Avon Foundation for Women Breast Cancer Forum

The Avon Foundation for Women sponsored a national breast cancer forum entitled “Ensuring Health Equity and Advancing Breast Health Care” in Washington, DC from March 15-18, 2014. Dr. Steve Whitman, Bijou Hunt, and members of the Helping Her Live team (Dr. Chela Sproles, Oreletta Garmon, Maria Trujillo, and Jana Stringfellow-Estell) were invited to attend. Steve spoke about his newly published article “Increasing Black:White disparities in breast cancer mortality in the 50 largest cities in the United States.” The audience was intrigued and saddened to see that disparities are worsening in most of the cities in the study. The audience was also very interested in Bijou’s presentation on the “Metrics for the Systematic Evaluation of Community-Based Outreach”. Even beyond the Q&A segment of Bijou’s presentation, attendees were inquiring about the navigation and outreach metrics of the Helping Her Live team. Community Health Educator Oreletta Garmon felt that “[the conference] was very meaningful and an amazing experience to meet people coming from different states. In the breakout sessions, nobody was doing the type of work that we do. I was surprised. People didn’t even know how to do outreach. I can’t wait for the next one. We all got something from it.”

Pictured (left to right): Dr. Dawn Hershman, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Columbia Medical Center; Dr. Marc Hurlbert, Executive Director of the Avon Foundation for Women Breast Cancer Crusade; Dr. Steve Whitman, Director of SUHI; Alan Channing, President and CEO of the Sinai Health System.
SUHI Attendees at the Avon Breast Cancer Forum (left to right): Maria Trujillo, Bijou Hunt, Dr. Steve Whitman, Dr. Chela Sproles, Oreletta Garmon, and Jana Stringfellow-Estell.

SUHI News and Recent Events

Sinai Urban Health Institute Publishes CHW Best Practice Guidelines

It is with great excitement that the Sinai Urban Health Institute announces the release of a new report, *Best Practices Guidelines for Implementing and Evaluating Community Health Worker Programs in Health Care Settings*. This report is the culmination of a two-year project funded by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation.

The *Community Health Worker (CHW) Best Practice Guidelines* are intended to be a blueprint for health care organizations interested in implementing the CHW model. These practice guidelines were developed to address gaps in the CHW professional literature and to assist health care administrators, public health professionals, health care providers, CHWs, and communities in designing and implementing CHW interventions grounded in evidence-based science.

The report offers recommendations on implementing the CHW model in five subject areas: 1. CHW hiring; 2. CHW training; 3. CHW supervision; 4. CHW integration into the health care system; and 5. Evaluating CHW programs. To our knowledge this is the largest comprehensive review of the CHW literature, survey data, and practice-based CHW knowledge available. It is our intention that this report will fill gaps in the knowledge base and will assist organizations in the implementation of the CHW model, ultimately improving the health of communities here in Chicago and nation-wide. The report can be found online [here](#). To request a printed copy, please email [jamie.campbell@saulain.org](mailto:jamie.campbell@saulain.org).
Conference on Integrating CHWs into Health Care

On January 24, 2014, with funding from the Portes Foundation, SUHI and the Institute of Medicine of Chicago (IOMC) hosted the conference, “Community Health Workers: The Potential for Enhancing Patient Care, Improving Health and Reducing Cost.”

To our knowledge, this conference is the first of its kind in Illinois to bring together such diverse stakeholders to have a meaningful discussion of CHW integration into health systems. Of the over 125 in attendance, there was a diverse mix of physicians, CHWs, insurers, researchers, policy experts, health care administrators, other health or medical professionals, and representatives from state and local government.

Following the conference, the project is hosting on-site workshops with select health care centers to provide capacity-building support in conceptualizing the system-level changes needed to implement the CHW model. The intention of this project is to create greater awareness for the value of CHWs and to build the health care system’s ability to incorporate CHW work into their models of care.

