevention, and increase the proportion of women receiving Pap tests among Apsáalooke women.

### Project Partners

Lead organization: *Montana State University*  
*Crow/ Northern Cheyenne Indian Health Services*  
*Crow Indian Community*

**Funding Source(s):** American Cancer Society

**Project Start Date:** July 2001

**Project End Date:** July 2005

### Description of Project

#### *Aims and desired outcomes*

- Increase Crow women's awareness of cervical health including knowledge of risk factors and prevention of cervical cancer, the Pap test and pelvic exam, and cervical cancer treatment.
- Increase the proportion of women who receive annual Pap tests.
- To support Messengers with their work. We hope for the Messengers to: (1) become empowered, motivated, and willing to meet the challenge of encouraging women to be healthier and to do this using a compassionate manner, (2) be committed to break through barriers and to continuously help women as a natural part of their daily lives, and (3) feel free to take the liberty to educate in the manner they feel will bring the best result.

#### *Population affected*

Women living on the Crow Indian reservation

#### *Research approach*

Messengers for Health will look at changes that occur over the four years of the project. We will review information including changes in knowledge about cervical health and changes in the number of women who receive Pap tests that occur over the length of the program. We will also look at information on: experiences with and beliefs about cancer causes and cures, experiences with health care providers both within and outside of IHS, and barriers/customs around health and cancer. We will examine this knowledge and experience in 100 Crow women. These women were interviewed in 2002 and will be given another interview in 2005. This will show us changes before and after our program is conducted. These two sets of interviews will be looked at for differences in knowledge of Pap tests, of the way to obtain Pap tests, of the recommended frequency of Pap tests, and of benefits of regular cervical health screening. We will review differences in the proportion of women with knowledge of

cervical cancer risk factors and the proportion of women with knowledge of cervical cancer treatment options. We will also look to see if a greater proportion of women are getting Pap tests. The information gathered from the survey is being used to better target our outreach efforts.

***Other project activities***

Educational outreach with teenagers

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

A partnership between the Crow community and the Messengers for Health staff (based at Montana State University) has existed in all phases of the project.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Christopher, S. (2005). Recommendations for conducting successful research with Native Americans. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 20(1 Suppl), 47-51.

Christopher, S., Smith, A., & A. K. H. G. M. (2005). Participatory Development of a Cervical Health Brochure for Apsaalooke Women. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 20(3), 173-176.

Christopher, S., McCormick, A. K. H. G., Smith, A., & Christopher, J. C. (2005). Development of an Interviewer Training Manual for a Cervical Health Project on the Apsaalooke Reservation. *Health Promotion Practice*, 6(4), 414-422.

Smith, A., Christopher, S., & McCormick, A. K. H. G. (2004). Development and Implementation of a Culturally Sensitive Cervical Health Survey: A Community-Based Participatory Approach. *Women & Health*, 40(2), 67-86.

Smith, A.J., Woodward, J.R., LaFromboise, V., Christopher, S., & Knows His Gun McCormick, A. (2004). *Patient Satisfaction-What Apsaalooke Women want during Pap Screening*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

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## **Project Title: Microbicide Acceptability for HIV/STD Prevention Among Female Sex Workers in Southern China**

**Project URL:** <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/programs/china.htm>

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

To examine the level of preparedness among female sex workers in Southern China for using vaginal microbicides for HIV/STD prevention, the factors that affect their willingness to try or adopt such methods, and their reasons for choosing among alternative approaches to reducing STDs including HIV.

### **Project Partners**

Margaret Weeks, Ph.D.                      Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT  
Susu Liao, MD, Ph.D.                      Department of Epidemiology, Peking Union Medical College (PUMC), Beijing, China  
Staff from                                      CDC (Anti-epidemic Station) of Hainan and Guangxi at the provincial, county and township levels.

### **Funding Source(s):**

Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award for HIV/AIDS (AIDS-FIRCA)

**Project Start Date: 5/15/2003**

**Project End Date: 4/30/2006**

### **Description of Project**

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

- To examine readiness for and acceptability of vaginal microbicides for HIV/STI prevention among Chinese female sex workers in three southern Chinese rural and semi-urban towns
- Identify contextual factors in the southern Chinese setting that affect acceptability of microbicides, including ethnic/cultural beliefs, peer norms, personal risk context (prostitution, migration, abusive partners), economic conditions, social settings, partners and partner relationships, and concern for reproduction
- Assess conditions under which high-risk Chinese female sex workers will be willing and/or able to use a vaginal microbicide (in a gel form) for HIV prevention during their regular sexual activity with their primary, paying and/or other sex partners
- Establish an international research collaboration, infrastructure, and foundation for conducting a larger study of microbicide acceptability or to study other women-initiated options (such as the female condom) for HIV/STD prevention among female sex workers in southern China.

#### ***Population affected***

The target population included 420 female sex workers (140 from each of three study sites), who were 80% Han Chinese and 20% minority ethnic groups (especially Li).

### ***Research approach and findings***

We used a combination of qualitative (elicitation techniques, semi-structured interviews) and quantitative (pile sorting, survey) methods to assess microbicide readiness and acceptability in the target populations. Preliminary findings from the ethnographic component revealed that women in the study indicated significant knowledge of contraception and HIV/STD prevention methods, including male condoms. However, they also indicated significant misconceptions about effective prevention approaches, placing heavy emphasis on douching and regular use of antibiotics for prevention. Many women said they insist on condoms every time with clients, but they encounter many difficulties ensuring consistent condom use, resulting in much exposure to risk. Many women reported douching as a method to prevent HIV/STD and pregnancy. Frequent douching may have the opposite outcome by reducing the natural protections in the vagina. Ethnic differences in concepts of prevention methods were significant, suggesting the need to tailor prevention messages to different ethnic groups and address specific areas of misinformation for each. Many women reported learning about prevention from the “boss” of the establishment or other “sisters” who work there. This indicates the promise of working within the establishments to develop supportive prevention interventions. Findings from the survey confirm the ethnographic indications that women are overusing douches and antibiotic suppositories and shots for STI and HIV prevention. Regression analyses indicated that women who had had more unprotected sex in the prior 30 days also found the concept of microbicides to be more acceptable, but women who used condoms more regularly had lower microbicide acceptability scores.

### ***Other project activities***

As part of the research collaboration, ICR and PUMC researchers conducted training in basic research methods, including sampling and recruitment techniques and elicitation and survey interviewing, with provincial and county-level CDC staff and local health workers (township hospital nurses, community health educators, etc.) so they could contribute these activities to implementing the study. This created significant buy-in of local prevention workers and built capacity of the local CDCs to collect systematic information on HIV/STI risk and prevention efforts among women sex workers in these towns.

### ***Utility of partnership for the approach***

This project is funded by a Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award for HIV/AIDS (AIDS FIRCA), an award specifically designed to establish international research collaborations. In addition to establishing new relationships, the study continues to build on the existing partnership between the US and Chinese investigators and between the investigators and local health promotion staff, that was established in prior research. The purpose of this partnership is to gain access to the populations of women sex workers and establish a foundation for further study, development of STD/HIV prevention interventions, and further research collaborations. A significant aspect of this project was the transfer and sharing of technologies and research methodologies among the international (American and Chinese) team of research collaborators, and from the research institutes in the U.S. and China to the local partner organizations in each of the study sites. The technology transfer to the local study sites is important because most of the local staff involved in the project are from health agencies, who have received only medical and public health training, with little training in research, and particularly qualitative research, methods.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Weeks, M.R., Liao, S., Abbott, M., He, B., Zhou, Y., Jiang, J., Wei, L., Yu, W. (2005). Opportunities for Woman-Initiated HIV Prevention Methods among Female Sex Workers in Southern China. Report delivered to the Hainan Center for Disease Control, Haikou, Hainan, China. (April).

