

The Community Health Workers Role in Healthy Homes

Working at the local level

Community Health Workers

- Defining your audience
 - What is a community health worker?
 - Make sure your definition is not too narrow and your not leaving people out.
 - Where are they working at in your community?
 - Include academia, provider offices, supplemental services, schools, as well as HD's.
 - How can you get a piece of their time?
 - Conferences, webinars, go to meetings, conference calls, mailers. Invite them to an event!

Why should they listen to you?

- Make the goal of your first meeting to be the benefit for them, don't focus on the benefit you hope to gain.
 - Remember that all audiences need a buy in to stick around.
 - If you don't know how the benefit for them will work out... than take time to get to know their process and program objectives. Identify places where you have mutual goals and messages.

Don't Forget The Business Side

- The bottom line is always the dollar.
- Make any pitch for partnership include a cost effective approach or better yet outline the cost savings. That is what the decision makers will need to give a green light to the project.

Make the Most of Your First Project

- Getting a green light and support from staff is only the beginning.
- The first project needs to be achievable, measurable and successful to maintain and grow the partnership.
- **NO PRESSURE!**

Baby Steps

- Over the years.. The passion for the cause has put the fire out of many would be partnerships.
- Take things in small steps
 - Including a resource pamphlet, website link, mailer, within their office lobby or circulars.
 - Share Data!!!
 - Design an education source together to highlight both your programs and how your working together
 - Plan an event together for the community or participate with each other by sharing resources

Baby Steps Cont.

- Write a grant together to bring additional resources to the community you both serve.
- Provide templates and guidance on how to adopt Healthy Homes principles and activities into your partner program policy.
- Continue to find ways to build capacity to sustain the policies adopted at the local level.
- Be part of the evaluation process!!!

Why the Community Health Worker?

- Local knowledge
- Personal rapport
- Day to day contact
- Clients being served at will not by request
- Accreditation
- Evaluation

Mapping the Effect

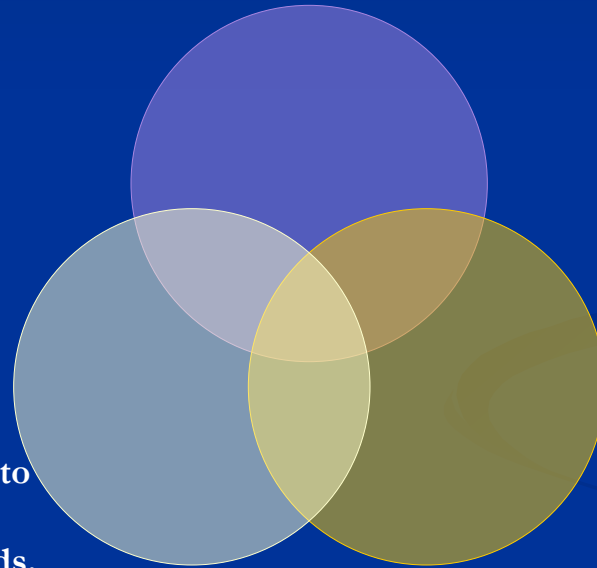
Nursing personal can identify clients in need of HH assess. and intervention through knowledge base/applied practice.

Nursing Students complete HH Curriculum and field visit opportunity

Students apply principles and assessments to personal home

Mapping the Effect

Health Department RN/WIC Staff
Hand out HH check lists
and resources for more info.



Establish a referral
program for each other to
address gaps in
care and identified needs.
(Baby Step to adopting HH policy
into framework of services)

Incorporate completed
immunizations
and healthy diet into
the HH checklist as safety measures.

Working Together

- Healthier Communities
 - Sharing Resources- regionalization
 - Overlap of services for assessment of needs- (different than providing double care)
 - Making the connection between health and environment

People may choose to live any number of ways.. Our goal is to provide the knowledge base for them to choose healthy living for themselves and their families.

Evaluate

- Evaluate your partnerships and activities with them regularly.
 - Everything cost money.. So if it is not working efficiently or at all don't be afraid to ask for adjustments or refocus. They most likely feel the same way.
 - Build a measureable into the partnership over time.. How will you know your are reaching objectives.. Make sure you both agree and have access to that information.

Accreditation

- With accreditation happening across the nation...now is the time to tap into the national objectives.
- Define how HH fits into process for them.
- Help them understand how it is needed and beneficial for them to partner with you for data, expertise, educational needs, and resource sharing.

Healthy People 2020

- The following items are specific areas where HH principles are mentioned as part of the 2020 objectives.

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/default.aspx>

- Starting on page 87- Environmental Health (EH) section: 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24.
- Noteworthy are those #19 and #21-22
 - #19- Titled Housing with physical problems
 - #21- Informational Systems used for Environmental Health
 - #22- Monitoring diseases caused by Environmental Health Exposures

What is Working..

- WSU Partnership- HUD Grant
- Local Regional Conference Calls- CDC Grant
- Healthy Homes Advisory Council- CDC Grant
- Banks, Code Enforcement, industry business- EPA Grant

WSU Partnership

- Online KS Train Course
- Adopted Curriculum
- Field Video
- Field Visit Partnership through HUD Grant
- Expanding to other schools of Nursing
- Adding Capstone projects as evaluation and outreach goals.

Fine Points

- Always have a goal of the partnership- BIG PICTURE- why do you need to partner with them.. To what end is it aiding your program
- Always evaluate and measure your success- for changes and for bragging... show what you can do with the data not just your smile.
- Find the mutual benefit for each partner, don't assume they like you for your passion.. There is always a bottom line. Keep them at the table.

More Fine Points

- Define your audience- who do you need to target and who are you including in as a CHW.
- Don't expect them to know what they want... guide them with a template or suggestions.
- BABY STEPS

Data

- How are you collecting?
- What variables do you need to have to calculate or measure success?
- How often is it reviewed and analyzed?
- How is it being shared with partners and public?

- EPHT?
Do you know about this CDC program and does your state participate in it yet?

Resources

- <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/default.aspx>
- www.kshealthyhomes.org
- Shannon Steinbauer RN BSN
 - ssteinbauer@kdheks.gov