

Community Partner Workgroup Orientation Conference Call
November 13, 2007

Call Moderators

Susan Gust, GrassROUTES, Minneapolis, MN

Ann-Gel Palermo, Harlem Community & Academic Partnership (HCAP), New York City, NY

Kristine Wong, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, Seattle, WA

Call Participants

Alex Allen, Vice President, Community Planning and Research, Trenton, NJ

Maria Fernandez, University of Texas School of Public Health (Austin Branch)

Liz Holmes, Family Services Association, Toronto, Canada

Heidi Keeting, Florida Department of Health, FL

Lisa Moy, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, Seattle, WA

Ed Newman, AmeriCorps-United Way, Toledo, OH

Marj Plum, Consultant, California Breast Cancer Community Program, Berkeley, CA

Sarena Seifer, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, Seattle, WA

Angela Sims, Community/Tribal Liaison, University of Colorado

Molly White, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI

Meeting Highlights

Introduction

- Ann-Gel provided a brief overview on the history and vision of the Community Partner Workgroups.
 - With guidance from a planning committee of community leaders, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) convened a Community Partner Summit (CPS) in April 2006. A diverse group of 23 experienced community leaders engaged in a dialogue that emphasized lessons learned and generated recommendations and action steps.
 - Many of the actionable recommendations from the CPS centered on the idea that community partners involved in community-higher education partnerships need to have greater opportunities for growing and sustaining connections with other community partners. The purposes of these connections would be to increase capacity, offer deeper support in this important yet challenging work, and support partnerships in their effort to truly prioritize systemic, social change.
- Ann-Gel highlighted the 2 active workgroups' activities.
 - Mentoring: Submitted a proposal to develop a online mentoring network and toolkit
 - Policy: Responded to National Institutes of Health's (NIH) request for public input on their peer review process, as well as and NIH's National Center for Research Resources' Strategic Plan (http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/strategic_plan/).
- Susan discussed how the creation of a mentoring network is important to prevent the feeling of isolation/disempowerment among community partners, as well as to motivate social change. The work of the Community Partner Workgroups help

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individuals link their work with significant change, and yet still preserving autonomy and the individuality of communities.

- Kristine articulated that CCPH supports all types of partnerships, including service-learning and broad-based coalition building, in addition to community-based participatory research partnerships. CCPH's role is to support the efforts of the Community Partner Workgroups, while leadership and direction are determined by the members. With the consent of the workgroup members, CCPH has handled the logistics of conference calls and facilitates the workgroups' efforts. She announced that meeting dates for future workgroup conference calls will be disseminated through the Community Partner listserv.

Question/Answer

- Ed Newman from AmeriCorps-United Way was searching for service-learning tools to integrate into his AmeriCorps program. Kristine highlighted CCPH's work on service-learning, which are available on CCPH's website at <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/servicelearningres.html> . Furthermore, CCPH has been sponsoring annual Service-Learning Institutes. The 11th Service-Learning Institute will be held in July 25-28, 2008, in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. For more information, visit <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/servicelearning.html> .
- Maria Fernandez from the University of Texas School of Public Health asked for resources on how to identify community members and develop a community advisory board (CAB). Ann-Gel clarified that Maria was posing the question from a university/higher education perspective (vs. community perspective). Ann-Gel offered to provide additional input off-line, but emphasized that community members should not think that CABs are the only way to provide feedback to higher education/universities. Susan added that from the community perspective, CABs can be frustrating since they serve only an *advisory* position; universities are not mandated to follow the CAB's advice. She added that CABs can result in a sense of community disempowerment. However, Kristine highlighted that there are several CAB success stories - specifically, the Kahnawake School Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP), a community-academic partnership which established a CAB to guide the work of the KSDPP. Information on KSDPP and other success stories are highlighted on CCPH's CBPR and Research Ethics webpage which can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/irbhome.html> .
- Alex Allen commented that CCPH and Community Partner workgroup activities had a lot of similarities with National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON). Kristine commented that CCPH has been in conversation with members of NCBON and the APHA Community-Based Public Health Caucus (<http://www.sph.umich.edu/cbphcaucus/index.html>). There was discussion about increased communication and future programmatic linkage.
- Molly White from the University of Michigan Medical School asked if there was a single website that served as a good clearinghouse of information and resources. Kristine agreed that there was a definite need to share best practices and resources. Unfortunately, there is no single exhaustive website providing this time of "space" on

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the internet. In response to this need, the Mentoring Workgroup submitted a proposal to develop a national mentor network website.

- Sarena Seifer, Executive Director of CCPH, overviewed the resources on the CCPH website. She highlighted the CCPH Fellow's Program which was designed to provide support for academic administrators, faculty and community-based professionals who provide leadership in service-learning, as well as community-based participatory research (CBPR), and community-campus partnerships. For more information, please visit <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/pastprojects.html#Fellows> . In regards to the question on identifying community members and developing a CAB, she highlighted that the CCPH website contains many CBPR resources (<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/commbas.html>) as well as examples of memorandum of understandings (MOUs), and agreements. The CBPR curriculum can be found at <http://cbprcurriculum.info/> .

Closing

- Kristine reiterated that the Community Partner Workgroups and Listserv was targeted for community partners and community-academic liaisons only, so as to provide a much-needed space for these groups to support each other in their work, as well as share strategies and resources. She encouraged everyone on the line to invite their community partners to participate in the next workgroup orientation meeting, and join the Community Partner listserv.
- The next Community Partner Workgroup general orientation meeting will be on December 11, 2007, at 1 pm PST/4 pm EST. Dial in: 1-800-791-2345, Access Code: 13511.