Weeks, M.R., Liao, S., Abbott, M., He, B., Zhou, Y., Jiang, J., Wei, L., Yu, W. (under review). Opportunities for Woman-Initiated HIV Prevention Methods among Female Sex Workers in Southern China. Journal of Sex Research.

Abbott, M., Weeks, M.R., Liao, S. (2006). Microbicide Acceptability Among Southern Chinese Sex Workers: Cultural Meanings in HIV Prevention Options. Presented at the Microbicides 2006 International Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (April).

Weeks, MR., Abbott, M., Liao, S.S., Wang, Y., Zhou, Y.J., He, B., Liu, W. (2006). Microbicide Readiness in Southern Chinese Sex Workers: Cultural Meanings of HIV Prevention Options. Poster presented at the International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada (August).

Liao, S., Yu, W., Jiang, J., Weeks, M., Abbott, M. (2006) Microbicide Acceptability Among Southern Chinese Sex Workers: Behavioral and Attitudinal Survey Results. Poster presented at the Microbicides 2006 International Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (April), and at the International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada (August).

**Key Researchers/Project Staff:**

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Bin He, CDC (Anti-epidemic Station) of Hainan and Guangxi  
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**Key words:** AIDS risk and prevention, international, China, women, sex workers, microbicides

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**Project Title: Partners Reducing Effects of Diabetes:  
Initiatives through Collaboration and Teamwork (PREDICT)**

**Project URL:** [www.yalegriffinprc.org](http://www.yalegriffinprc.org)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

To develop, through community collaboration and consensus, sustainable policies, programs, and practices that reduce diabetes-related health disparities in African Americans residing in New Haven and Bridgeport.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center*: Facilitator of community-academic partnership

*Yale School of Nursing*: Member of Community Partnership Team and provides technical assistance

*SPARC*: Member of Community Partnership Team and provides technical assistance

Community Partnership Team in New Haven:

*Community Action Agency of New Haven*

*New Haven Family Alliance*

*Visiting Nurse Association*

*NAACP*

*Varick AME Zion Church*

*Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church*

*Bethel AME Zion Church*

*Wayfaring Ministries*

*Macedonia Church*

*Church of God and Christ*

*Powerhouse Church*

*Mt. Bethel Church*

*Christ Chapel Church*

Community Partnership Team in Bridgeport:

*ABCD Community Action Agency*

*Southwest Community Health Center*

*Bridgeport Community Health Center*

**Funding Source(s)**

Connecticut Health Foundation (CHF) – private foundation.

**Project Start Date:** January 2003

**Project End Date:** December 2005

## Description of Project

### *Aims and desired outcomes*

Reduce the burden of diabetes among African Americans in New Haven and Bridgeport through sustainable community-driven initiatives.

### *Population affected*

African Americans at risk and diagnosed with diabetes in New Haven and Bridgeport.

### *Research approach*

Community-based participatory research approach. Assessments included focus groups; environmental audit of food establishments, grocery stores, and local places to engage in physical activity. Community partnership teams of local residents and service organizations participate in project design and evaluation. Churches in the Dixwell and Newhallville neighborhoods serve as the intervention group. Bridgeport will serve as the control group and receive a delayed intervention. Desired outcomes include: changes in diabetes knowledge, dietary habits, physical activity patterns, social support, and body mass index (BMI).

### *Other project activities*

Community Health Advisor (CHA) training in collaboration with churches; and community outreach events including health fairs, cooking demonstrations, and trips to grocery stores.

### *Utility of partnership for the approach:*

Open communication and shared decision making through community participation will foster effective and sustainable locally driven interventions that reduce the burden of diabetes.

## Key Project Publications/Materials

None, project in progress.

## Key Researchers/Project Staff

**David L. Katz, MD, MPH, FACP, FACPM**, Principal Investigator

Director, Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center

**Doug Shenson, MD, MPH**, Co-Investigator

Assistant Director of Clinical Research, Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center

**Kari Hartwig, DrPH**, Co-Investigator

Assistant Director of Community Research, Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center

**Gail Melkus, RN, EdD**, Co-Investigator

Associate Professor, Yale School of Nursing

**Georgia Jennings, MPH**, Project Manager

Deputy Director, Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center

**Maurice Williams**, Project Outreach Coordinator

Community Outreach Coordinator, Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center

**Key words:** community-based participatory research, diabetes, health disparities, faith-based initiative

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## **Project Title: REACH 2010 Biannual Community Survey**

**Project URL:** <http://www.reach2010charlottenc.org>

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

To conduct a biannual door-to-door survey in a targeted community to monitor health behavior using community residents as interviewers.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *Carolinas Community Health Institute (CCHI)* sponsors the survey and contracts with the other partners.

*Dickson Institute for Health Studies* along with the PI for the project, designed the methodology for data collection, developed the survey tool and provides extensive survey analysis.

*University of North Carolina at Charlotte Urban Institute* supervises the survey teams, hires the interviewers, does the data entry and provides quality assurance for the survey's activities.

*The Urban Institute* provides a report on the findings.

*Residents of the community where the survey is conducted* serve as paid interviewers.

*The Charlotte 2010 Coalition* provides community input to the survey process, wording of the survey questions, recruiting of interviewers, publicizing the survey, and participation in analysis of findings.

### **Funding Source(s)**

Public-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**Project Start Date: Summer 2000**

**Project End Date: Summer 2007**

The survey is conducted during the summer of every even numbered year.

### **Description of Project**

REACH 2010 is a federal initiative through which health disparities are being addressed using non-traditional health education strategies to encourage healthy behavior. In order to monitor health behavior of residents in the Charlotte REACH 2010 target neighborhoods a community survey is conducted every other year.

#### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

- Monitor change in health behavior of residents in a targeted community.
- Give back to the targeted community by hiring community residents as interviewers and enhance their knowledge and skills in the assessment and evaluation process. The process requires having 20 part-time resident interviewers during the survey timeframe.
- The goal is to complete 500 surveys by the end of the summer.

#### ***Population affected***

Residents in a geographically-defined area of Charlotte, NC referred to as the Northwest Corridor (NWC). Residences of the area are predominantly African Americans.

#### ***Research approach***

Tax and public housing records are geocoded and households in a geographically defined area of Charlotte, NC (NWC) are identified and randomly selected for participation in the survey. The survey is a combination of questions from the CDC's Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and instruments that measure stages of change, self-efficacy, and food frequency. The survey has 76 questions and takes about 18 minutes to complete. The survey is promoted through local neighborhood newsletters and neighborhood association meetings. NWC residents are recruited and trained to serve as interviewers for the survey. Interviewers are paired for safety resulting in ten teams. Interviewers wear a picture ID badge indicating their name and a telephone number to call with questions. Weekly meetings are conducted where completed surveys are turned in and the next batch of surveys is distributed, field problems are discussed and time sheets are submitted. Surveys are batched by close proximity addresses to avoid travel time loss. A letter signed by a local well-known community resident is sent to the selected address a week in advance telling them about the survey. The community police are advised that the interviewers are working in their area.

