Mobilizing Community Resources to Incorporate Community Health Workers

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Disclosure

- I do not have anything of value to disclose that consists of a financial relationship from a commercial entity or other party related directly to the content of my presentation.

- I will not be discussing any information about a product/procedure/technique that is considered research and is not yet approved for any purpose.
RI Asthma Control Program

- Funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- 1999 – present
- Overall Goals:
  - To reduce the RI asthma hospitalization rates.
  - To reduce asthma disparities among populations disproportionately affected by asthma as compared to the general population with asthma.
  - To increase the proportion of people with current asthma who report that they have received self-management education.

- Integrated Systems Approach
Integrated Systems Approach
Community Health Worker (CHW)

Umbrella term inclusive of many job titles:

- community health advisors
- lay health advocates
- promotoras (de salud)
- outreach educators
- community health representatives
- peer health promoters
Role of CHW

- **Bridge** cultural gaps between individuals and health care system
- **Provide** culturally appropriate health education
- **Link** people to services
- **Advocate** for individuals
- **Work** with patients to navigate systems (e.g., health, education, social services)
- **Assess** and **support** self-management plans
RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

- Founded in 1991
- >100 staff
- Informs, supports, & empowers parents, families, individuals to advocate for families, children, themselves, & their communities
- Focus on people with special health care needs, chronic conditions, and disabilities
- Health care, schools, community-based organizations
CHW Association of RI

- Established in 2009
- Approximately 300 members
- Mix of community members and health professionals
- Brings together front-line CHW w/ employers, supporters and policy-makers
- Promotes growth of the CHW field
- Expands opportunities and benefits for CHW
CHW Association of RI
Workforce Development

- Provides education & trainings
- Develops & advocates for policies to improve health of communities
- Educates and empowers individuals
- Provides social supports
- Applies health literacy standards
- Provides linguistically accessible services
- Addresses institutional barriers
Partner Groups

- RI Asthma Control Coalition
- RI Healthy Housing Collaborative
- RI Chronic Care Collaborative
- Home Asthma Response Program Advisory Committee
- Community Health Worker Association of RI
- Green & Healthy Housing Initiative (GHHI) - Providence
- Chronic Conditions Workforce Collaborative
- Asthma Regional Council of New England
- New England State Asthma Programs
Partner Agencies

- RI Parent Information Network
- Hasbro Children’s Hospital
- St. Joseph Hospital – Health Center
- EPA and DHHS – Region 1
- RI Department of Health
  - Office of Special Health Care Needs
  - Office of Minority Health
  - Home Visiting Program
  - Healthy Housing Program
  - Tobacco Program
  - RI Chronic Care Collaborative
Integrating CHW into Asthma Interventions

Healthy Residents, Healthy Homes

- 2006 – 2009 Newport Housing Authority
- Addressing environmental health of home & linking parent to resources to improve asthma self-management
- Peer Resource Specialist Role:
  - Environmental Home Assessment
  - Basic asthma education
  - Self-management goals to reduce exposure to triggers
  - Link residents to resources
  - Advocate for residents for smoke-free housing
Home Asthma Response Program (HARP)

- 2010 - present
- Evidence based
- Asthma home-visiting program
- Ages 2 – 6
- Residents of Providence
- Enter ED due to asthma
- Referral for 3 home visits
- Home visits by certified asthma educator (AE-C) and RIPIN community health worker
Role of HARP Community Health Worker

• Environmental Home Assessment
• Provide Supplies and Basic Education
  • HEPA vacuum, waste basket, food storage containers, cleaning supplies
• Connecting Families with Resources
  • Weatherization, Heating Assistance
  • Public Housing/Rental Agencies
  • RI Legal Services/Medical Legal Partnership
  • Insurance/Medicaid/Asthma Free Clinic
  • Breathe Easy at Home (code enforcement)
  • Head Start/Early Intervention
  • Food Bank, WIC
Pollutants in the home ...
Sanitation

- Sanitary problems identified in over 50% of homes
- Fragrant cleaning supplies that were potential irritants were often identified
- Healthy Recipe Cleaning Supplies often were substituted for potentially irritating products
The many faces of allergens ...
Pest control

Mice and Cockroach infestations

- Mouse glue-traps provided
- Cockroach gels often used to replace sprays
- Preliminary data indicates that improved sanitation and blocking access points for pests were successful in eradicating infestations in some homes
Mold

- 2 kitchens and 2 bathrooms had significant water damage which was repaired by 3rd visit

- Most often required advocating for family with landlord
Dust Mites Containment

Mattress and Pillow Covers
- Parents rarely knew about the importance of these covers
- Provision of these resulted in near universal use in all homes involved in HARP
Sustainability

- HARP Advisory Committee
  - Medicaid (RIteCare) & Commercial Health Plans
  - RI Department of Human Services
- Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
  - currently implementing program w/out CHWs
- New England Asthma Innovation Collaborative
  - Asthma Regional Council of New England
    - Program of Health Resources in Action, Boston
    - CMS Innovations Grant Funded
- RI, MA, VT, CT
• Expanding asthma home visiting models in New England
• Creating innovative Medicaid payment mechanisms
• Developing CHW asthma certification program
RI, CT, & VT: Modification of Krieger Model

- 1st home visit conducted by CHW and an AE-C
- 2nd & 3rd – only CHW

MA: Duplication of Krieger Model:

- 3-5 home visits by a CHW, overseen by an asthma nurse trained in CHW supervision

CT: Test a stand-alone clinic-based asthma education, delivered by an AE-C to patients with poorly controlled asthma, referred by community pediatricians.
Integrating CHW into Asthma Interventions cont.

Chronic Conditions Workforce Collaborative

- Certified Asthma Educators
- Certified Diabetes Outpatient Educators
- Certified CVD Educators
- Draw A Breath
- Living Well RI (Stanford Model)
- YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program
- RIPIN Peer Resource Specialist
- Shape Up RI
- Smoker’s Quitline
- Matter of Balance
Healthy Housing Trainings

- **2011 & 2012 Basic Healthy Housing Trainings**
  - >150 CHWs and home visiting professionals
- **Advanced Healthy Housing Trainings**
  - September 2012 – 85 participants
- **Asthma Trainings for CHWs**
  - Spring 2013
Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

*Strategy 1.3* In homes, reduce environmental exposure.
Thank you!!!

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