

The Center for Community Health Development

Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments

SEPTEMBER 2011



Participants in a TxHAN community focus group share their thoughts about aging well.

Special Interest Projects

Each year, the Center for Community Health Development extends funding opportunities to our affiliated faculty members. As a Prevention Research Center, the Center is included in Special Interest Projects (SIPs), which are limited-competition funding opportunities through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The SIP opportunities range from three to over 30 from year to year, focusing on a variety of topics from nutrition to epilepsy and from cancer prevention to healthy aging. The Center currently has three active SIPs, described below.

Texas Healthy Aging Research Network Collaborating Center (TxHAN):

As a Collaborating Center of the Healthy Aging Research Network (HAN), TxHAN aims to continue work with network colleagues in efforts toward achieving HAN's mission to better understand the determinants of healthy aging in older adult populations, identify and develop evidence-based interventions that promote healthy aging, and assist in the translation of such research into sustainable community-based programs throughout the nation. TxHAN principal investigator Joseph R. Sharkey, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., leads HAN's Nutrition Work Group to improve the nutritional health of seniors. TxHAN's overriding goal is continued advancement of the translation of prevention research to community-based practice relevant to an aging population via partnerships with local, county, state and national partners through collaboration with the coordinating center, other HAN sites, and CDC to advance a prevention research agenda for public health and aging.



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

Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments

Texas Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network Collaborating Center (TxNOPREN):

Although obesity has risen at alarming rates among all segments of the population, prevalence is highest among African Americans and Hispanic Americans and continues to increase among the poor and near-poor. The greatest prevalence of obesity has been documented in several rural and socioeconomically-deprived areas, especially in Texas. Nutritional and health disparities faced by children in low-income households in these areas underscore the importance of understanding the effectiveness of policies that seek to influence food choice on the prevention of childhood obesity. African American, Hispanic (Mexican American), and non-Hispanic White children and families in rural Central Texas and in the *colonias* of the Lower Rio Grande Valley reside in areas that demonstrate high rates of childhood and adult obesity, poverty, food insecurity, and geographic challenges associated with residence. TxNOPREN is a collaborating center of the CDC-funded Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network and actively engages in activities in both Central Texas rural communities and South Texas *colonias* to respond to issues related to identifying and implementing policies that affect access and availability to healthy foods. TxNOPREN, led by Joseph R. Sharkey, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., works to identify a strategy for ensuring network sustainability and growth through leveraging activities around existing work in access, availability, and affordability of foods in traditional and non-traditional food stores to examine what type of guidance can be provided in these food venues to best enable low-income families to make the most nutritious food choices.



Former graduate assistant and now CAPT, Brenda Bustillos, conducts an audit of availability and price of fresh vegetables in the Brazos Valley.



Dr. Marcia Ory and colleagues meet at the National Cancer Institute to discuss Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network activities.

CTxCARES:

The Communities of Texas-Cancer Activities*Research*Education *Support (CTxCARES) was formed in October 2009 as a collaboration between the Center for Community Health Development, Texas AgriLIFE Extension, and Scott & White Healthcare. CTxCARES, led by principal investigator Marcia G. Ory, Ph.D., M.P.H., is one of 10 funded research institutions that comprise the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN), which provides an infrastructure for applying relevant research to local cancer prevention and control needs. CTxCARES' mission is to reduce cancer risk and burden by promoting the adoption of evidence-based cancer prevention and control programs in Central Texas communities. CTxCARES will work collaboratively with the local communities to determine which programs are most beneficial in the communities of Central Texas and

accelerate program implementation and diffusion. Current projects include inventorying resources for cancer survivors, providing self-management programs for cancer survivors, developing mobile applications for enhancing access to resources, and increasing screening for colorectal cancer through innovations in healthcare training. Further information can be found at www.CTxCARES.com.

Center for Community Health Development