Friday imPACT 1.5
November 19, 2010

Hey Community Engagers,

You may have missed seeing Grant Jones at the last PACT Council meeting. That evening, he was in Colorado Springs accepting an award on behalf of his non-profit organization. The Center for African American Health was a Finalist for the El Pomar Foundation’s Non-Profit Excellence Award and received its “R.J. Montgomery Award for Excellence in Human Service” for the organization’s Senior Wellness Initiatives. This is the second time in three years that the Center has been honored by the El Pomar Foundation, in 2008 the Center was a finalist for the Foundation’s “Joel A.H. Webb Award” in the small health care organization category. “We are very grateful and quite humbled to be among the outstanding non-profits being recognized by the El Pomar Foundation at their annual Non-Profit Excellence ceremony,” said Grant. Congratulations!

Three Community Liaisons – Robert Chavez, Christin Sutter, and Susan Gale – attended the international North American Primary Care Research Group (NACPCRG) conference Nov. 14–17 in Seattle. Robert presented a poster on “best practices” for the A CARE program, a home blood pressure monitoring program implemented in 26 primary care practices around the state. Robert’s relationships with primary care practices and communities in the San Luis Valley were absolutely essential to efforts to engage the leadership and providers of health centers in this region and to the implementation and evaluation of this program. Robert and Susan presented a poster on the Academic Immersion Training (AIT) program, which involves community members coming to Anschutz Medical Campus to learn about the culture and range of research activities on campus. The poster featured the community liaisons’ experience as the first group to participate in the AIT. Linda Zittleman presented a poster on AIT’s sister program, the Colorado Immersion Training (CIT), which involves researchers learning about and spending time in Colorado communities. Both presentations spotlight the role of the liaisons. The response to these programs was fantastic, verging on crazy fantastic. Christin Sutter nailed a presentation on the role of the Community Liaisons. She boiled down the 45-minute version of the “A Day in the Life of a Community Liaison” (as presented in Vail) to a 12-minute presentation. Using the messages shared by her fellow liaisons in previous “Day in the Life” presentations, she gave the 30+ people in attendance a wonderful overview of how the liaison fosters relationships and communication in community engaged research. Nods of agreement, intrigue, and good questions were abundant. Thanks to these three liaisons for their contributions to this conference!

Check out the CCTSI Community Engagement dashboard. Review the aims and indicators, then be sure to report activities that move us toward or keep us in the green.

http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu/secure/evaluation/Pages/CommunityEngagementDashboard.aspx
Focus on PACT Communities - The Center for African-American Health
The Center for African-American Health is a community-based organization providing disease prevention and disease management programs to African Americans living in the metro Denver area. The Center also acts as the voice for African Americans in the public policy arena, advocating for system reforms that improve health care access and quality of care. The Center for African-American Health developed out of the health programs of the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative. Throughout its history, the Black Church Initiative collaborated with black churches on programs for at-risk youth, academically struggling students, and ex-offenders, as well as health education and health screening programs. In 2005, the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative made the decision to focus its work solely on the health disparities facing African Americans and officially changed its name to the Center for African-American Health. The mission of the Center is to improve the health and well-being of African Americans, who have higher rates of illness, disability, and premature death from diseases such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. To learn more about programs and activities, visit the Center for African-American Health Web site at http://www.caahealth.org/page.cfm.

Have a great weekend!
Jack Westfall