

Report from the Prevention Subcommittee on identifying mechanisms to assist communities of greatest need with applications for and implementation of prevention-related funding opportunities

Participants: Alice Ammerman, Laura Edwards, Laura Gerald, Jennifer Hastings, Andy Landis, Sue McLaurin, Barbara Pullen-Smith, Sharon Schiro.

The task undertaken by this subcommittee was to identify mechanisms to assist communities with limited public health and grant proposal writing infrastructure to respond effectively to prevention funding opportunities that may become available through the Affordable Care Act or other sources. An additional objective is to assist these communities with developing the infrastructure to address the HNC2020 objectives.

Background

Two State agencies have missions directly related to the goals of improving the health of NC communities, in part, by assisting with the development of community infrastructure. The HNC2020 has been tasked with working with NC communities to help them develop the infrastructure to implement the HNC2020 recommendations. The NC Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NC OMHHD) works with non-profits in communities on infrastructure development (including capacity building and leadership development) with the goals of improving minority health and reducing health disparities.

Recommendations:

Partnerships with other organizations already working in these communities and/or that can assist with the provision of required knowledge resources would facilitate the work of the HNC2020 and NC-OMHHD, and would help develop infrastructure in these communities that could support participation in funding opportunities. Specific organizations discussed were through UNC, including the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, the Center of Excellence for Training and Research Translation, and the NC Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute (NC TRACS). This is by no means an exhaustive list of potential university resources to assist with these efforts.

Thus, the Prevention Workgroup Infrastructure Subcommittee recommends that the HNC2020 and NC-OMHHD should identify and partner with organizations within communities that are interested in participating in funding opportunities, so that these organizations can help develop infrastructure both for reaching the HNC2020 objectives and for responding to funding opportunities. The subcommittee recognizes the importance of community engagement to the success of interventions to improve community health. These partnerships also are crucial to maximize results given limited resources, by improving coordination and reducing duplication of effort. To develop these infrastructure partnerships, the HNC2020 and the NC-OMHHD should:

- 1) Creating a listserv of community- or faith-based organizations that are interested in funding opportunities, then link these organizations to the NC Network of Grantmakers so that they can be notified of relevant funding opportunities.
- 2) Encourage partnerships between local health departments and community organizations in responses to funding opportunities.
- 3) Provide information to these organizations on available resources. Resource examples:

- a. UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP): can provide assistance with evaluation design and implementation, and with grant writing
 - i. UNC Center of Excellence for Training and Research Translation (<http://www.center-trt.org/>): provides information and training on evidence-based interventions
 - b. NC Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute at UNC-CH (NC TraCS) (<http://tracs.unc.edu/>): provides training on grant writing and evaluation,
 - c. HNC 2020 website: will provide a library of evidence-based resources for prevention.
 - d. Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that could support partnerships between state agencies and community groups
- 4) Cultivate partnerships between communities, community organizations, and academic institutions to provide mutual opportunities for research and service.
 - 5) Evaluate the utility and feasibility of a Community Health Management Information System (CHMIS) as a mechanism for linking community stakeholders, and providing a mechanism for aggregation and exchange of health information across the community.
 - 6) Provide training to local providers to improve cultural competence, and work to increase cultural diversity in community partnerships and funding opportunity participants.
 - 7) Develop leadership capacity and grant writing skills within community organizations to provide long-term community infrastructure.
 - 8) Cultivate partnerships with foundations to increase funding for prevention activities.
 - 9) Use multiple mechanisms of communicating with community members, recognizing that the availability, ability to utilize, and interest in technology varies widely.
 - 10) Monitor and track federal and state funding opportunities and disseminate information to local community agencies as quickly as possible to facilitate adequate time for grant preparation
 - 11) Work with communities to develop communication mechanisms facilitating rapid identification of collaborators to permit rapid response to funding opportunities and avoid competition within the same community.