During the first two weeks of surveying all participants are called to verify the interview and screen for problems. After the initial two weeks surveys are randomly selected for the verifying telephone call.

#### ***Other project activities***

The REACH 2010 Coalition participates in developing and monitoring the intervention established to promote health behavior.

#### ***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The survey process is complex and multifaceted. Each partner brings valuable knowledge and expertise to address an aspect of the process rendering the survey possible.

- CCHI maintains the contracts of the partners and handles the financial consideration of the survey. This includes payment of the interviewers, the Urban Institute, the Dickson Institute, and the vendors for the appreciation gifts.
- The Urban Institute has more than twenty years of sound research experience including survey work, analysis and report writing. They have the staff available to supervise the data collection being done in the field.
- Staff at the Dickson Institute has been involved with the survey since the process was first initiated in 2000. The Dickson Institute is the lead agency evaluating the Charlotte REACH 2010 interventions and activities. Along with the PI for the project, the Dickson Institute staff developed the survey, wrote the protocol and obtained IRB approval for the research.
- We feel that by using residents as paid interviewers we are putting resources into the community and enhancing the skills and knowledge-base of residents. The residents also assist logistically to survey process since they are more likely to be aware of street names and location of addresses. We also believe the participation rate is better by using residents as interviewers due to the sharing of cultural norms and community affiliation.
- The Charlotte 2010 Coalition is a sounding board for the survey content, process and interpretation of findings. The community members participate in recruiting of interviewers, publicizing the survey and encouraging neighbors to participate if their household was selected.

#### **Key Project Publications/Materials**

Plescia, M., & Groblewski, M. (2004). A community-oriented primary care demonstration project: Refining interventions for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. *Annals of Family Medicine*, 2(2), 103-109.

#### **Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Marcus Plescia, MD, MPH (PI)

Dennis Joyner, MPH (Co-PI)

Martha Groblewski, Ph.D., MPH, MS

LaTonya Chavis, MS

**Key words:** survey research, survey methods, participatory research, coalitions, community, healthy life styles

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**Project Title: Shake It Up!: Health Promotion and Capacity Building  
for Persons with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and  
Other Neuromuscular Disabilities**

**Project URL:** <http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/shtm/project/team.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

Project Shake-It-Up promotes the health and empowerment of people with physical disabilities such as spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis. It also builds the capacity of community organizations that provide services to this population.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead Organization: Brown University

*The Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University* is the ‘hub’ of project administration. Office space, meeting space, computing, copying, telephone, fax, budget maintenance and any additional consulting is provided by Brown University. The Brown University Athletic Complex was used for various program activities.

*The National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD)* is housed at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Researchers at NCPAD provided support for project development, implementation and data analysis.

*PARI Center for Independent Living (Collaborating Community Organization):*

PARI, a local center for independent living, provided the following components: case coordination and capacity building for independent living, consulting, participant recruitment, and development, implementation, and evaluation of project activities.

*Shake-A-Leg, Inc. (Collaborating Community Organization):*

Shake-A-Leg is a local non-profit organization that offers recreation and rehabilitation programs for individuals with neurological disabilities. Shake-A-Leg provided the following components: physical and recreational instructional activities, consulting, project development, implementation and evaluation.

*Access 2 Adventure (Collaborating Community Organization):*

Access 2 Adventure (A2A) is a new community non-profit that developed out of Project Shake-It-Up. The mission of A2A is to provide sports and recreation activities and education for people with physical disabilities.

**Funding Source(s)**

United States Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, CFDA Program 84.133, PR/Award No: H133G010094

**Project Start Date:** 01/01/02

**Project End Date:** 12/31/04

## Description of Project

### *Aims and desired outcomes*

People with disabilities are likely to confront structural and attitudinal barriers in every aspect of society, including employment, housing, and relationships. Existing research suggests that a holistic approach to the multiple challenges faced by people with disabilities will be more successful than an approach that focuses only on one or two specific issues. Thus, we recommend an approach that utilizes case coordination and collaboration with local service providers in promoting the empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Skills training coupled with individualized holistic support in achieving stability and self-efficacy in major life areas is likely to promote sustainable, positive results that generalize to other life domains. Built on this philosophy, Project Shake-It-Up is a three-year research intervention to increase health promotion and empowerment for individuals with spinal cord injury and related neurological disabilities who live in Rhode Island. The Brown University-based project incorporates capacity-building strategies for independent living and self-advocacy coupled with health education, physical activity, and recreation. Project Shake-It-Up provides peer-support and mentoring complemented by individualized case coordination to assist participants in developing life strategies and positive coping skills that promote and encourage healthy choices. We seek to determine if participation in this program will result in increased health, independence, and self-efficacy.

### *Population affected*

Adults with spinal cord injury (SCI) and related neuromuscular disabilities (e.g. multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, stroke and spina bifida)

### *Research approach*

**METHODS:** Participants work with health-care providers in interactive seminars on health and advocacy such as nutrition and assertiveness. They also participate in physical and recreational activities such as sea kayaking, kite flying and hand cycling. Case coordinators support their project participation and personal goal attainment. **RESULTS:** Data analysis is not yet complete but preliminary results suggest that collaboration between community disability organizations and university researchers is a strong mechanism for building a supportive network. Preliminary findings from the first cohort suggest that the Shake-It-Up program is beneficial to the participants who are socially isolated and rarely get the opportunity to participate in such a dynamic program with their peers. Individual members of the first cohort supported one another and benefited physically and psychologically. All of the study participants requested that Shake-It-Up become a permanent program offered on a monthly basis. A number of the participants indicated that they wanted to initiate individual and group activities following their participation in the project.

### *Other project activities*

The project also focused on capacity-building at the organizational level, building the capacity of local disability organizations to engage in research collaborations and initiate programs for empowerment, health promotion, recreation and physical activity.

### *Utility of partnership for the approach*

Project Shake-It-Up has been a collaborative effort between university researchers and three community non-profit organizations that support people with disabilities. Physical and recreational activities have been provided by Shake-A-Leg, Inc. and Access2Adventure, two local recreation and rehabilitation programs for individuals with paralysis. Case coordination and capacity building for independent living have been provided by PARI, Inc., a local independent living resource center for people with disabilities. Overall project coordination, education for health promotion and prevention of alcohol and substance abuse are provided by research faculty and staff from Brown University, Stony Brook University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Key Project Publications/Materials:** Not yet available

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Pamela Block, Ph.D., Co-PI (Formerly PI)  
Sarah Everhart Skeels, MPH, Co-PI and Project Director  
Paul Choquette, MA, Collaborator  
Erin Bean, CTRS, Collaborator  
Christopher B. Keys, Ph.D., Co-Investigator  
James Rimmer, Ph.D., Senior Consultant (Formerly Co-PI)

**Key words:** disability, rehabilitation research, spinal cord injury, health promotion, self-advocacy, adaptive recreation, independent living, capacity-building

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**Project Title: Tepeyac Project: A Community-Based Approach to Increasing Breast Cancer Screening among Latinas**

**Project URL:** [http://www.cfmc.org/professionals/pro\\_tepeyac.htm](http://www.cfmc.org/professionals/pro_tepeyac.htm)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

To increase breast cancer screening utilization among Latinas

## **Project Partners and their Roles**

### **Lead Organizations**

*Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC)*: CFMC received funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to develop the project. CFMC houses the project manager, designer and data health analysts involved in the project.

