

2014 Small Grants Awards- Funded Partnerships

GRADUATE STUDENT- COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Boone Street Farm Community Cooking Classes

Graduate student: Ann Suk, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Community partner: Cheryl Carmona, Executive Director, Boone Street Farm

Abstract: The proposed project aims to improve food security and long-term nutrition in an underserved community in East Baltimore through a partnership between a JHSPH graduate student and Boone Street Farm. The project will involve the organization of a series of cooking sessions that will facilitate dialogue around healthy eating and promote the sharing of information about healthy recipes and cooking methods in the community. The project will also encourage community members' use of the farm's fresh local produce, both during the cooking sessions and in their own homes, to ensure a sustainable source of cooking ingredients. We will monitor progress toward these goals, compiling a lessons learned document in order to share the impacts and challenges associated with the project's implementation for potential application in other communities.

Expansion of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program and Summer Student Educational

Graduate student: Patrick Boone, Doctoral Candidate, Johns Hopkins Environmental Health Science

Community partner: Cheryl Carmona, Executive Director, Boone Street Farm

Abstract: This project aims to improve access to fresh produce in an underserved East Baltimore community. The goal is to enhance the capacity of Boone Street Farm (BSF) to provide affordable community access to healthy foods. This goal will be met initially by subsidizing the cost of participating in a CSA share program run by the farm for community members. To more permanently improve and expand healthy food access in this neighborhood, this project also aims to increase community buy- in and volunteer participation at BSF. Intensive outreach to community members, focused in particular on families of children currently participating in the farm's after-school gardening program, will be used to meet these goals. Enhanced volunteer participation will help the farm to expand production capacity, and to offer out-of-school programming during the summer for students working with the farm during the school year. Increased volunteer participation will allow the farm to offer increased affordable food access to the community without the need for additional external funding beyond the term of the grant. Throughout this process, there will be opportunities for collection of data that can be used to measure the direction and magnitude of the outcomes associated with this project. Data on sales, profits, volunteer activities will be tracked before, during, and after the interventions. CSA participants, families, and students participating in the summer pilot program will be interviewed and surveyed over the first year of this project, and the results will be analyzed and disseminated. This project will operate under grant-funded support from 01/15/2015 until 01/15/2016.

Evaluation and Dissemination of a Smart Phone Application To Improve Access to Medical Forensic Care

Following Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence in Baltimore City

Graduate student: Jocelyn Anderson, Doctoral Candidate

Community partners: Erin Lamar and Debra Holbrook, Registered Nurses, Mercy Medical Center

Abstract: Violence against women is a significant problem for college -aged women across the nation with reports of up to half of college aged women experiencing some type of physical, sexual or stalking violence. Navigating the complex medical and legal systems of reporting and help seeking after experiencing a sexual

assault or dating violence incident can be stressful and confusing. In an effort to reach out to college- aged women, Mercy Medical Center Forensic Nursing Program developed a smartphone application (app) to provide easy access to information regarding reporting and help seeking options within the Baltimore community. This project's two major aims are to: 1) Evaluate the app's content, appropriateness, understandability and usability and 2) Obtain feedback from students and faculty/staff on strategies for dissemination the app widely across college campuses in the Baltimore community. This project builds on a long-standing relationship between Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and the Mercy Medical Center Forensic Nursing Program to address a major public health issue.

Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Community Engagement Project: Speaking and Writing for Change

Graduate student: Liz Coleclough, Doctoral Candidate

Community partner: Sally Hess, Training Coordinator, House of Ruth Maryland

Abstract: Through collaboration with House of Ruth Maryland [HRM], we are developing a 'story-telling' initiative for survivors of Intimate Partner Violence [IPV]. The goal is to identify current and former clients who are interested in developing 'their story' as a platform for advocacy, community mobilization, community education, and peer mentorship.

