

**SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION,
ARIZONA PREVENTION CENTER**

**Community Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes for May 25, 1999**

Present: 25 community members and staff were present

Co-Facilitators: Joel Meister (SWCCHP), Susan Warne (Cochise County Dept. of Health and Social Services)

I. Introductions: Participants introduced themselves

II. The Southwest Center for Community Health Promotion (SWCCHP)

Joel Meister and Mike Lebowitz provided an introduction to the Arizona Prevention Center and its Southwest Center for Community Health Promotion, one of the newest CDC-funded Prevention Research Centers with a focus on community involvement in research. Historically speaking, university-community relationships have been problematic, especially in terms of research conducted in community settings. The SWCCHP wants to explore new ways of partnering with communities to conduct research and other activities of mutual benefit.

III. Demonstration Project

Jill de Zapien summarized the initial demonstration project underway in Cochise County that will test strategies to increase chronic disease screening and health care access for women ages 40 and over.

IV. Discussion of Communities and Research

A roundtable discussion of "community" yielded the following points and questions:

- How do we make communities more encompassing? The same people seem to be at all functions.
- Communities rally around issues; politicians take over issues instead of issues belonging to communities.
- Is participating in community action a value for some people? Other issues may be more important to them.
- Community exists when even a small number of people work together towards a positive goal. Community can exist in family and in work.
- Community may be less important today since our society is preparing people to compete against each other and not work together.

The word "research" also generated lively discussion:

- Picture animals in labs. Universities researching communities must mean people are treated like the rats in a lab.
- Community members may think, "Once you find out my health problems, how

much will it cost me?" or "I may be happier dying not knowing my illness existed."

- More money goes towards research than on programs after the results are found.
- Community development is research or can be the subject of research.
- Research and action must be linked.
- Research must be a partnership between universities and communities.
- Community members have the right to know what they will gain from the research done.

V. Strengths of the University and Communities

Community

- Ø Promotora Programs
- Ø Networks
- Ø Information Gathering
- Ø Coalitions-bring people together for common goals
- Ø Everyone knows each other
- Ø Diverse populations, interests, experience, and knowledge
- Ø Planning
- Ø Knowledge of situation
- Ø Commitment
- Ø Existing Groups-Faith communities, School, Youth, Rotary, Sewing Groups, Workplace, etc.
- Ø School Nurses
- Ø Local History
- Ø Community Colleges/University opportunities
- Ø Passion/Emotion
- Ø Organizations with relevant missions (responsibility, personnel, etc)
- Ø AHEC's and Cooperative Extension
- Ø State/County/University Partnerships
- Ø Technology/Telemedicine
- Ø Training-"Real" Experience
- Ø ADHS and Border Health Office

University

- Ø Research Methodology
 - Planning/Design/Analysis/Dissemination
- Ø National Awareness
- Ø Neutrality (in relation to community factions)
- Ø Diversity of Expertise
- Ø Information Resources
- Ø Students
- Ø Education/Training
- Ø Objective Passion (???)

- Ø Willingness to Change
- Ø Interactive Disciplines
- Ø Local Educational Opportunities
- Ø AHEC's and Cooperative Extension
- Ø State/County/University Partnerships
- Ø Extended Universities
- Ø Technology Access
- Ø Telemedicine
- Ø ADHS and Border Health Office

Common Strengths

- ü Planning
- ü Dissemination
- ü Training
- ü Community Colleges/Extending Universities
- ü AHEC's and Cooperative Extension
- ü State/County/University Partnerships
- ü Technology/Telemedicine
- ü ADHS and Border Health Office

VI. Role of the Community Advisory Board (CAB)

- What is the CAB's level of clout in the new College of Public Health?
- A better question is what kind of direction do you want to give the future College of Public Health?
- The role should be advisory and not policy making.
- Participatory opportunities with University.
- Community members of the CAB can bring University/research to own communities.
- Help bring in resources from state, county levels.
- Hold investigators at the University accountable. Make sure the research is worth doing.
- Hold University's feet to the fire.
- Adversarial/Friendly relationship with University.
- Keep each other accountable.
- Oversight and evaluation.
- Write a mission statement so research won't get lost. The research must directly improve or help communities.
- Report card mechanism. How are we going to know if the University is meeting its goal?
- Involve CAB in development of research models from the beginning with the University.
- CAB membership should model partnership with University. SWCCHP staff is considered to be a part of the CAB.
- CAB should have county meetings in subgroups with designated county

coordinators.

- CAB will meet together twice a year. County subgroups will meet quarterly.

VII. County Coordinators

Yuma:

Amanda Aguirre
Victoria Steinfeld
Emma Torres

Cochise:

Oscar Olivares
Carol Huddleston
Rosa Ortega
Susan Warne
Lynas Waun

Santa Cruz:

Karen Halvorsen
Dean Fish
Ila Tittelbaugh

VIII. Community Involvement in CDC's Special Interest Projects (SIPS)

Mike Lebowitz explained how the Center for Disease Control offers financial assistance to Prevention Research Centers for the study of specific community health issues. With the help of the Community Advisory Board, the SWCCHP can better identify which communities can be helped through these financial awards.

IX. Review

- The Community Advisory Board agrees that it will aim to meet twice a year-most likely will meet with the faculty Interdisciplinary Working Group.
- The CAB will meet as county subgroup quarterly.
- County subgroups will meet before the next large CAB meeting.
- The CAB will create a mission statement. (Bill Lofquist will lead a quick, informative discussion to achieve this at our next meeting.)
- The next CAB meeting is being planned for Tuesday, November 16, 1999*.

The meeting ended with a social hour attended by members of the faculty Interdisciplinary Working Group as well as the CAB.

* Next meeting date and place changed to Thursday, January 27, 2000, 10 AM - 4 PM, at the Rio Rico Resort, in conjunction with the Border Alliance Conference.