*Division of Health Care Policy & Research at the University of Colorado*: Angela Sauaia, MD, PhD, project Principal Investigator, designed and leads the project.

*Clinica Tepeyac*: this community-based organization coordinates the peer-counselor component of the Project and is the main liaison with the community.

### **Other organizations**

*Catholic Archdioceses*, their Hispanic Ministries and Catholic Churches of Colorado: the churches are the sites where interventions occur, they provide the safe, trusting, credible, and convenient environment to promote health education among Latinas.

*Department of Psychology at Colorado State University*: Dr. Evelinn Borrayo is responsible for the qualitative analysis of the project.

*Kaiser Permanente of Colorado, Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield, United Health Care*: these organizations provided feedback in the development of the interventions and also provided mammogram claims data for the evaluation of the project effect.

*Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing*: provided Medicaid data for the evaluation of the intervention effect.

*Colorado Women Cancer Control Initiative* (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment): this CDC funded service provided free mammogram for qualifying women, mammogram referrals and navigation through a toll-free phone line.

## **Funding Source(s)**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Division of Health Care Policy and Research

**Project Start Date:** August 1999

**Project End Date:** July 2005

## **Description of Project**

### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

To reduce disparities in breast cancer screening between Latinas and non-Latinas

### ***Population affected***

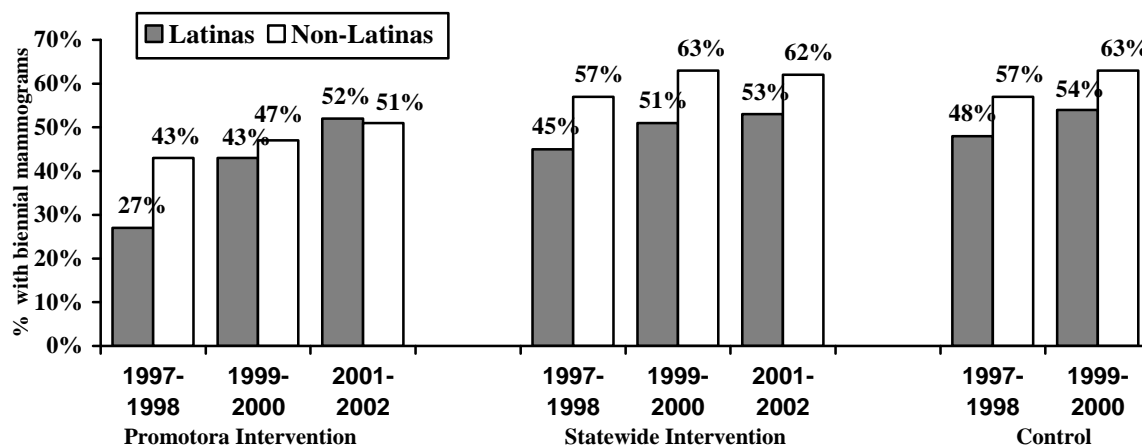
Latinas in Colorado

### ***Research approach***

In the Phase I of the project (1999-2002), 150 churches across Colorado displayed educational materials and published messages in their bulletins while 4 churches in Denver

received, in addition, visits by Promotoras (peer-counselors) who educated women during church-related events. The intervention effect was evaluated by examining breast cancer screening rates derived from claims data from Medicare (40% of breast cancer screening eligible Latinas), Medicaid (6% of BCS eligible Latinas) and three HMOs (30% of BCS eligible Latinas). The Promotora intervention resulted in a dramatic increase in breast cancer screening rates among Latinas enrolled in Medicare, as shown in the figure. In fact, in the area exposed to the Promotora intervention the disparity between Latinas and non-Latinas enrolled in Medicare was virtually eliminated. A generalized estimating equations (GEE) analysis showed that, even after adjustment for confounders and differences in baseline rates, only the Promotora intervention was associated with a significant reduction in the BCS disparity between the two ethnic groups. In Phase II (2002-2005), 2 additional churches were included in the Enhanced Intervention and 183 (80%) churches are actively participating in the Statewide Intervention (20% increase from Phase I). In addition, five additional communities across Colorado had volunteers trained by Project staff to become Promotoras and start health promotion projects in their communities. Phase II results are pending.

Medicare Biennial Mammogram Rates



### *Other project activities*

Dissemination of the project methods and results throughout the state and the nation; forged collaborations between numerous other community and scientific organizations

### *Utility of partnership for the approach*

By engaging community-based organizations and churches in an equitable partnership with academic researchers we were able to gain the trust of the community, a crucial step in approaching and educating Latinas about health issues. The church is a trusted messenger and a convenient location where Latinas of all backgrounds gather.

### **Key Project Publications/Materials**

Welsh, A. L., Sauaia, A., Jacobellis, J., Min, S. J., & Byers, T. (2005). The effect of two church-based interventions on breast cancer screening rates among Medicaid-insured Latinas. *Prev Chronic Dis*, 2(4), 1-11.

The project has been presented at the National Hispanic Medical Association 2004 meeting and in several other national and regional meetings. All educational materials are available at the project website mentioned above.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Angela Sauaia, MD, PhD, a Latina herself, is the Principal Investigator who designed and leads the project

Christine Dauchot is the Project Manager at CFMC

Rosanna Reyes is the Executive Director at Clinica Tepeyac

Cecilia Apodaca coordinates the peer-counselor component at Clinica Tepeyac

**Key words:** health disparities, breast cancer, screening, Latinas, church-based intervention

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**Project Title: V.I.P.: Vaccinate Against Influenza Prevention**

**Project URL:** <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/research/programvip2.htm>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

This project addresses disparities in influenza vaccination rates among African Americans, Latinos and other minority older adults where rates continue to be significantly lower than the general population. The project will study through formative research, the myths, misunderstandings and fears associated with reluctance to obtain flu vaccinations. Guided by social science theories of persuasion and social influence, the project will build sustainable public health/prevention committees in low-income senior housing that will develop and implement a flu campaign that consists of building wide pro-vaccination events, and an individualized peer motivational educational campaign. The efficacy of the intervention will be evaluated using a quasi-experimental design, and pre and post intervention surveys in intervention and matched comparison buildings.

**Project Partners**

The *Institute for Community Research* and the *University of Connecticut Health Center, Center on Aging* are the lead organizations. Partners included the *University of Connecticut Health*

Center Center for Immunotherapy of Cancer and Infectious Diseases and, the Greater Hartford Visiting Nurses Association, the North Central Area Agency on Aging, and the Hartford Housing Authority. The project is supported by an advisory committee made up of representatives of organizations that have expertise in influenza, and older adults.

**Funding Source(s)**

Institute for Community Research and the Centers for Disease Control through the University of Connecticut Health Center.