Voice over Violence

Graduate student: Kristina (Gia) Naranjo-Rivera, Doctoral Candidate

Community partner: Gary Dittman, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Abstract: Voice over Violence is a project based in the McElderry Park community in east Baltimore-a neighborhood with high levels of community-police conflict and distrust that is microcosmic of other cities – that seeks to begin to process community trauma, educate the community, and facilitate critical analysis of the problem and dialogue to seek solutions to foster healthier community-police relations. Voice over Violence will engage 10-15 youth from the McElderry Park community in developing a photo voice (photography and video) project to explore dynamics of community-police interaction and provide education aimed at improving community-police relations. Youth participants will document community testimonials about interactions with police through photography and videography; identify and photograph risks that can escalate interactions with police and lead to negative outcomes; and outline information about basic rights and best practices to promote positive exchange. The final project will be used in a community forum to provide an overview of the challenges and problems common in police-community interactions, which will be used to inform facilitated discussion between community members and law enforcement officials. This discussion will generate strategies for creating healthier police-community interaction and generate content for curricula and trainings for both groups. We will also seek to present that project and educational tool as part of the community interaction and sensitivity trainings for new police officers and in local schools and youth programs.

Talking Business: Bringing Store Owners and Business Experts Together To Identify Strategies for Rendering Stocking and Sales of Healthier Foods/Beverages Profitable in Corner Stores

Graduate student: Claudia Nau, Postdoctoral Fellow

Community partners: Tony Lawrence, Owner, Tony's and Mary's Gethsemane, Dorothy Skipwith, Owner, Mamma Mamie's Grocery

Abstract: In many low income African-American neighborhoods, corner stores are the only food retail stores. These stores operate on small profit margins, offering mostly highly processed foods. Their ability to take risks by introducing new, healthier products is therefore limited. We have partnered with store owners to identify a feasible "business approach" which would enable corner store owners to stock and sell healthier options. The proposed project will bring together store owners, business consultants and marketing experts to develop profit-

oriented strategies for stocking and selling healthier foods and beverages. We will employ community based causal mapping, a method used for stakeholder involvement and strategy development. This project will (1) Improve our understanding of the factors that are driving profitability of healthy foods in corner stores, (2) Engage store owners and business experts in a structured process to develop strategies that aim at improving profitability of healthy foods, and (3) Translate these strategies into concrete step-by-step strategies that can be implemented by other corner store owners. The ultimate aim of this project is to improve healthy food availability and consumption and to support small businesses in low income neighborhoods.

Formative Research to Sustain a Nutrition Curriculum In Baltimore City Recreation Centers

Graduate student: Angela Cristina Bizzotto Trude, Doctoral Student

Community partners: Ernest Burkeen, Director, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, Stella Clanton, Recreation Programmer, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks

Abstract: Baltimore City faces a major public health concern with childhood overweight and obesity rates among youths at 23.15% and 22.15% respectively (BHCK baseline data, 2010). It has been suggested that individual behavior change is more likely to be sustained if the environment supports healthy food options. B'more Healthy Communities for Kids (BHCK) is a multi-level childhood obesity prevention trial that aims to address the food environment in Baltimore city. At the recreation center level, the BHCK team has developed and delivered a nutrition curriculum in partnership with youth-leaders. We selected 16 Baltimore college students (18-22 years old) to complete a 12-session training program which included leadership skills training; team building activities and nutrition information from the curriculum. Youth-leaders have visited the recreation centers more than three times per week and had more than 12 children attending the interactive sessions at each place. We plan to implement cooking classes in 7 recreation centers beginning in November. Our program has been extremely successful thus far, but many community-based health programs fail to maintain their advances and positive results soon after the initial funding is over. Thus, this proposed study will use formative research methods to inform future dissemination and sustainability of the youth leader program in all recreation centers in Baltimore. We will use in-depth interviews, observation, and focus groups with recreation center staff and BHCK youth-leaders to gather relevant information and enable the community to participate in the refinement of the program. The proposed formative research will work to integrate the BHCK program into the community in order inform the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks to disseminate and sustain the program and reach its full fruition.

