

Critical Success Factors of Community-Based Action, Planning, and Process: The Tale of the East Harlem Community Health Committee

Presented By:

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Legislation Subcommittee**

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Approach

- Background
- Some Activities
- Success Factors

Background

- East Harlem Community Health Committee
 - Over 30 years
 - Board of Directors, Standing Committees
 - Broad range of membership (residents to institutions)
- East Harlem Community
 - Low socioeconomic and health status
 - Predominately minority community juxtaposed to the wealthy Upper East Side
 - Has a rich health provider network (2 FQHCs, 1 academic medical center, 1 public hosp; 1 community hosp; and a small number of community health agencies)

EHCHC Mission

To help bring about the improved health status of East Harlem by presenting a forum for provider agencies and consumers and their representatives to cooperate, exchange ideas, build networks, and work together to strengthen health care in terms of access, quality, accountability, coordination, education, and training.

EHCHC Board Members

- **Mali Trilla (Co-Chair)** – Settlement Health Center
- **Ray Cornbill (Co-Chair)** – Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Dept. Community & Preventive Medicine, live in EH
- **Erika Estades (Treasurer)**– Boriken Neighborhood Health
Center – East Harlem Council of Human Services
- **Guedy Arniella** – North General Hospital
- **Barbara Brenner** – Mount Sinai Medical Center
- **Eric Canales** – Institute for Puerto Rican and Hispanic
Elderly; live in EH
- **Jose Caraballo** - Palladia, Inc.
- **Janet Mintz** – Metropolitan Hospital
- **Pat Monahan** – Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health
Center
- **James O’Neal** – Visiting Nurse Service of New York
- **Ann-Gel Palermo** – CMCA, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- **Simon Nzuzi** – New York College of Podiatric Medicine
- **Sandra Talavera** – Senior Health Partners, live in EH
- **Leigh Miller** – Community Resident

Some Important Activities

- 1976 – sociopolitical roots; advocacy during threatened hospital closure
- Certificate of Need – e.g. Mount Sinai Hospital
 - “Blue Book” of East Harlem
- Early Development of Community Networks
 - East Harlem HIV Care Network
 - East Harlem Asthma Working Group, Inc
 - East Harlem Diabetes Center of Excellence

Some Important Activities (2)

- Groundwork for Immunization Registry
- Creation of Ambulatory Referral Advisory Group
- Community Directories
- Asthma Initiative
- Position Papers, Testimony, & Advocacy
- State & Commissioner Meetings
- Town Hall Meetings
- Principles of Involvement Document
- Information sharing and dissemination

Critical Success Factors

- Deep & Intimate Knowledge of East Harlem
- Provide entry an point and guidance
- Opportunism
- Alliances, Partners, & Participants
- “Hats” & Personalities
- Letting Go
- Understanding & Agreeing
- Systems Approach
- Adaptation



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