**Project Start Date: September 1, 2005**

**Project End Date: Aug 31, 2006**

**Description of Project**

*Aims and desired outcomes*

- Identify through qualitative research specific local communications-related barriers to vaccine acceptance among older low income, ethnically diverse residents in senior housing facilities (Months 1 – 4). Using in-depth interviews, focused group interviews and elicitation techniques:
  - Identify among older minority adult residents of senior housing, local knowledge levels, beliefs, attitudes, and misinformation related to facilitating or impeding decisions to obtain influenza vaccination
  - Identify building level organizational capacity to conduct vaccine campaigns, advocacy and network based diffusion of information
  - Integrate materials into existing VIP program training manual and protocols.
  - Integrate the results of this research into an already-developed empowerment based peer-led approach to improving flu vaccination uptake based on theories of empowerment, social influence and self-regulation (Months 4-8).
  - Establish and train building based public health committees in intervention buildings.
  - Assist committees to establish building-specific interactional campaigns built on principles of social influence through role modeling and motivational education.
  - Train and evaluate committee members as Vaccine Improvement Program (VIP) agents using an adapted motivational educational approach to promote active pro-vaccine decision making among vulnerable unvaccinated residents.
  - Implement full intervention in intervention building October, 2005 through February, 2006.
  - Test the efficacy of the intervention in treatment against matched control building. Results will be assessed with the following indicators:
    - Increased pro-vaccine knowledge, vaccine-positive beliefs, self-efficacy and intention to vaccinate
    - Reported influenza vaccination rate at recommended 90% in treatment buildings.
    - Collect self-report surveillance data to determine presence and consequences of fu in intervention building
- Finalize and manualize the intervention for scaling up.

***Population affected***

Older low income adults of diverse ethnic backgrounds, aged 60 and older, and younger adults between the ages of 35 and 60, with a variety of disabilities; the service personnel and managers in residential buildings.

***Research approach***

Qualitative research (indepth interviews and focus groups) assessing understandings of influenza, and reasons for flu vaccination decision making; Outcome survey to be administered prior to the intervention, and following the intervention at the end of flu season assessing influenza knowledge, beliefs and attitudes, norms, prior experience with vaccination, intent to vaccinate, decisions regarding vaccination in current and prior years, and exposure to the intervention activities. Intervention activities include research/intervention staff entry into building(s), meetings with resident committees, recruitment into public health committee, training committee members to develop a flu campaign and to conduct motivational education; motivational education with resident peers and information collection on components of intervention delivered to each resident (by delivery, without names of recipients); influenza clinics administered by the Visiting Nurse's Association.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The partnership requires all partners to enter the community (Hartford Housing Authority) conduct qualitative and survey research (ICR), conduct influenza education (UCHC), conduct behavioral intervention (ICR and UCHC), provide influenza vaccinations (VNA) and fill in gaps with advocacy or additional financing to ensure maximum support for vaccinations across the age spectrum (NCAAA).

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

This project is quite new. Products include:

Schensul, J. J., Radda, K., & Vasquez, E. (2006). *The Vaccinate for Influenza Prevention (V.I.P.) Intervention Training Manual*. Hartford: Institute for Community Research.

Pilot report summarizing the approach, and feasibility and acceptability data.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Jean J. Schensul, Ph.D., ICR, Principal Investigator, feasibility pilot; Co-PI, one-year pilot study  
Janet McElhaney, M.D., UCHC, Principal Investigator, one year pilot study.

Kim Radda, RN, ABD. Co-Investigator, and Project Director, feasibility pilot and one year pilot study

Rita Jepson, M.D., Postdoctoral resident, provision of influenza education.

William Disch, Ph.D., Survey/outcome data analysis

Ken Williamson, Ph.D., Interventionist

Elsie Vazquez, B.A., Interventionist

**Key words:** influenza prevention, health disparities, older adults, African American, Latino

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**Project Title: Academy for Community Schools Development (ACSD)**

**Project URL:** [http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/support\\_community/acyd.html](http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/support_community/acyd.html)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

ACSD engages two Bay Area communities, Redwood City and the San Mateo County Mid-Coast, in a 3-year collaboration to develop effective and sustainable community schools. We describe community schools as K-12 public schools that combine the rigorous academics associated with high quality instructional environments with a wide range of vital in-house services, supports and opportunities that promote children’s learning and development. Supports range from medical and mental health services to extended day and weekend activities, such as sports, homework assistance centers and computer enrichment clubs.

These community schools will then unite the most important influences in children’s lives, school, family and community, to ensure that the students have a range of supports and opportunities as they develop into vital members of their community.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

Lead organization: *John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities.*

*Redwood City 2020* is a funding and operations collaborative comprised of community stakeholders representing city, county, school, non-profit and other community-based groups.

One community setting of the project is *Redwood City School District*, including Kennedy Middle School, Taft Elementary School, Hoover K-8, and Fair Oakes Elementary School.

*The Coastside Collaborative for Children Youth and Families* is a community based non-profit collaborative in the San Mateo Mid-Coast Community.

The project also works in *Cabrillo Unified School District*, including Cunha Intermediate School.

*Stanford University School of Education* conducts research and training for the project.

Other partners include the *California Center for Community-School Partnerships at UC Davis* and *The Children’s Aid Society* in New York, NY.

**Funding Source(s):** multiple

**Project Start Date:** Summer 2003

**Project End Date:** Summer 2006

**Description of Project**

***Aims and desired outcomes***

The JGC seeks to work with Redwood City and the San Mateo County Mid-Coast over a three-year period to develop and begin to implement a strategic action plan that seeks to transform local schools into “Community Schools.” This plan will include:

- A vision for the “Community School” that is developed based on the individual needs and desires of the partner community and is built upon the involvement of diverse community representation
- A list of desired outcomes and indicators for school-aged youth in the community;
- A set of baseline data for key indicators
- An action plan to implement community-specific strategies aimed to achieve the stated vision and built on the involvement of all necessary partners
- A set of performance measures for each strategy that allows the community to measure its progress toward implementing its plan and achieving its desired outcomes
- A system for tracking community progress on results, key indicators, and performance measures

***Population affected***

Students, Families, Staff and Community members associated with two K-5 schools, one K-8 school and one 6-8 school. The participants are of mixed income, age, ethnic origin and generation.

***Research approach***

The ACSO research model looks in detail at how the shared leadership within communities works through community school development features to enhance community capacity for community youth development. We are concerned with three levels of activity and are employing a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies with short term and longitudinal parameters. Community Partnership Principles: The Gardner Center recognizes that guiding principles for the establishment and sound practices for strengthening and maintaining authentic community partnerships are necessary if that partnership is to thrive and positively benefit young people and their communities. The following principles and practices serve as operational guidelines for partnership activity that concerns and involves young people, whole communities, the Gardner Center and the field of Community Youth Development. JGC-Community Partnerships: share a common goal; establish and maintain dynamic relationships involving the whole community and the associated university; subscribe to a strength-based view of youth and their communities; support the organic co-development of projects and work to be welcoming, honest, critical and challenging; recognize each other’s expertise and contributions and share responsibility and resources for partnership activities and demonstrate understanding and respect for each other’s work; promote an emphasis on research *and* practice; and demonstrate a culturally responsive approach to collaboration. The initiative is in its first year and there are no publishable results. Project outcomes will be measured by:

- The communities’ ability to implement community strategies to enhance supports and opportunities for youth
- School site and community programs that exhibit features of positive developmental settings
- Individual personal and social outcomes that facilitate positive youth development in physical, emotional/psychological, intellectual, social domains.

