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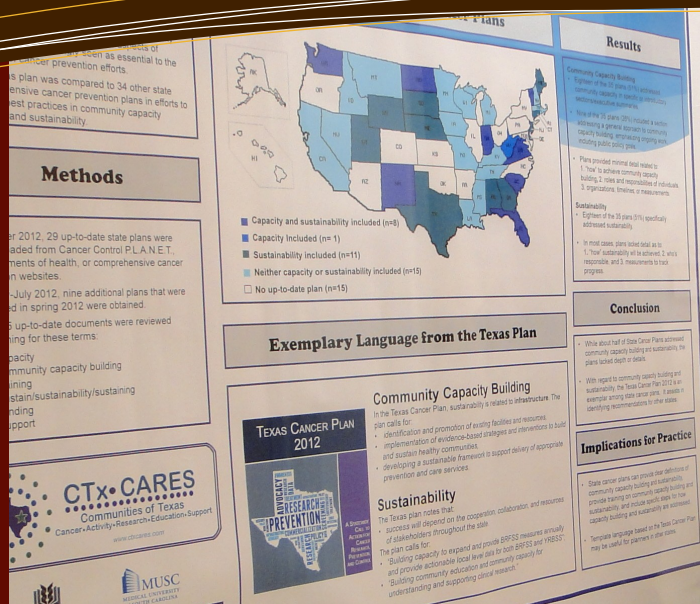
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Richard Wood presenting his CPRIT poster

2012 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Conference

The Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) was well represented at the third annual CPRIT conference, held October 24-26 in Austin, TX. A total of 10 CCHD presentations described findings and efforts of Texas Colon Cancer Screening, Training, Education & Prevention (C-STEP), Education to Promote Improved Cancer Outcomes (ÉPICO), and Communities of Texas: Cancer • Activity • Research • Education • Support (CTxCARES).

The C-STEP program presented a one-year update, showing that 273 Brazos Valley residents received free or reduced cost colonoscopies, of which 77 detected abnormal results or precursors to cancer. A second presentation described the training of 24 resident physicians with the curriculum used by the Texas A&M Family Medicine Residency. The use of community health workers (CHWs) trained to reduce barriers to colonoscopy screening in the Brazos Valley was a third presentation.

The ÉPICO project presented on creation of a CHW training curriculum and provision of training to at least 94 CHWs resulting in 1974 state certified continuing education units.

A related presentation was on a statewide survey to 254 CHWs asking about promotion of physical activity for older cancer survivors. Lack of programs, costs, and transportation were identified as the most pressing barriers. Eighty-six percent of CHWs expressed interest in receiving training about cancer survivorship.

CTxCARES presented on two projects regarding the use of mobile phone and internet applications to promote better health among cancer survivors. Formative research for the ICANFIT project for older cancer survivors displayed the need for integrating stakeholder and community involvement in academic research. Results from the AYA (Adolescent and Young Adult) Healthy Survivorship project showed that a mobile phone application

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is a feasible way to promote creation of survivorship care plans.

A presentation about state cancer plans showed that the 2012 Texas Cancer Plan was an exemplar among the nation with regard to community capacity building and sustainability. Results of a statewide AgriLife program on mammography education, *Friend to Friend*, showed that cancer survivors, physicians, and nurses were better than other types of health professionals for presenting mammography education in rural areas. A second *Friend to Friend* presentation highlighted the need for better dissemination of mammography guidelines, as up to 30% of women who were cancer survivors were not current with a mammography.

Though not all were in attendance, Dr. Christopher Beaudoin, Dr. Jane Bolin, Dr. Marcia Ory, Ms. Nola Eugene, Ms. Kayla Fair, Ms. Debra Kellstedt, Ms. Julie St. John, Ms. Divya Talwar, and Mr. Richard Wood all collaborated as authors on one or more presentations.

*Dr. Ninfa Peña-Purcell &
Dr. Marcia Ory at CPRIT Conference*

CCHD Completes First Community Health Worker Certification Course



From left to right (top row): Augusto Sarria-Anaya, Denise Adame, Irasema Lopez Avila, Brianna Clark, Nola Eugene, Julie St. John (bottom row): Wei-Chen (Miso) Lee, Brenda Hernandez, Angeles Ceja, Julia Orona.