FACULTY- COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Adherence to Follow-Up Care Instructions After the Emergency Department Visit- Infusing the Patient Perspective

Faculty members: Ellie Klein, PhD, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Erica Shelton, MD, MPH, MHS, Instructor of Emergency Medicine

Community partner: Rev. Debra Hickman, President/CEO, Sisters Together and Reaching (STAR)

Abstract: Improving patient outcomes from emergency department (ED) visits requires that patients adhere to follow-up care instructions. However, many patients that visit the Johns Hopkins Hospital ED face numerous barriers in adherence to follow-up care instructions. The ‘best-practice’ communication interventions though have not been particularly effective, are not targeted at ED patients, and have not sought input from patients in development. We posit that the **voice of the patient** represents a critical, and as yet missing, component required to increase adherence to ED follow-up care instructions. To address the barriers associated with patient adherence to ED follow-up care instructions, we seek to understand patients’ perceived usefulness (i.e., likelihood of adherence) of existing ‘best practice’ communication interventions for follow-up care instructions. To assess usefulness, we will (1) conduct a survey-based needs assessment to understand which ‘best-practice’ communication interventions are most likely to improve adherence to follow-up care instructions, and (2) conduct focus groups to gain an in- depth understanding of the underlying factors which drive patients’ perceptions of the usefulness of these interventions. The needs assessment will both influence operational practices in the ED and serve as the foundation for development of *patient-provider cooperative* interventions that improve adherence to ED follow-up care instructions.

Integrating Injury Prevention into a Healthy Aging Program for Older Urban Adults

Faculty member: Eileen M. McDonald, Associate Scientist and Johns Hopkins Safety Centers Directors

Community partner: Betsy D. Simon, MS, CHES, Zeta Center for Healthy and Active Aging

Abstract: Unintentional injuries such as falls, fires and poisonings are serious threats to the health of older Baltimoreans. Many injuries can be prevented by increasing access to safety information, services and products. This proposal extends the reach to older adults of an award-winning program that has been primarily used to educate families with young children about injury prevention. We are partnering with the Zeta Healthy Aging Partnership to pilot a program that: 1) enrolls 30 households in six interactive and engaging educational sessions on a variety of injury prevention topics of relevance to older adults; 2) increases use of recommended safety products by either directly distributing them to participants or by connecting participants to existing community programs that provide them; and 3) evaluates the program and determines how to offer it to other senior service agencies in Baltimore City. As the proportion of older adults continues to rise in the US and in Baltimore, it is imperative that we prioritize prevention messages and services to this population in order to prevent premature death, disability or loss of independence as a result of an avoidable injury.

Meeting the Needs of Baltimore’s Transgender Residents: A Community Needs Assessment

Faculty member: Tonia Poteat, PhD, MPH, PA-C, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology

Community partner: Jean-Michel Breville, Coordinator, Transgender Response Team

Abstract: National data indicate that transgender people experience significant stigma and discrimination that result in increased vulnerability to poor health. Studies conducted in urban areas such as Boston, New York City, and San Francisco suggest that transgender people experience disparities in mental health, substance use, violence, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections. However, most research to date has focused solely on HIV among transgender women. In order to adequately address the broader health needs of the Baltimore transgender community, it’s necessary to understand the breadth of those needs in the local context. This

application proposes to conduct a needs assessment of the transgender community in Baltimore and to use this information to inform future interventions.

