

# The Center for Community Health Development

## *Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments*

MAY 2011



*Aracely Garibay and Maria Davila, two of CCHD's promotoras, presenting at a Safe Drinking Water Training, March 2009.*

### **Community Health Worker/*Promotora* Training Program**

Community Health Workers, known by names such as *promotores*, lay health advisors, and peer navigators, have been employed as critical links in health service delivery. They are often the first contact with residents in underserved areas, and conduct screening, education, and referral to appropriate programs and services. In the State of Texas, *promotoras*/community health workers (CHWs) are certified by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), based on their demonstration of eight core competencies; maintenance of the certification is achieved through certified continuing education units (CEUs). The Center for Community Health Development has been involved in training CHWs since 2001, beginning with the Integrated Health Outreach System project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Recognizing that CHWs had potential to serve residents with more sophisticated skills, the Center developed and delivered trainings in service coordination, case management, communication, interpersonal skills, organization, and advocacy, as well as research skills such as focus group moderation, participant observation, photo voice, and interviewing. This has enabled several CHWs in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to participate as members of research teams to facilitate the research and to ensure that the outcomes make it back to the community in a meaningful way.

Since 2001, the Center for Community Health Development has trained 687 community health workers and provided 49,328 hours of training for CHWs.

*"All the information that you gave us is very useful for us all (in our work, personal lives, and family)."*

*—CHW Training participant,  
October 2010*



**Center for Community Health Development**

160 SRPH Administration Building | College Station, TX 77843-1266 | 979.458.0937 | Fax 979.862.8371 | [www.srph.tamhsc.edu](http://www.srph.tamhsc.edu)

# *Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments*

## **Community Health Worker Training**

In addition to these skill-based trainings, the Center has also developed modules to build content expertise in breast cancer risk and screening, secondhand smoke exposure, safe drinking water, solid waste disposal, immunizations, and adolescent pregnancy prevention. The Center's CHW Training Program goals include: 1) train and equip CHWS through providing certified DSHS CHW CEUs; 2) develop additional CHW training modules; 3) assist CHWs in building community capacity; 4) advocate on the behalf of CHWs and the residents they serve with the goal to improve health status; and 5) certify additional CCHD CHW instructors.



*Aracely Garibay, CCHD promotora, trains colonia residents in SABEMOS (second hand smoke exposure), July 2008.*



*Community Health Workers work on a group activity during a Solid Waste Disposal Training, June 2009.*

The Center for Community Health Development will provide an additional training on computer programs and skills in Summer 2011, as well as a training on diabetes and obesity during the Border Binational Health Week, Binational Promotora Conference in October 2011.

For more information regarding CCHD's community health worker trainings, please contact Julie St. John, South Texas Director, at [jastjohn@srph.tamhsc.edu](mailto:jastjohn@srph.tamhsc.edu).

Julie St. John, the Center's South Texas Regional Director, was certified as a CHW Instructor in April 2009; the Center itself was subsequently certified as a CHW Training Center in July 2010. To date, we have 15 certified CHW training modules providing 60 CEUs—with an additional seven modules offering more than 40 CEUs in the process of certification or development. The Center currently offers the majority of its CEUs through a partnership with the South Texas Promotora Association and other partners in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Trainings and training materials are available in Spanish and English and include agendas, lesson plans, handouts, activities, and module evaluation forms. Trainings are provided several times a year and also upon requests.



*Community Health Workers participate in a role playing exercise during a Talking to Your Teen about Teen Pregnancy training, April 2011.*

### **Center for Community Health Development**

160 SRPH Administration Building | College Station, TX 77843-1266 | 979.458.0937 | Fax 979.862.8371 | [www.srph.tamhsc.edu](http://www.srph.tamhsc.edu)