BILINGUAL COMMUNITY-BASED CHRONIC CARE INSTITUTE
$450,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - SUMMARY

The Bilingual Chronic Care Project (BCCP) is a collaborative effort of the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center (SSCHC)-United Community Center (UCC) and Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). The primary purpose of the BCCP is to develop a new model of care that will reduce the adverse health effects of the chronic conditions most prevalent in SSCHC patient population and community: asthma, diabetes and obesity, in an inner city Hispanic Community.

Health Improvement Model

According to the Centers for Disease Control, chronic diseases are among the most common and most expensive health problems. Chronic diseases account for about 70% of all U.S. deaths and about 75% of health care costs each year. The SSCHC has worked collaboratively with Medical College staff for a number of years on chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and most recently obesity. In addition, SSCHC and UCC have collaborated on asthma and diabetes and expect to expand its effort in these areas and start an initiative on obesity.

The target population for this project will be low-income, urban Hispanics. 79% of SSCHC's patients and 85% of UCC participants are Hispanic and primarily low-income. In addition, 16% of UCC's students are also medical patients at SSCHC. The Community Partners' service area is the densest in Wisconsin as well as having the largest concentration of Hispanics in the State. The project will emphasize prevention to those at risk, self-management and prevention of disability and death for those diagnosed. Through the implementation of the Chronic Care Model, we anticipate the community's health will improve through the partnership's collaborative efforts to build capacity and self-efficacy among clients and improve our internal systems and protocols.

Community-Academic Partnership

SSCHC collaborated with UCC and both organizations have collaborated with faculty of the Medical College of Wisconsin for a number of years. Through these collaborations, both community staff and faculty have learned more about the distinct environments each operates in. Our partnership members are committed to continue working collaboratively through this project effort. Through ongoing, open communication our common goals have been identified and strong working relationships have been developed. The relationships will continue through this project to ensure that our mutually shared goals and objectives are met and that these relationships benefit the community we serve. We have strong on-going partnerships that have developed over the course of time. This process will continue to ensure the strength of our collaborations. In previous grant-related partnerships, we have had written programmatic agreements. This will again occur for this project.

Principles of Stewardship

This Chronic Care project will be a collaboration between SSCHC, UCC and Medical College of Wisconsin faculty. Implementing a comprehensive care model to prevent and manage three chronic conditions, which significantly impact the predominately Hispanic south side, will result in improved health outcomes for this population. These conditions are at epidemic levels throughout the state, and the model we develop could be replicated or adapted at other Wisconsin health facilities. We are also pooling existing resources and exploring other funding opportunities that will allow us to sustain implementation of this model. Both process and outcome evaluation will be central to the partnership work in this project. The Chronic Care Model is intended to transform health care from the largely acute care delivery system to a system where sustained patient/provider collaboration is the central vehicle for treatment.