We would like to thank our partners IOMC and the Chicago CHW Local Network for helping to make the January 24th conference a success. We’d also like to warmly recognize SUHI’s CHWs – Kim Artis, Oreletta Garmon, Rhonda Lay, Pat Perkins, Margaret Shepard, Jana Stringfellow-Estell, and Maria Trujillo – for formally speaking about their experiences as a CHW during the workshop’s small group discussion session. Thank you to all other SUHI staff – Monique Rucker, Jamie Campbell, Jessica Ramsay, Melissa Gutierrez, and Steve Whitman – for helping the planning, facilitation or presenting at the conference and to the rest of the CHWs who showed support by attending the conference.

Pictured (clockwise starting top left): SUHI staff Monique Rucker, Jessica Ramsay, Melissa Sandoval, Maria Trujillo, Ana-Rosa Garcia, Margaret Shepard, Kim Artis, Oreletta Garmon, Denise Camp, Gloria Seals, Melissa Gutierrez, Jana Stringfellow-Estell, Rhonda Lay, Katrina Sutton, and Jamie Campbell.
SUHI epidemiologists featured in *Science Careers* article

*Science Careers* published an article featuring the work of two SUHI epidemiologists, Kristi Allgood and Bijou Hunt, as well as the work being done through the Avon-funded breast health projects at SUHI. The article provides a brief history of SUHI’s work in the field of breast cancer and also highlights the importance of both hospital- and community-based navigation in addressing racial disparities in breast cancer mortality. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

**Recent SUHI Presentations**

**Asthma CarePartners Program Presents at AAAAI Conference**

For the first time, SUHI presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology’s (AAAAI) annual meeting, which was held in San Diego, California from February 28th through March 4th, 2014. The Asthma CarePartners (ACP) program was accepted in the featured poster session, a “best in show” of posters from the various categories and complete with a wine and cheese reception. Julie Kuhn, program manager, was besieged with questions about the innovative asthma intervention and partnership with Family Health Network. She enlightened doctors, allied health professionals, and others about community health workers, program outcomes, and embedding this stellar program within standard healthcare delivery. Excellent exposure for SUHI and ACP!

**SUHI Presents at Association for Community Health Improvement Annual Meeting**

Maureen Benjamins recently gave a talk at the annual meeting for the Association for Community Health Improvement. This organization is primarily comprised of health care administrators who focus on community health and community benefits. During the hour-long presentation, Dr. Benjamins discussed the Sinai Model and the programs of SUHI. The standing-room only crowd was very impressed with SUHI’s work, our community engagement, and our record of getting funded. There were more questions than could be covered in the allotted time. Many of the questions dealt with the great work done by our community health workers and our methods of hiring and training them. The presentation, which took place in Orlando, FL, was made in collaboration with Premier, Inc.

**Community Health Worker Spotlight**

**SUHI’s Kim Artis, Community Health Worker, Selected as the Winner of the International REAL Award**

Kim Artis, Community Health Worker (CHW) for SUHI’s HUD-funded asthma program, was selected out of several nominees worldwide for the REAL Award in the CHW Category. The REAL Award, sponsored by the Save the Children Foundation, “…was created to celebrate the work of a truly deserving group of people; healthcare workers who are saving lives every day around the world.”

Kim has been a CHW with SUHI for the past two years. She provides home-based asthma and healthy homes education to both children and adults with asthma living in Chicago’s Westside public housing developments, where she is also a resident. Kim’s extensive knowledge of her community and ability to quickly build trusting relationships with its members make up the true essence of a CHW. Her passion and dedication to empowering her community members to lead healthier lifestyles is evident in all that she does.

The children and adults Kim served on the *Helping Children Breathe and Thrive* project saw an
83% decrease in Emergency Department visits during the year of intervention. Overall caregiver Quality of Life, which is measured on a scale of 0-7, improved by almost a full point from the beginning to the end of the intervention, which is both statistically and clinically significant. As one of Kim’s participants said, “This program and Kim opened my eyes about taking care of my health. I now go to the doctor every month, and I take my Meds as prescribed. My health is so much better, and I am feeling better than I have felt in a long time.” For all of these reasons and more, Kim is more than deserving of this incredible honor. Kim continues to impact the lives of adults with asthma in her community on the current project, entitled *Helping Chicago’s Westside Adults Breathe and Thrive*.

