STD-AIDS-2013

OMICS Group Conferences
Accelerating Scientific Discovery

International Conference on
HIV/AIDS, STDs, & STIs

October 24-25, 2013 Orlando, FL, USA

Lessons Learned from Community Based Participatory Research(CBPR) to assess HIV/AIDS needs for and advocacy capacity on behalf of latinos learning objectives

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Abstract

Background

Latinos in t US South are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. Structural barriers, service practices, and anti-immigration laws contribute to limited access to HIV services and poor alth outcomes. Using CBPR approach, t Latino Soutrn REACH project facilitated t formation of a community coalition to document Latino's HIV needs and advocacy efforts in nine US Soutrn states**.**

Methods

A transdisciplinary research team engaged in a partnership with 25 community members from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Nortrn Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas. This partnership guided t creation of a multi-state coalition, which through a consensus process,developed t research agenda, conducted in-depthinterviews, and participated in data analyseson factors impacting HIV testing,care, and treatment. T Coalition members received training via webinars on 1) t human rights framework and 2) research design, participant recruitment and data collection and analysis.

Lessons Learned

CBPR is a feasible methodology to conduct research with communities without prior exposure to research. Feasibility is associated with a clear and mutually agreed upon roles, shared decision-making, flexible research agenda, and involvement of community members in all aspects of t research process. Latino cultural constructs and language are key considerations wn developing partnerships with Latino communities.

Conclusions

Communities must play an active role throughout t research process to ensure that studies are culturally sensitive and relevant. T process of forming community-research partnerships is time consuming, yet it results in greater capacity and commitment by community members to advocate for t alth of target groups.

Biography

Dr. Felizzola has more than 25 years of experience in HIV/AIDS clinical practice, cultural competency, and research and evaluation. currently serves as Principal Investigator of a 5-year HRSA/HAB-funded Special Project of National Significance, Building a Medical Home for HIV Homeless Individuals in rural North Carolina. Dr. Felizzola has also worked as Senior Director of Research and Evaluation and Project Director of t AIDS Education and Training Center, National Center for HIV Care in Minority Communities at althHIV in Washington, DC. Prior to joining althHIV; Dr. Felizzola was t Director of two NIDA-funded randomized clinical trials in t Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. One of t trials (STRIDE); is a RCT of Buprenorphine among HIV positive opioid dependent pretrial detainees in D.C., and t otr (CURB CTN 0048); is a RCT of Buprenorphine and Vivitrol among Cocaine Users. During his tenure with Howard University, also served as Associate Director of t NIH-funded Research Program in t Epidemiology and Prevention of Drug Abuse and AIDS, Project Director of t Minority Institutions Drug Abuse Research Development Program, and Cultural Competency Manager for Howard's National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center. He currently consults CommWell alth in t capacity of Lead Evaluator of a 5-year SAMHSA-funded TCE/HIV project, and Project Director for CommWell alth Latino REACH Project, an AIDS United-funded comprensive assessment of HIV/AIDS needs for and advocacy efforts on behalf of Latinos in nine states of t South U.S. Otr work experience of Dr. Felizzola includes serving as Principal Investigator of a HRSA/SPNS multi-site outreach demonstration project in Miami, Florida, Associate Director of t NIH-funded Latino HIV/AIDS Behavioral Sciences Center at Florida International University and Coordinator of t North Carolina Statewide Latino HIV/AIDS Initiative.