



[Home](#) | [Browse by Day](#) | *or* [Program](#) | [Author Index](#)

184013 Sustaining quality health care for Latinos through capacity building in evaluation: Lessons learned from 17 community/academic partnership in 14 states

Tuesday, October 28, 2008: 3:06 PM

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Background:

Community health care organizations (CHCOs) serving US Latinos, the largest, fastest growing, medically underserved minority population, often lack the in-house capacity needed to evaluate their programs' outcomes. Having the in-house capacity for designing, conducting and presenting evaluation results can be a determining factor in a CHCO's long-term sustainability in this era of increased competition for limited funding. An innovate program that partners CHCOs and academia, with funding support from the Johnson & Johnson Community HealthCare Program, is helping bridge this evaluation gap by translating knowledge into practice.

Methods:

CHCOs and doctoral students (guided and supervised by a faculty member) are paired for a period of two years to improve the CHCOs' capacity in evaluation. In-house capacity is built using evaluation methodologies specifically developed to provide a standardized approach that can also be adapted to the needs of individual CHCOs.

Results:

At the end of a two-year period, CHCO program staff is able to create appropriate goals, SMART objectives, identify and organize into a conceptual framework those key variables needed to measure their program's outcomes. CHCO staff also learned how to develop data collection tools, create databases, and enter and analyze data using EPI-INFO, an user-friendly, free software created by the CDC. The staff also gained skills for presenting data in a clear, concise manner. In addition, the doctoral students developed their skills in translating knowledge into practice in an easy-to-understand, culturally appropriate and scientifically sound manner.

Conclusions:

CHCO/academic partnerships are effective in increasing the monitoring and evaluation capacity of community health care organizations providing care to Latinos across the country.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of the session, the participant in this session will be able to: 1. List three components necessary for successful community/academic partnerships that aim to improve in-house capacity in the design and implementation of evaluation of programs serving Latinos. 2. Describe the steps necessary to increase in-house capacity for program monitoring and evaluation. 3. Identify two major challenges that CHCOs providing care to the Latino population face in the implementation of an evaluation plan.

Keywords: Community Health Centers, Evaluation

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Qualified on the content I am responsible for because: Faculty Scientist with extensive experience in evaluation, training doctoral students and building the capacity of community health care organizations in evaluation methodologies. Main author of book on evaluation methodologies for community health care programs to be released in April 2008 - <http://www.springer.com/public+health/book/978-0-387-77376-6>

Any relevant financial relationships? No

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See more of: [Latino Caucus](#)



[Home](#) | [Browse by Day](#) | [or Program](#) | [Author Index](#)

172873 Bridging cultural and language boundaries to improve knowledge, access to services, and healthy behaviors among Latinos at risk for HIV infection: Lessons from a community-academic partnership

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

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Background: The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF), a community-based organization that provides comprehensive care services, educational programs and HIV testing to underserved populations in central Ohio, launched its Latino Outreach Program in 2006 to address the needs of the growing Latino population, comprised of many recent immigrants whose primary language is Spanish. As part of this initiative, CATF and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, with funding support from the Johnson & Johnson Community Health Care Program, formed a community-academic partnership to evaluate the Latino Outreach Program. Methods: Using a hands-on, participatory approach, the community and academic partners designed the evaluation plan using a conceptual framework of program activities and intended outcomes. Based on this framework, the partners created measures for evaluating program implementation and effectiveness, and built a data management and reporting system using Epi Info software. Results: While language barriers, cultural norms, and the presence of misinformation and stigma surrounding HIV provide challenges to the implementation and evaluation of the Latino Outreach Program, these challenges have been met through culturally sensitive, confidential programming and creative, adaptive methods for tracking program success. After two years of collaboration, CATF has developed its in-house capacity to conduct evaluations, increasing its ability to make evidence-based decisions about program strategies. Conclusions: The synergy stemming from partnerships between community organizations and academic institutions aids in the construction of programs that bridge cultural divides in a respectful, client-centered manner while still allowing for thorough data collection that feeds into future evidence-based program improvements.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to: 1) Identify 3 ways in which conceptual frameworks are valuable tools for program evaluation. 2) Discuss challenges stemming from cultural and language barriers and possible solutions. 3) Describe how a community-academic partnership can benefit both organizations and academic partners.

Keywords: Community-Based Partnership, Evaluation

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Qualified on the content I am responsible for because: I was integrally involved in the research presented in the abstract and I have no conflicts of interest.

Any relevant financial relationships? No

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[Home](#) | [Browse by Day](#) | [or Program](#) | [Author Index](#)

174789 Building capacity to evaluate a unique program for maltreated children in Mississippi: A community-academic partnership

Monday, October 27, 2008: 12:30 PM

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Background: The Child Abuse Referral and Examination (CARE) clinic at Children's Justice Center (CJC) in Jackson, MS is the only community-based organization providing non-traumatic, child-friendly forensic medical assessment and health care to victims of child abuse and neglect in the state of Mississippi. With funding from the Johnson & Johnson Community HealthCare Program, CJC has opened 2 satellite CARE clinics in remote areas of the state with the aim of increasing access to CJC's services. With this expansion comes the need to evaluate access to and quality of the services provided.

Methods: Through a participatory approach, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) has trained CJC staff to design and conduct a program evaluation using a conceptual framework of activities and intended outcomes. Based on this framework, the partners created measures of program implementation and effectiveness, in addition to a data management system using Epi Info for data collection and analysis.

Results: After two years of collaboration, the CJC's capacity to conduct program evaluation and use the results to make programmatic improvements has increased. This was achieved through the utilization of specific evaluation skills, including creation of conceptual frameworks of program activities, development of appropriate indicators to measure effectiveness, and data collection, management and analysis.

Conclusion: Partnerships between community organizations and academic institutions provide a valuable opportunity to increase the sustainable in-house capacity for program evaluation and to provide increased understanding of key determinates essential for improving the access to and quality of medical services for maltreated children.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of the session, the participants will be able to: Describe the benefits of using a conceptual framework as a basis for program evaluation. List three challenges arising in participatory research. Obtain publicly available software for data management, analysis and presentation

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Qualified on the content I am responsible for because: I have planned and coordinated the endeavors discussed in this abstract and presentation.

Any relevant financial relationships? No

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