***Other project activities***

To achieve these results, ACSD will bring together leadership teams from each of the JGC's partner communities for quarterly, one-day academy sessions. Each session will include:

- Plenary and workshop sessions in content areas of interest such as youth development, building a community school, redesigning schools;
- Community partner team time geared toward creating a strategic plan for community schools specific to their community;
- Peer-to-peer sharing and support.

In addition, community leadership teams are expected to convene at least once between each academy session. These community-specific convenings will focus on moving the work forward in each community and at each school.

The JGC will make arrangements for each community to have a dedicated community liaison, who will be a member of the JGC staff and will have a long-term working relationship with the community. Each community will also be asked to identify a lead member whose responsibility will include working closely with JGC's community liaison. Together, these individuals will participate with the respective leadership teams during the community partner team time, and will help the leadership team facilitate the work that will be required between academy sessions to ensure broad community support of the decisions and recommendations made during each academy session. The JGC's community liaison will also support local capacity building efforts to ensure that the community is poised to effectively implement its plan.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

ACSD brings together leadership teams from each community for quarterly academy sessions geared toward planning, implementation, and sharing lessons in building community schools. Throughout the process and between sessions, a team of Gardner Center staff members, affiliated faculty, and graduate students will support participating communities with expertise in community youth development research, practice, and policy, as well as collaborative partners from leading organizations in the area of community schools. Stakeholders of existing community schools will also be invited to share lessons, pose questions, and provide resources and tools to the ACSD participants.

Although the majority of the goals and outcomes will be specifically defined by each community, ACSD works toward developing an overall vision for the community school that is within the context of the partner community and is built upon the involvement of diverse community representation. The JGC research model looks in detail at how the shared leadership within communities works through community school development features to enhance community capacity for community youth development. Extensive research has found that community schools lead to: *Improved Learning and Achievement; Decreases in high-risk student behavior; Increases in family involvement; Safer and more connected communities.* The JGC hopes to add to the field of knowledge by bridging research around community capacity with the practice of developing community schools.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

No published materials as of August 2004. Visit the website for updates or e-mail contact for materials sharing.

[http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/sharing\\_what\\_works/jgc\\_pubs\\_and\\_tools.html](http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/sharing_what_works/jgc_pubs_and_tools.html)

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Milbrey McLaughlin, Executive Director and PI

Cheryl Zando, Director

Maria Fernandez and Michael Montoya, Community Partner Liaisons

Carla Roach and Hayin Kim, Graduate Research Assistants

**Key words:** community youth development; youth development; community schools; academic supports; after-school; extended day; academic achievement; support services; shared leadership; youth engagement; collaborative leadership; university-community partnerships

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**Project Title: Healthy Initiative Collaborative:  
Community University Partnership (Hic Cup)**

**Project URL:** [www.cpcs.umb.edu](http://www.cpcs.umb.edu)

**Project Purpose or Mission**

The purpose of this project is to facilitate a process whereby youth learn the skills to create social change and support the needs of young people. Low-income urban youth ages 9-16 living in a mixed income housing development come together to make a difference for youth in their community.

**Project Partners and their Roles**

*The College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts, Boston* uses a competency based approach to education with an experiential, social justice curriculum, and offers undergraduate students in Human Services, Community Planning, and Youth Work the opportunity to work with youth in an ongoing service learning class. The class allows students to learn by demonstrating competence in Working on a Youth Issue, Analyzing a Youth Issue and

Models of Practice with Youth. Some students build on this experience for their Capstone project.

Community partners include agencies at Harbor Point that either work with youth, or have an interest in promoting positive youth development.

The *Geiger Gibson Community Health Center* serves as an active member of the partnership by advocating the youth agenda, attending all meetings, recruiting youth, providing a location to meet, and providing their Senior Youth Worker Kevin Johnson as project liaison and community coordinator for the project.

*The Tenants Task Force* is active in attending partnership meetings, supplying a place for the youth to meet, advocating the youth agenda, supporting the youth activities, and bringing the youth perspective to the governing board for action.

*Housing Opportunities Unlimited (HOU)* is the social service agency for the residents. Their Senior Worker attends partnership meetings, includes HIC Cup staff in their provider meetings, coordinates activities and provides support.

*Walter Denney Youth Center* attends partnership meetings and provides space when needed, serves as a source of support and information.

*Youth at Harbor Point* lead the project.

*HOPE (the Hispanic Office for Planning and Evaluation)* provides resources, support and funding.

### **Funding Source**

University of Massachusetts, Boston: Public Service Endowment Grant; Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation (HOPE), Jamaica Plain, MA.

**Project Start Date:** February 2003

**Project End Date:** Ongoing

### **Description of Project**

Youth ages 9-16 come together to make a difference in their community and to promote positive youth development, understanding of youth, and to ensure that the youth voice is heard. Using social action and participatory action research (PAR), they have carried out research including thinking about the issues facing youth, documenting the problem, mapping the community, speaking to their peers, and surveying youth. Based on their research, they determined that there was a need for a basketball court. Since then, they have engaged in petitioning, fundraising, proposal writing, community meetings, and other activities in their quest to make a basketball court a reality.

***Aims and desired outcomes***

- Our primary aim is to facilitate a process where the youth become community researchers and change agents using social action and participatory action research. In addition, we seek:
- To promote positive youth development
- To promote youth leadership, empowerment and participation
- To engage in community building and to change the way the university interacts with its neighbors
- To provide a service-learning experience for undergraduate University students in which they apply social action and PAR in partnership with the youth
- To promote community based research, social change, and civic participation, and to promote the University's Urban Mission

***Population affected***

Low income urban youth ages 9-16 living in Harbor Point, a mixed income housing development next to the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

***Research approach***

The research approach is based on the five-step process of Social Action:

- What is the Problem?
- Why is it a problem (root causes emerge)?
- How can we address it?
- Action is carried out
- We reflect on the action

***Guiding Principles***

- Everyone has skills and understanding to help tackle the problems they face.
- Everyone has rights, including the right to be heard, to define the issues facing them, and to take action on their own behalf.
- People acting collectively can be powerful.
- Methods of working must be non-elitist, Social Action workers do not lead the group but enable members to make decisions for themselves and control outcomes.
- Policies and practices must reflect the understanding of complex social and economic factors.

