Hey Community Engagers,

It has been rather a slow week for CCTSI Community Engagement, so there's not much to report. Next time we should have an update on CE pilot grants.

An announcement was circulated of a one-time opportunity to submit an administrative supplement request to support designated topic areas of CTSA activity. There are five topic areas, and each CTSA is limited to three requests. We have a couple of good ideas for the Community Engagement topic area that we'll present to the CCTSI Executive Committee, but we will be competing with the other CCTSI cores for the ability to submit. We'll keep you posted.

A common struggle facing researchers is how to maintain a presence and continue successful work in communities after funding ends. The frustration experienced by the communities when researchers vanish is one reason communities are hesitant to participate in research. Susan Gale, CCTSI Community Liaison for the High Plains Research Network (HPRN) in rural southeast Colorado, is working to make sure this doesn't happen. A couple of years ago, an urban-rural partnership between National Jewish Health and the HPRN was developed for the Asthma Toolkits program, an evidence-based translational intervention designed to improve asthma care and outcomes. With Susan on board as a liaison, a new community of practices in SE Colorado was introduced to the HPRN. Susan has been the link between the research team and the community of over 25 primary care practices and towns in SE Colorado. Through infrastructure provided by CCTSI, Susan and her fellow HPRN liaison, Christin Sutter, are providing much-needed refresher training and support to practices and continuing periodic data collection to assess program utilization although program funding has ceased. This type of work done by liaisons strengthens projects and relationships and paves a smoother road for future research partnerships.

Focus on PACT Communities - Stapleton 2040
2040 Partners for Health works to improve health and health equity in our five-neighborhood region for the long-term, using collaborative community-based action research. 2040 operates within a geographic footprint that includes Northeast Park Hill, Greater Park Hill, East Montclair, Northwest Aurora, and Stapleton and the University of Colorado’s Health Sciences campus. The organization engages in projects using Community-Based Participatory Research methods, and works with researchers/academics and the community. Our work involves research projects, convening, evaluation, data development, and facilitating community connections. We have just completed a study of Kid’s Obesity in our neighborhoods, working with Ira Gorman and the Taking Neighborhood Health to Heart community group. The 2040 Health Summit (coming up on Saturday February 5th, 2011), is a key opportunity to learn more about 2040, neighborhood health and health initiatives, and major issues affecting our neighborhoods. To learn more, or to contact us, please visit the website: www.2040partnersforhealth.org.

Have a good weekend!
Jack Westfall