

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

REACH

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health



Health Initiative NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEADERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH



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Community design assumes a major role in the health outcomes of community members. Despite decades of research and programs, chronic medical conditions (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease) remain a significant public health problem in the United States, especially for low income, racial and ethnic minority communities. The World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) suggested that it is imperative that public health professionals, researchers, clinicians and policy makers work to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor concerning health issues, by promoting health equity and setting guidelines for global health initiatives (WHO, 2008). We need leaders to promote the CSDH three principles of action: (1) enhance daily living conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age; (2) address inequitable distribution of power, money, and resources; and (3) accurately measure the issues, assess action plans, increase the knowledge

base, create a workforce of persons trained in social determinants of health, and increase awareness about social determinants of health. Health is a human right. Equity in health implies that, ideally, everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential and, that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential (CDC, 2013).

MSM Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Initiative ("REACH-HI") partners The Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center with the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Georgia State University and The National Center for Primary Care. It will employ an evidence based and culturally tailored model that bridges community and clinical connections and promotes policy, systems, and environmental change related to access to health foods and improved opportunities for physical activity. Strategies will be designed to improve access to quality healthcare and reduce risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease in 31 census tracts in Neighborhood Planning Units V, X, Y, Z and T. MSM REACH HI will accomplish this through community based approaches that connect residents to care through

community health workers, enlists the clinical leadership of federally qualified health centers, improves behavioral health and chronic disease management, engages community leaders, and improves health outcomes.

Moving the needle towards health equity requires approaches that are inclusive of the communities most affected by health inequities. We hope that through their collective work REACH HI, community residents, researchers, and public health practitioners can move beyond cataloging of health disparities toward identifying action and evidence-based approaches that advance community health.

Addressing the health needs of diverse populations is a complex issue that requires inventive strategies to promote greater well-being among individuals, families, and communities. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is an approach that emphasizes community-academic partnership and shared leadership with mutual benefits. To support building healthier communities, it is imperative to have community-academic partnerships which can garner a mutually beneficial experience and provide training for future community leaders to bolster project sustainability.

REACH-HI HEALTHY CORNER STORE INITIATIVE

Mary Anne Adams



Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease are leading causes of death in minority neighborhoods across the United States. The Healthy Corner Store Initiative (HCSI) attempts to reduce the risk factors of these diseases by increasing access to healthy food options in five Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Units (T, V, X, Y and Z). These Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Units are food deserts, urban areas where at least 33% of the population live more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store (USDA, 2015).

Stores that enroll will receive assistance and support for carrying a larger variety of healthy food items. Eligible stores include those that accept EBT (food stamps). Additionally, the majority of the customers must live or work within walking distance and the corner store owners must believe that access to healthy foods is important. The goal of the initiative is to enroll 21 stores by 2017. We currently have 12 stores enrolled.

Next steps include analysis of customer surveys to help determine store inventory, outfit enrolled corner stores with interior and exterior signage, display kiosks featuring health and nutrition information, simple budget- friendly recipes, and information about Substance Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The team plans to recruit additional stores in Neighborhood Planning Units V and Z. Currently there have been 100 baseline surveys completed and analyzed.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMPROVED STREET DESIGN

Angela Church

When people think about healthy communities, they tend to focus on improving access to health care services. While health care is essential, the neighborhoods where people live, learn, play, and work are more important for their overall health. Having opportunities for good health means having access to affordable, healthy food choices and safe places to be physically active. Critical to this is street design that takes into account all users, especially the most vulnerable, including youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly. (Burder, 2011)

Faculty and staff from Morehouse School of Medicine and Georgia State University together with community members from WeCycle, Sustainable Lakewood, and Neighborhood Planning Units T, V, X, Y, and Z are partnering to bring Complete Streets—streets that take into account all users, regardless of age, or ability - whether they choose to walk, roll, cycle, use public transportation, or drive a car—to Southwest Atlanta.

The REACH-HI Project is helping to ensure that community members are actively engaged in improving the health of their neighborhoods.

The Complete Streets Working Group, made up of community members and local partners, is developing a Complete Streets Policy that spells out priorities and the most important issues identified by residents in each of the NPUs. Making streets safe and walkable for children, especially around schools, has emerged as a important priority. This is reflected in work that is already underway, where Safe Routes to School programs are being implemented at The Tuskegee Airman Global Academy, Dunbar Elementary School and in the Pittsburgh neighborhood.

For more information contact Angela Church at 404-756-6991 or achurch@msm.edu



COMMUNITY-CLINICAL LINKAGES CORE: THE IADAPT 2.0 PROJECT

Pamela Daniels, M.B.A., M.P.H., Ph.D.

The iADAPT 2.0 Project is a component of the Community-Clinical Linkages core of REACH-HI. It is designed to increase chronic disease self-management and prevention by increasing access to patient-centered medical homes (PCMH) and to non-physician care teams incorporating community health workers (CHWs). The iADAPT 2.0 Project focuses on pre-diabetes, diabetes, and heart disease and related mental and behavioral health concerns. The iADAPT 2.0 team offers a three-day workshop to educate CHWs and community residents and equips patients at local clinics with the necessary tools to promote chronic disease self-management. With these goals in mind, the iADAPT Project will activate up to 400 CHWs and up to over 54,000 community residents in the targeted neighborhoods. The iADAPT 2.0 Project also provides CHWs and community residents with resources through the iADAPT 2.0 website and our Community Health Worker Resource Center located in East Point, Georgia. The resource center is equipped with a computer work room and a plethora of information to help CHWs to continue assisting their patients. The iADAPT Project can be reached at 1-844-IADAPT2 (1-844-423-2782) or iADAPT2.0@msm.edu



THE REACH-HI GRANT HAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

Shawn Walton

The REACH-HI Grant has an excellent opportunity to aid turning the Corner of Westview Drive and Lawton Street in Ashview Heights to the REACH-HI Grant national model. Here are 4 reasons why:



- 1 There's an unhealthy corner store and bicycle lanes on the same street! Come out to the crossroads of Westview Dr. and Lawton St. These corners have all the perks to make an immediate and nationally recognized model.
- 2 It's next to an elementary school. In regards to reaching our youth early to teach sustainable habits, what better way than to have a healthy corner store and community facility on the same block!
- 3 It could be better than the Carver Market! How? Because the building is going to be next to the Truly Living Well (TLW) new urban farm. So how does that make it better? One of the largest problems that the Carver Market had was that it lacked access to an agricultural operation to provide the food. With TLW across the street we can jump that hurdle in one leap!
- 4 Westview Drive leads to the Atlanta University Center and the Atlanta Beltline! The drivers that will pass by this building, garden, and school, will be amazed at how conveniently located this Healthy Corner Store is! Guys... EVERYTHING IS THERE for a national model!

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