

City of Milwaukee Health Department
Community Voices Project, 2006
Milwaukee Alliance for Sexual Health
Community Mobilization Initiative Addressing Disparities in STDs and Unintended Pregnancies

Community Working Group

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Medical College of Wisconsin and Health Care Education and Training is seeking to create a Community Working Group to act as an advisory board to our Community Voices Project.

What is the Community Voices Project?

The Community Voices Project is funded by the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) to gather information on the growing health disparities of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies among African American youth in Milwaukee. Rapid Assessment, Response and Evaluation (RARE) methodology will be used which enables communities to conduct a geographically targeted investigation into the norms, beliefs, and behaviors that result in adverse health consequences. Data will be collected from a specific area/neighborhood through focus groups, one-on-one interviews, intercept surveys and geo-risk mapping. Our overarching project goal is to have our community voices be heard.

What is the Community Working Group and who should join?

The Community Working Group acts as the advisory board for the project. They will assist in the design of the project and will participate in the development of the action plan/recommendations. The CWG members will be identified in our written report as those who helped guide our project.

What is the timeline of the Community Voices Project?

The CVP will be conducted in three phases:

Phase I: Start-up/1 month (May, 2006)

In Phase I of the CVP project, MHD will conduct start-up activities such as development of project questions, recruitment of RARE team and Community Working Group (CWG) members.

Phase II: RARE Research/3 months (from June through August, 2006)

During this project time, the RARE team will conduct extensive community assessments, data collection using RARE methodology (focus groups, interviews, mapping, observations, street surveys), and data analysis.

Phase III: Recommendations Preparation (September, 2006)

In Phase III, the RARE team, in consultation with the Community Working Group members, will analyze research findings and develop recommendations for practice.

The CWG's members will have the following responsibilities:

- Attend three required meetings, including a comprehensive orientation on the nature, scope, and application of RARE methodology
- Serve as an advisory body in the development of project questions and the collection and analysis of data by the RARE field team
- Participate in and/or observe the development of the RARE final report and action plan to be shared with local officials and health department leadership
- Assist with recruitment of research participants for a focus group session and/or culturally expert interview.

Community Working Group Meeting Schedule

The Community Working Group would meet once a month between June, 2006 and September 2006, for a total of 3 times.

The monthly meeting will be held at: **United Way of Greater Milwaukee**
225 W. Vine St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 263-8100

Refreshments will be provided.

- 1st Meeting: **June 7th, Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**
 - ✧ **RARE methodology orientation**
 - ✧ **Target area defined**
- 2nd Meeting: **July 19th, Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**
 - ✧ **Project update**
 - ✧ **Community mapping assessment**
 - ✧ **Street survey design**
- 3rd Meeting: **September 20th, Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**
 - ✧ **Project wrap-up**
 - ✧ **Recommendations/Action Plan**

Please call David Garcia at 414.286.2050 or email at dgarci@milwaukee.gov to confirm your attendance at our first meeting by June 5th, 2006.

Thank you for your support! The success of our Community Voices Project depends on your participation.

Sincerely,

David Garcia, MPH
Community Voices Program Coordinator
City of Milwaukee Health Department
841 N. Broadway, 3rd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202