



Mobilizing Community Resources to Incorporate Community Health Workers

***CHEST 14TH Annual ACCP Community Asthma and COPD
Coalitions Symposium
October 24, 2012***

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Disclosure



- **I do not have anything of value to disclose that consists of a financial relationship from a commercial entity or other party related directly to the content of my presentation.**
- **I will not be discussing any information about a product/procedure/technique that is considered research and is not yet approved for any purpose.**

RI Asthma Control Program



- **Funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
- **1999 – present**
- **Overall Goals:**
 - To reduce the RI asthma hospitalization rates.
 - To reduce asthma disparities among populations disproportionately affected by asthma as compared to the general population with asthma.
 - To increase the proportion of people with current asthma who report that they have received self-management education.
- **Integrated Systems Approach**

Integrated Systems Approach



Community Health Worker (CHW)



Umbrella term inclusive of many job titles:

- community health advisors
- lay health advocates
- promotoras (de salud)
- outreach educators
- community health representatives
- peer health promoters

Role of CHW



- **Bridge** cultural gaps between individuals and health care system
- **Provide** culturally appropriate health education
- **Link** people to services
- **Advocate** for individuals
- **Work** with patients to navigate systems (e.g., health, education, social services)
- **Assess** and **support** self-management plans

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)



- Founded in 1991
- >100 staff
- Informs, supports, & empowers parents, families, individuals to advocate for families, children, themselves, & their communities
- Focus on people with special health care needs, chronic conditions, and disabilities
- Health care, schools, community-based organizations



CHW Association of RI



- Established in 2009
- Approximately 300 members
- Mix of community members and health professionals
- Brings together front-line CHW w/ employers, supporters and policy-makers
- Promotes growth of the CHW field
- Expands opportunities and benefits for CHW

CHW Association of RI Workforce Development



- Provides education & trainings
- Develops & advocates for policies to improve health of communities
- Educates and empowers individuals
- Provides social supports
- Applies health literacy standards
- Provides linguistically accessible services
- Addresses institutional barriers

Partner Groups



- RI Asthma Control Coalition
- RI Healthy Housing Collaborative
- RI Chronic Care Collaborative
- Home Asthma Response Program Advisory Committee
- Community Health Worker Association of RI
- Green & Healthy Housing Initiative (GHHI) - Providence
- Chronic Conditions Workforce Collaborative
- Asthma Regional Council of New England
- New England State Asthma Programs



Partner Agencies



- **RI Parent Information Network**
- **Hasbro Children's Hospital**
- **St. Joseph Hospital – Health Center**
- **EPA and DHHS – Region 1**
- **RI Department of Health**
 - Office of Special Health Care Needs
 - Office of Minority Health
 - Home Visiting Program
 - Healthy Housing Program
 - Tobacco Program
 - RI Chronic Care Collaborative

Integrating CHW into Asthma Interventions



Healthy Residents, Healthy Homes

- **2006 – 2009 Newport Housing Authority**
- **Addressing environmental health of home & linking parent to resources to improve asthma self-management**
- **Peer Resource Specialist Role:**
 - Environmental Home Assessment
 - Basic asthma education
 - Self-management goals to reduce exposure to triggers
 - Link residents to resources
 - Advocate for residents for smoke-free housing

Integrating CHW into Asthma Interventions cont.



Home Asthma Response Program (HARP)

- 2010 - present
- Evidence based
- Asthma home-visiting program
- Ages 2 – 6
- Residents of Providence
- Enter ED due to asthma
- Referral for 3 home visits
- Home visits by certified asthma educator (AE-C) and RIPIN community health worker

Role of HARP Community Health Worker



- **Environmental Home Assessment**
- **Provide Supplies and Basic Education**
 - HEPA vacuum, waste basket, food storage containers, cleaning supplies
- **Connecting Families with Resources**
 - Weatherization, Heating Assistance
 - Public Housing/Rental Agencies
 - RI Legal Services/Medical Legal Partnership
 - Insurance/Medicaid/Asthma Free Clinic
 - Breathe Easy at Home (code enforcement)
 - Head Start/Early Intervention
 - Food Bank, WIC

Pollutants in the home ...