As a certified Community Health Worker Training Center, CCHD offers the community health worker instructor course as well as the community health worker certification course to interested individuals. This summer, we completed our first certification course with a total of 12 students. These students participated in classroom discussions as well as a variety of volunteer service activities for a total of 160 hours of instruction. In order to complete the class, students had to show proficiency in the following competencies: teaching, communication, advocacy, interpersonal skills,

service coordination, capacity building, organization, and knowledge base. This particular class focused on colorectal cancer. The final class activity was volunteering at the Back to School Health Fair on August 11, 2012. Here students gained hands on experience by educating community residents about the importance of Colorectal Cancer screening and providing resources for screening. Congratulations to the 12 newest community health workers!



Texas Healthy Adolescent Initiative Best Practices Case Study



The Texas Healthy Adolescent Initiative (THAI) was initiated by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) in six communities across Texas. The program is designed to promote youth development through policy, programmatic and community-level changes involving the creation and enhancement of youth-focused partnerships. These partnerships include businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, and social service organizations, which are charged with developing a community-level holistic adolescent strategic health plan.

Texas A&M University's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences was contracted to work with each THAI site to assess the impact of THAI involvement on youth participants, determine community-level impacts across THAI sites, and identify THAI best practices. The THAI Case Study team includes CCHD Co-Directors of Evaluation, Dr. Corliss Outley and Heather Clark. To investigate the implementation and impact at each THAI site, the team is using a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, observation, and network analysis. The evaluation approach will also seek to uncover best practices across THAI sites to encourage the dissemination of exemplary and innovative approaches and lessons learned across THAI sites. The project is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2013.

New Graduate Assistants and Student Worker



Billie Castle joined the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) as a Graduate Research Assistant working on community collaboration in September. After graduating from Howard University in May with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science (Health Management Concentration), Billie began her pursuit of an M.P.H. within the SRPH Department of Health Policy and Management. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Billie was actively involved in many community services organizations that gave her the opportunity to interact with residents in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Through this service, Billie knew that she wanted to become a public health agent and advocate for low income individuals and families.



Jessica "Jai" Girard joined CCHD in September as a Graduate Assistant working on evaluation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Texas A&M where she was a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. She is pursuing her Masters in the Youth Development program within the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences. Her primary area of research is the effect of place attachment on the identity development of military youth who have lived overseas. Jai is also the manager of the pub Murphy's Law in downtown Bryan. She has two dogs—one who climbs trees (Dini) and one who is half coyote (Sake).



After finishing high school, **Erica Turner** recently joined the CCHD team as a student worker. Erica graduated a year early from high school in hopes of getting an early start in her career. Ready to get out of her small town atmosphere and out into the real world, Erica would like to attend Sam Houston State University or the University of Colorado Boulder. She would like to get a degree in business and have a side job as a real estate agent. In her spare time, Erica would like to travel the world and experience things that not everyone has the opportunity to. Erica enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting. Erica looks forward to working for CCHD and gaining the experience needed for future careers.

CCHD Launches New Website!

As you may know, CCHD unveiled its new logo earlier this year and with the new logo, we have revamped our Center website to reflect the new look. Like before, the website includes useful information about the Center, our partners, and our trainings and research projects. However, the presentation of this information has been streamlined in an effort to make it more useable and more accessible by the Center's various interest groups. In addition, we are currently working on new features that will give core and affiliated faculty easier access to information in one consolidated space. We are happy to announce the release of the updated website! Please visit www.cchd.us to view the new site and stay tuned for exciting updates! Additionally, we would like to extend special thanks to the CCHD Communication & Training team for their hard work in revamping our website.



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CCHD Welcomes New Research Assistant!



Katharine Nimmons recently joined the CCHD team as a Research Assistant. Katy is from Atlanta, GA, but she has adopted Texas as her home state. As an undergraduate at Rice University in Houston, Katy double majored in English and History, with a concentration in Global Health Technologies, and was an active student employee in both the Intramural Sports Department and Writing Center. After graduation, Katy spent time in Guatemala and Nicaragua as an intern and volunteer health educator and in Jamaica as a graduate student in

the University of the West Indies' Gender and Development Studies masters program. She began her Master in Public Health program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston last fall and completed her coursework this August. Outside of work, Katy enjoys traveling, reading novels, following her favorite sports teams, running (slowly), and spending time with friends and family. We are thrilled to have Katy as part of our team. Please join us in welcoming her to CCHD!