On March 5th, 2014, Kim was honored for her REAL Award at Mount Sinai’s monthly management meeting. At the meeting, a representative from the Save the Children Foundation presented her with a life-size boarding pass to Washington, D.C. to accept the official award at the Save the Children’s Annual Advocacy Summit. The Summit took place on April 8th-9th. Approximately 300 people were in attendance to learn about the prominent issues facing children today and to advocate for them to members of the House and Senate. The Summit concluded with an awards ceremony for REAL Award Honorees, where Kim was presented with a trophy and met other honorees from around the world.

Click here for more information about the award and to see Kim’s honoree profile: [http://therealawards.com/nominees/814](http://therealawards.com/nominees/814).

Pictured (left to right): Jeanette Avila, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Andy Teitelman, Chicago Housing Authority; Chris Morrill, Save the Children’s Foundation; Crystal Palmer, Chicago Housing Authority; Kim Artis, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Jessica Ramsay, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Lola, Kim’s sister; Alan Channing, President and CEO of the Sinai Health System; Melissa Gutierrez, Sinai Urban Health Institute.
Pictured (left to right): Kamille Artis, daughter of Kim Artis; Kim Artis, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Congressman Danny Davis; and Jessica Ramsay, Sinai Urban Health Institute, on Capitol Hill after meeting with Rep. Davis and his staff members to ask for his support on early childhood education and maternal and child health issues.

**Recent SUHI Publications**

Gutierrez Kapheim M and Campbell J. *Best Practice Guidelines for Implementing and Evaluating Community Health Worker Programs in Health Care Settings*. Chicago, IL: Sinai Urban Health Institute, January 2014.


The New York Times published an article in The Well Column on March 3rd, 2014 based on the findings of this research and included quotes from Dr. Whitman and Dr. Hurlbert. [http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/03/03/the-breast-cancer-racial-gap/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0](http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/03/03/the-breast-cancer-racial-gap/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0)

SUHI Recently Awarded Grants

SUHI and Sinai Emergency Department Participating in Collaborative Trial to Improve Health Outcomes in Kids with Asthma

SUHI/Sinai is part of a multi-site asthma collaborative that was recently awarded a $4 million, three-year contract by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The Childhood Asthma Gaps in Outcome Trial, or CHICAGO Trial, is designed to investigate how health outcomes for Black and Latino children with uncontrolled asthma might best be optimized. The focus is on filling gaps concerning how to best implement asthma guidelines in the emergency department.

The project is led by the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System, and includes researchers from the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, the University of Chicago Medicine, Rush University Medical Center, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, NorthShore University Health System and Northwestern University, in addition to those from SUHI and Sinai. The CHICAGO Trial will investigate the effectiveness of two interventions among 640 children ages 5 to 11 with uncontrolled asthma visiting the aforementioned institutions’ emergency departments.

The first intervention will involve providing emergency department physicians with decision support tools that will help them follow established guidelines for prescribing medications (oral and inhaled corticosteroids and rescue medication), providing the patient and his or her parent or guardian with guidance on how to better self-manage asthma, and arranging for follow-up visits to a primary care provider. The second intervention will include visits to the home of the child by a community health worker to help the family reduce environmental asthma triggers at home. SUHI will lead efforts to hire and train CHWs, and will oversee the design and implementation of the home-based intervention.

The success of the interventions will be assessed through interviews with the children’s caregivers and will focus on outcomes meaningful to children, such as not missing school and being able to participate in sports, and on outcomes meaningful to caregivers and families such as feeling less anxious or not having to miss work. The researchers will also examine adherence to self-management skills and prescribed medications, avoidance of asthma triggers and acute care use.

Other partners involved in the trial are the Respiratory Health Association, Chicago Asthma Consortium, the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois Emergency Department Asthma Surveillance Program and the NIH/NCATS Clinical and Translational Science Award Chicago Consortium.

PCORI conducts research to provide information about the best available evidence to help patients and their health care providers make more informed decisions. PCORI’s research is intended to give patients a better understanding of the prevention, treatment and care options available, and the science that supports those options.