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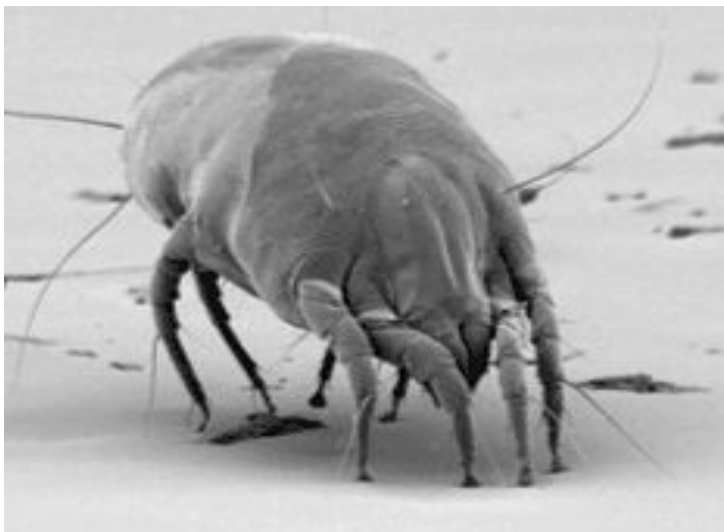
Site Assessments



Sanitation

- Sanitary problems identified in over 50% of homes
- Fragrant cleaning supplies that were potential irritants were often identified
- Healthy Recipe Cleaning Supplies often were substituted for potentially irritating products

The many faces of allergens ...



Pest control



Mice and Cockroach infestations

- Mouse glue-traps provided
- Cockroach gels often used to replace sprays
- Preliminary data indicates that improved sanitation and blocking access points for pests were successful in eradicating infestations in some homes

Mold



- 2 kitchens and 2 bathrooms had significant water damage which was repaired by 3rd visit

- Most often required advocating for family with landlord

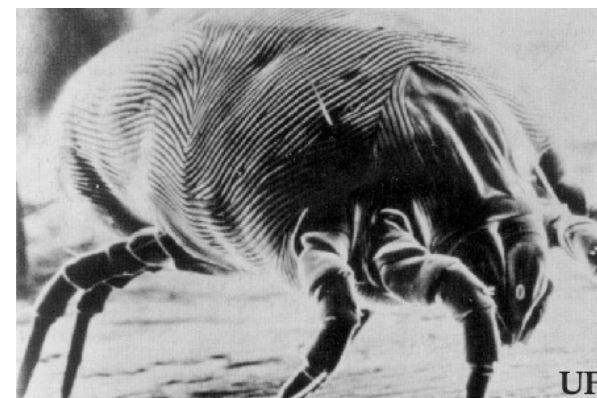


Dust Mites Containment



Mattress and Pillow Covers

- Parents rarely knew about the importance of these covers
- Provision of these resulted in near universal use in all homes involved in HARP



Sustainability



- **HARP Advisory Committee**
 - Medicaid (RIteCare) & Commercial Health Plans
 - RI Department of Human Services
- **Neighborhood Health Plan of RI**
 - currently implementing program w/out CHWs
- **New England Asthma Innovation Collaborative**
 - Asthma Regional Council of New England
 - Program of Health Resources in Action, Boston
 - CMS Innovations Grant Funded
 - RI, MA, VT, CT

New England Asthma Innovation Collaborative



- **Expanding asthma home visiting models in New England**
- **Creating innovative Medicaid payment mechanisms**
- **Developing CHW asthma certification program**

New England Asthma Innovation Collaborative



RI, CT, & VT: Modification of Krieger Model

- 1st home visit conducted by **CHW** and an AE-C
- 2nd & 3rd – only **CHW**

MA: Duplication of Krieger Model:

- 3-5 home visits by a **CHW**, overseen by an asthma nurse trained in CHW supervision

CT: Test a stand-alone clinic-based asthma education, delivered by an AE-C to patients with poorly controlled asthma, referred by community pediatricians.

Integrating CHW into Asthma Interventions cont.



Chronic Conditions Workforce Collaborative

- Certified Asthma Educators
- Certified Diabetes Outpatient Educators
- Certified CVD Educators
- Draw A Breath
- **Living Well RI (Stanford Model)**
- YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program
- **RIPIN Peer Resource Specialist**
- Shape Up RI
- Smoker's Quitline
- Matter of Balance

Rhode Island Department of Health
WELLNESS RESOURCE GUIDE
Programs proven to work!



Take control of your health!

We invite you to take charge of your health and life by attending wellness workshops and classes to:

- Reduce and maintain weight
- Lower cholesterol
- Make better health decisions
- Lower blood pressure
- Avoid the onset of diabetes
- Improve management of chronic conditions
- Live a more active lifestyle

Integrating Asthma into CHW Workforce



Healthy Housing Trainings

- **2011 & 2012 Basic Healthy Housing Trainings**
 - >150 CHWs and home visiting professionals
- **Advanced Healthy Housing Trainings**
 - September 2012 – 85 participants
- **Asthma Trainings for CHWs**
 - Spring 2013



Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

Strategy 1.3 *In homes, reduce environmental exposure.*

Thank you!!!



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This presentation was supported by the Cooperative Agreement Number 5U59-EH000524-04 from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

The NE Asthma Innovations Collaborative is organized by the Asthma Regional Council, a program of Health Resources in Action. The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number CMS-1C1-12-0001 from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Healthcare Innovation Award #1C1CMS331039). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.