*These Guidelines and the process come from the work of the Centre for Social Action, DeMonfort University, Leicester, UK (See [www.dmu.ac.uk/~dmucsa](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/~dmucsa))*

**Results:** We are continuing to work on creating a basketball court and now have a site. The youth will be continuing their work on this project. In addition:

- Two youth were asked to be representatives on the Tenants Task Force
- Friendships have emerged
- The youth and the students have learned skills in community research
- Understanding is being promoted
- The community is stronger as the groups come together to make change
- Young people have a voice
- They can use what they learn to keep making a difference
- Communication is enhanced

***Other project activities***

- We had a ski trip, bowling, and picnics
- We held a fundraiser
- Some members learned to stepdance
- We have had parties and recognition events
- Youth led tours for participants in a national conference on community university partnerships
- The youth participated in Good Neighbor Day (a university-community clean-up day)

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

The partnership has been the key to success for this approach.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

Campus Compact CD: This project is featured in, *Education for What? Learning Social Responsibility*. [www.campuscompact.org/pub](http://www.campuscompact.org/pub)

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Professor Joan Arches, PhD: College of Public and Community Service, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Kevin Johnson: Youth Work Coordinator and Family Life Specialist, Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, Dorchester, MA

**Key words:** diversity, social action, community development, youth development, undergraduate service learning and civic engagement, community-based research, participatory action research

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## **Project Title: Youth Action Research for Prevention (YARP)**

**Project URL:** <http://www.incommunityresearch.org/research/yarp.htm>

### **Project Purpose or Mission**

YARP is a 3-cohort Research and Demonstration project designed to formally evaluate and document the efficacy of using action research for risk prevention with youth. The Youth PAR model builds on over 16 years of experience and reflects ICR's commitment to conducting, supporting and promoting youth-led community-based participatory action research for risk prevention through education, personal growth, and the development of positive peer norms. It is based in social construction, empowerment, and social influence theories; cooperative learning and action research.

YARP Program components include: (a) the Summer Youth Research Institute (SYRI) designed to introduce participating youth to action research for prevention; (b) the year round program that enables youth to translate their prevention research results into interventions designed to promote positive peer norms; (c) adult staff mentorships; (d) educational/career counseling and mentoring; and (e) cultural exposure.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

The *Institute for Community Research* (lead organization) conducted the intervention and partnered in the design and conduct of the evaluation research.

*Gary J. Burkholder, Jr. Ph.D.*, Director, Faculty Chair For Student Success, Walden University – Evaluation Director- directed the evaluation component of the study.

*Youth Serving Agencies in Hartford, CT* provided access to youth they worked with through memoranda of understanding so that ICR youth researchers could collect data for their research projects.

*Youth* from these organizations also collaborated in some of the action strategies and provided venues for dissemination of the youth researchers' findings and recommendations.

### **Funding Source(s)**

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) – Federal  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (CT DMHAS) – State supports additional staff for the SYRI component of the project.

Capital Workforce Partners (local/public) and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (local/private) support salaries for the youth researchers during the SYRI component of the project.

**Project Start Date:** October 1, 2001

**Project End Date:** September 30, 2005

## **Description of Project**

### ***Aims and desired outcomes***

YARP aims to decrease and delay the incidence of alcohol, tobacco, drug use and related risks and to increase positive peer norms among urban adolescents of diverse ethnic backgrounds between the ages of 14–16 through the conduct of youth-led, adult-supported community based participatory action research for risk prevention. The YARP model:

- Enhances cognitive development and personal growth through youths' eco-critical exploration of issues that affect their lives
- Develops positive peer norms relative to risk
- Reinforces these norms through community change efforts with other peers and adults.

### ***Population affected***

YARP served a total of 114 youth in 3 cohorts, each with 35-40 urban, African-American, Caribbean-American, Puerto Rican and other Latino/a adolescent high-school age youth residing in high-risk neighborhoods of the city of Hartford, CT who are exposed to high levels of poverty, drug sales, drug use, violence, poor schools, sex risk and other stressors.

### ***Research approach***

The YARP project is a quasi-experimental study comparing changes in three cohorts of urban youth participating in the project intervention with changes in a matched sample of three cohorts of non-participating urban youth. Evaluation instruments are administered to the treatment and comparison groups at four time points: pre and post an intensive summer intervention, mid point and post of a school year extension intervention. The outcome instrument is complemented by a process evaluation of the intervention, which includes interviews, ethnographic observation, youth self-reflection and a network instrument, all of which are used to gather additional data relevant to the project theory and model, its implementation, the emergence of prevention group norms, local context, and other factors that may influence outcomes, as well as to assess treatment fidelity.

**Results:** There were statistically significant differences between the two groups with the intervention group reporting an increase relative to the comparison group for school bonding, internal locus of control, community self-efficacy, and positive beliefs about peer norms. When baseline values of behavioral variables and dosage were considered, higher dosage (i.e. receiving more hours of the intervention) predicted fewer sexual partners, higher drug, sexual and global self-efficacy and stronger drug disapproval.

### ***Other project activities***

2006: Youth Researcher and staff invited as one of five programs nationally to participate in the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Conference sponsored by The Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership and the Community Informatics Initiative of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

D. Morgan and C. Rodriguez each awarded CT DMHAS scholarship to attend Prevention courses at the New England Institute of Addiction Studies (NEIAS)

2005: Invited to provide workshop on Youth PAR -New Mexico Statewide Civic Engagement Summer Institute

2004 & 2003: Provided training on PAR to the Kellogg Foundation's Youth Innovation Fund grantees

2003: Exemplary Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program. Capital Workforce Partners Award

Provided training on Youth PAR to New Visions for Public Schools, NYC, NY;

2002: Youth and Staff Exchange program between YARI and Vashon Island, Washington Youth Program

### ***Utility of partnership for the approach***

Positive relationships with a number of youth serving organization in Hartford was central to facilitating access to individuals and other youth so that YARI youth researchers could collect data during the summer. These agencies also helped in accessing youth for the comparison group. Both staff and youth from the organizations supported the advocacy, educational and intervention efforts designed by Youth Researchers thereby enabling the youth to have positive experiences, which contributed to their reported increase in self-efficacy.

### **Key Project Publications/Materials**

#### **Publications**

Morgan, D., Pacheco, V., Rodriguea, C., Vazquez, E., Berg, M., & Schensul, J. (2004). Youth Participatory Action Research on Hustling and Its Consequences: A Report from the Field. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 14(2), 201-228.

*Available online:* <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye>.

Schensul, J. J., & Berg, M. J. (2004). Youth Participatory Action Research: A transformative approach to service learning. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*. (Special Issue: Service-Learning and Anthropology), 10(3), 76-88.

Berg, M., & Schensul, J. J., (guest editors). (2004). Approaches to Conducting Action Research with Youth (Special issue). *Practicing Anthropology*, 26(2).

Berg, M. J., Owens, D. C., & Schensul, J. J. (2002). Participatory Action Research, Service-Learning, and Community Youth Development. *CYD Journal: Community Youth Development*, 3(2), 20-25.

#### **Youth Produced materials**

2005-2006: Jobs website: <http://www.freewebs.com/projectobject/>. Training manual for teens working in youth-led jobs center

2004: Digital Story on experience of implementing a jobs bulletin board

2003-2004: Video on Teen Dropouts, Brochure on Resources available to Teens.

2002-2003: Videos: "I Remember the Night", English and Spanish PSAs on substance use and sex risk, Game: "Do you know your Music?"

December 2002 – January 2003: Photo exhibit at Capital Community College: Explorations of the Visual: Researching Material Culture through Photographs taken by Youth Researchers.

