



PACIFIC HEALTH GATHERING 2016

WORLD CAFÉ DISCUSSION RESULTS

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Fayetteville, Arkansas
May 24-26, 2016

World Café

- Opportunity for community leaders, patients, providers, researchers, etc. to meet and get to know each other.
- Opportunity for conference participants to confirm and discuss the six Pacific Health Priorities.
- Priorities were selected by the Gathering 2016 Advisory council.



Priorities

1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)
2. Maternal Child Health
3. Health Policies and Data
4. Infectious Diseases
5. Mental Health
6. Youth and Young Adults



Non-Communicable Diseases

Challenges

- a. Culture/Context: Lifestyle with Pacific and Western influence; Lots of needs but not enough time to spend with them.
- b. System: Language access and lack of resources.
- c. Research/Practice: Understand and apply what we know about PIs to develop *behavioral economics interventions*; not using PI values in our research and interventions.

Resources and Best Practices

- a. Culture/Context: Story telling, collaboration, inclusiveness, and transparency. *"Everyone is brought to the table and the conversation is open."*
- b. Program and System: Culturally and linguistically tailored programs, Patient Navigation, Worksite wellness programs, Working with churches, and Policies.



Non-Communicable Diseases (cont.)

Information we need to know

- a. Community: How to get buy-in from community?; Do programs/research meet community/family needs and values?; How to build a system that makes it easy for people just to do the good behavior.
- b. System: sustainability

Research Topics and Ideas

- Genetics and environment
- Dental caries and obesity/diabetes
- Fatalistic attitudes, denial, etc.
- Follow-up with patients at home after clinic visits in partnership with pastors and traditional healers



Non-Communicable Diseases (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Culturally and linguistically appropriate materials, tools, and programs.
- Repository for resources, materials, and tools



Maternal Child Health

Challenges

- a. Culture/Context: Women don't want to see male providers.
- b. Culture/Context and System: Delay in women seeking pre-natal care; Increased number of obese pregnant women; Herbs for herbal wraps not available in US.
- c. System: Language access and Lack of resources
- d. Research/Practice: How to incorporate culture in the western system? (ex. using herbal wraps post-partum)

Resources and Best Practices

- a. WIC Breast Feeding Campaign
- b. Water only in school
- c. Important to answer "why" when educating patients and community
For example, why breast feeding? Why food portioning?



Maternal Child Health(cont.)

Information we need to know

- a. Do PIs use midwives?
- b. Do young generations still heed advise from their elders? Does it supersede the doctors instructions?
- c. How to grow herbs for wraps in the US?
- d. Role of food in the PI culture.

Research Topics and Ideas

- a. Obesity and pregnancy
- b. Obesity and children
- c. Benefits of herbal baths
- d. Body images of children



Maternal Child Health (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Grandmothers and “Aunties”
- Pacific Women Organizations
- Men: Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, etc.
- Churches



Health Policies and Data

Challenges

- a. Culture/Context: Finding Best Practices for PI partnerships
- b. System: Convincing policy makers on the needs of PIs, Allocation of resources for PIs, Medicaid Access pre-1996 Health Reform
- c. Data: Lack of comparable data to national datasets

Resources and Best Practices

- a. Public/private partnerships can be very helpful
- b. Education of broader population – advocacy
- c. Education for health leaders, media, faith community, and interdisciplinary teams



Health Policies and Data (cont.)

Information we need to know

- a. Community: Who is the “we”? Who is the facilitator? What is our national scope?
- b. Community and System: Who will fund policy, data, and advocacy efforts?

Research Topics and Ideas

- a. How do we take the information to the right people?
- b. What is a better way to align efforts?
- c. Who is better at coordinating on the community level?



Health Policies and Data (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Our own stories
- Civic Organizations
- Corporate partners
- Reach from larger CBOs to local CBOs



Infectious Diseases

Challenges

- a. Culture/Context: Small living quarters; Belief system; Stigma
- b. Culture/Context and System: Strenuous and tight working environment; Lack of focus/attention; Focus is on NCD
- c. System: Funding depends on politics and set priorities; Data and documentation is not disaggregated; Limited staff to address PI needs
- d. Research/Practice: Hepatitis B is on the rise; Emerging cancer (infectious disease related); Need PI specific statistics; US standard is different than International



Infectious Diseases

Resources and Best Practices

- a. Culturally and linguistically appropriate screening and vaccinations campaigns
- b. Having enough translators (translate culture and language)
- c. To address stigma: use holistic approach; public education
- d. 10 course curriculum done in the FSM and Saipan focused on youth, women, and LGBT
- e. SISTA – focused on women to be educated on STDs/HIV during lunch time
- f. Church-to-Clinic education on cancers, STD/HIVs, etc. preachers then translate this information to their congregation (RMI Cancer Program)
- g. Community Coalitions



Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Information we need to know

- a. How can we develop new cultural models to educate the public?
- b. How to develop partnerships and joint efforts to mobilize community?
- c. What elements cause a PI to come back to a clinic or site even when they have to pay for care? Is it having interpreter, quality of care, or having money?



Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Patients
- New media and technologies
- Old methods: “talk story” and partnership
- Free capacity building programs (CDC, Fed Agencies, etc.)



Mental Health

Challenges

- a. Culture/Context: High suicide rates; PIs do not talk about or share feelings and stresses; Accidents that are suspected suicides
- b. Culture/Context and System: PIs not accessing existing behavioral health services
- c. System: Interventions follow a western concept (need culturally appropriate interventions)

Resources and Best Practices

- a. Working with Churches: Where people gather and there are huge gatherings at church for funerals, 1st birthdays, and Christmas
- b. Set up relationship with community.



Mental Health (cont.)

Information we need to know

- a. How PIs cope and seek help?
- b. Process to address MH issues. Western approaches appear to be inappropriate and not acceptable.
- c. Is working with pastors more appropriate?
- d. Why is suicide only among men and not women? How do women deal with stressors?

Research Topics and Ideas

- a. Explore culture PLUS school and work environment to provide support
- b. Explore views on wellness, inspiration, faith



Mental Health (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Pastors and Deacons are very influential. PIs need to be “inspired, which is why we go to church.”



Youth and Young Adults

Challenges

- a. Culture/Context: Stress of dealing with the stress of two worlds; Parents, grandparents, and family have a strong “vote” in higher educ. decisions
- b. Culture/Context and System: Low graduation rates and under-represented in higher education; Social media negative effects (bullying)

Resources and Best Practices

- a. Mentors and a Meal program in Saipan
- b. Islander Clubs in Springdale Schools (Arkansas)
- c. Leaders to Leaders: Springdale school superintendent meets with pastors
- d. University of Hawaii PI Initiative – for 1st generation students program
- e. New Zealand – 4th yr med students spend a weekend with a PI family
- f. Learning liaison officers
- g. EPIC: 5 days, culturally adapted leadership institute



Youth and Young Adults (cont.)

Information we need to know and Research Ideas

- a. How to get professionals involved in mentoring youths?
- b. How to get schools involved?
- c. Better ways to educate parents, ministers, community on the school system – K-12 and college.
- d. Better ways to educate teachers and administrators on Pacific Island culture and context.



Youth and Young Adults (cont.)

Ideas and Resources that can help us

- Celebrate events like graduations visibly with community/family/providers to promote success
- Invite parents and family members to college night
- Find allies on all sides



Moving Forward...

- Frame the agenda for the **2017 Gathering – October 3-5 in Honolulu, Hawai'i!**
- World Café 2017 at the Gathering
- Forming work groups and joining existing work groups.
- Open to ideas...



Thank YOU!