Utilizing Healthcare Providers to Interrupt the Cycle of Violence in Urban Communities

Faculty members: Katrina J. Debnam, Ph.D., Assistant Scientist, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Krishna K. Upadhyya, M.D., Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Community partners: Kelley Hampton, Esq, Director of Programs, Break the Cycle, Erin Clark, MPH, MBA, Program Specialist, Break the Cycle,

Abstract: Living in an urban neighborhood with high levels of violence and social disorganization is associated with risk for teen dating violence (TDV). National estimates show that one in three youth are verbally or psychologically abused and one in ten youth are hit, slapped, kicked, or pushed on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend each year. One explanation for the observed relationship between neighborhood violence and TDV is that after witnessing violence in their community or home, adolescents may come to accept violence perpetrated by their partners as normative. Yet despite the high rates of TDV in urban communities, few interventions have shown significant effects and no interventions have involved healthcare providers. The proposed study involves a collaboration between researchers from Johns Hopkins and a community-based non-profit group, Break the Cycle, to refine and evaluate a TDV intervention for urban adolescents. Break the Cycle created the TDV training and screening tool for healthcare providers; however research is needed to evaluate its usability, feasibility, and effectiveness. The proposed project builds on Break the Cycle's extensive experience educating and empowering youth to build lives free from dating abuse and Johns Hopkins researchers expertise in adolescent health, urban health, and clinic-based violence prevention interventions.

Fostering Weight Control among Underserved Adults In Baltimore City: A Community Partnership

Faculty members: Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, HBS, Lawrence J. Cheskin, MD, Associate Professor, HBS

Community partner: Marcia Cort, MD, MBA, Total Health Care, Inc.

Abstract: Obesity is a critical problem among the underserved in predominantly African American communities in Baltimore. Standard, medically-based weight-control interventions are costly, and, despite the Affordable Care Act, not covered well by insurers or government. We propose to conduct a community-based pilot intervention that involves a collaborative effort between the Johns Hopkins Weight Management Center (JHWMC), Total Health Care (THC), the Maryland Food Bank (MFB), DinnerTime.com, (DT) and Apples and Oranges food store (A&O) to provide a comprehensive treatment and maintenance plan for this at-risk population. Obese (BMI 30-50 kg/m²) patients referred by primary care providers at THC will be randomized to either standard care (education and medical follow-up visits) or comprehensive care (in coordination between the JHWMC, THC, A&O, DT, and MFB). The comprehensive care group will be assessed at baseline by a physician, dietitian, behavioral counselor, and exercise specialist at the JHWMC, and be followed up with biweekly group meetings at THC for 4 months. They will also receive weekly food packages from the MFB, distributed by A&O, along with tailored instructions from Dinnertime.com on easy ways to prepare the food supplied. This will be followed by a maintenance phase, with continued support, for a total 12-month intervention. We plan to use the evidence gathered to support efforts to obtain insurance/governmental support for providing such services to underserved urban populations.

Informing A Social Marketing Campaign To Reduce HIV-Related Stigma in the Latino Community

Faculty Member: Kathleen Page, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

Community Partner: Patrick Chaulk, Baltimore City Health Department

Abstract: Latinos in the U.S. are disproportionately affected by HIV and despite efforts to address structural barriers facing the rapidly growing Latino population in Baltimore, Latinos are diagnosed with HIV later than other racial/ethnic groups, and at the Johns Hopkins Moore Clinic 48% of foreign-born Latinos present with opportunistic infections. HIV-related stigma poses a significant barrier to HIV testing and linkage to care, as Latinos in Baltimore perceive HIV to cause a physical and social death. Social marketing campaigns have demonstrated to reduce HIV-related stigma and best practices for doing so have been identified. In preparation for implementation and evaluation, we propose to gather baseline data on community stigma and social network positions of influence to inform the implementation of a social marketing campaign developed over 18 months in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department and Maryland Institute College of Arts (MICA). We will conduct a community-wide survey that includes questions on HIV stigma, utilizing recommended questions from the UNAIDS-funded HIV Stigma Network-technical working group on measurement. Additionally, we will conduct 8 focus groups with foreign-born Latinos to identify social positions of power in the community and to elicit feedback and recommendations for the implementation of the campaign.