Youth also created several data collections instruments, Power point presentations of research findings, and actions projects. Three youth researchers co-wrote an op-ed for Connecticut's most read newspaper.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

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Damion S. Morgan, BA, Prevention Research Educator  
Victor Pacheco, BA, SYRI Prevention Research Educator  
Yedalis Ruiz, BA, Project Coordinator  
Kevin Trimell Jones, Jr., MA, SYRI Prevention Research Educator  
Jean André Constant, MA, SYRI Prevention Research Educator  
Michelle Corbett, MA, SYRI Prevention Research Educator  
Maritza Lopez, SYRI Prevention Research Educator  
School Year and Summer Interns: Taina Amaro, Bildade Augustine, Christine Bracci, Maggie Cunha, BA, Kathrine Golub, BA, Lynne Eikenberry, MPH student, Sara Plachta-Elliott, Ana Safari, MPH student, MA, Ann Tetreault, MA, , Maritiza Lopez, BA  
19 Senior Youth Researchers  
114 Youth Researchers  
Gary Burkholder, Jr., PhD Evaluation Director  
Emil Coman, ABD, Jianghong Li, PhD, Darcé Costello, ABD, Evaluation Research Analysts  
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**Key words:** youth development; education; prevention; substance and sex risk; action research

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**Project Title: Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning (YELL)**

**Project URL:** <http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu>

**Project Purpose or Mission**

Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning (YELL) is a school-based research and action project based on the premise that youth have valuable insights into school and community improvement. In YELL, students think critically about their environment, learn new skills, and gain access to resources to become knowledgeable citizens and active decision-makers in their schools and communities. YELL is facilitated by the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities (JGC), which represents a unique partnership between a premier research

institution and local communities to build new practices, knowledge, and capacity for youth development and learning.

### **Project Partners and their Roles**

The Redwood City YELL program is housed at *Kennedy Middle School* with links and connections to the *Redwood City 2020 collaborative*.

In West Oakland, YELL is housed at *McClymonds High School* and is funded by the JGC and the San Francisco Foundation.

*BAYAC Americorps* provides both sites with trained Americorps members to support project activities.

*Stanford University's School of Education* offers opportunities to *graduate students*; YELL provides rich training ground for developing researchers, and models a critical partnership between researchers and practitioners.

### **Funding Source(s)**

Multiple – foundations, in-kind support from school sites

**Project Start Date:** September 2000

**Project End Date:** Ongoing

### **Description of Project**

#### *Aims and desired outcomes*

##### Youth

- Increase civic awareness and civic engagement among youth
- Increase youths' skills in basic research, presentations, and public speaking
- Increase youth's capacity to identify their current concerns, challenges, and assets, and communicate with adults about them

##### Project

- Increase tools available in communities for training youth to be active decision makers alongside adults and other youth
- Increase opportunities for youth to play a positive role in the development of their communities
- Increase developmental supports and opportunities available to youth

##### School

- Increase the awareness among adults and youth within schools about the importance of youth voice and youth participation.
- Increase the number and quality of youth-adult partnerships within a school setting
- Increase the knowledge base within schools regarding youths' current concerns, challenges, and assets
- Increase the knowledge base within schools regarding community youth development
- Increase the capacity of the school community to respond proactively to the changing needs and demands of its students and families

##### Community

- Increase the awareness among adults and youth within community organizations and local governing bodies about the importance of youth voice and youth participation
- Increase the number and quality of youth-adult partnerships within a community
- Increase the knowledge base within communities regarding youths' current concerns, challenges, and assets
- Increase the knowledge base within the community regarding community youth development

### Academic Field

- Increase the knowledge base among academic researchers regarding 1) youths' current concerns, challenges, and assets and 2) youth and community development

We will know that these outcomes are leading to positive changes in the communities we work with when we see evidence of: 1) Community capacity to support and sustain positive developmental opportunities for youth, 2) Widespread perceptions among adult and youth community stakeholders of the essential nature of youth involvement in decision making, and 3) Strong youth leaders playing a positive role in the development of their communities.

### ***Population affected***

In Redwood City (RWC), YELL serves 65+ youth in grades 6-12. Kennedy Middle School is part of a magnet district: the 991 students who come to the school are from diverse areas throughout RWC, many commuting to school from RWC's east side neighborhoods. The school is approximately 70% Latino, 20% White, 4% African American, 3% Asian, 2% Filipino, 2% Pacific Islander and 1% Native American. Approximately 35% of the students are classified as English Learners, and 41% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

In West Oakland, YELL serves a cohort of 30+ youth in grades 9-12. An additional 30+ students from all grade levels are served in partnership with student government. Whereas Redwood City is largely a Latino working class community, West Oakland is predominantly low-income African-American. Out of the approximately 800 students that attend McClymonds High, 80% are African-American, 11% are Latino, 8% are Asian and 1% are White. According to District records, 87.8% live in families that participate in the CalWORKs program.

### ***Research approach***

The JGC works to understand youth experiences within school and after-school contexts in order to improve developmental outcomes. The research agenda expands beyond YELL's project sessions and investigates how YELL's presence in the schools affects other students, teachers, staff and the community. Three questions guide the inquiry: In what ways do youth develop within specific programs and educational contexts? In what ways do they benefit from their participation in leadership programs? What educational practices seem to work best for a range of positive developmental outcomes? These broad questions reflect a research agenda designed to capture indicators of positive youth development as well as examples of best practices.

Gardner Center research staff play participant-observer roles throughout the year and are deeply embedded in the school and after-school programs we study. This positioning

provides researchers with valuable insight—the ability to pose relevant questions and to develop relationships with youth that build trust and encourage youth to be honest about their experiences. Our research bridges the practice of youth development with the academic field, generates new information that can inform both, and provides university students with the opportunity to do substantive fieldwork.

***Other project activities***

YELL participants also engage in team-building activities, personal reflection, and discussion of events that are immediately relevant to them. They attend trainings and events outside of regular sessions, lead workshops and facilitate groups. YELL participants also serve as panelists for classes at Stanford's School of Education, advisors for youth development policy creation, and consultants for non-profit organizations. Program alumni can become involved as mentors and youth staff, earning a monthly stipend for their role.

***Utility of partnership for the approach***

YELL is an integral part of the community partnership model. By engaging local leaders, educators, policy makers, and youth as research partners, the JGC hone in on the most relevant research questions and provide valuable data to our Redwood City and West Oakland community partners. The JGC partners with YELL alumni and adults to build an increasing ladder of opportunities for young people, a model from which other community members can draw lessons, practices, and ideas in their own work as teachers, service providers, and policy makers. At Stanford, we work with students and faculty across disciplines to educate the next cadre of leaders and build upon an emerging field of community youth development. By conducting research that brings theory and youth development practice together, we hope to create substantive connections to communities.

**Key Project Publications/Materials**

- Kirshner, B.R., Strobel, K.R., Fernández, M.A. (2003) *Critical Civic Engagement Among Urban Youth*. Penn GSE Perspectives on Urban Education, 2(1) 1-20.
- Fernández, M. (October, 2002) "Creating Community Change: Challenges and Tensions in Community Youth Research".
- Anyon, Y. & Naughton, S. (2004) "Youth Empowerment - The Contributions and Challenges of Youth-Led Research in a High-Poverty, Urban Community".
- John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities. (2001) *Youth Engaged in Leadership Learning (Y.E.L.L.): A Handbook for Supporting Community Youth Researchers*", Stanford, CA.

**Key Researchers/Project Staff**

Milbrey McLaughlin, Executive Director  
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## **Selected publications on Community-Based Collaborative Research**

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