

Methods of Engagement: Integrating Community Health Workers as Guides in Community-Based Research

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Research Goals for El Paso, Texas

- The goal of our CBPR effort is:
 - to create and unite strong partnerships including CHWs/Ps in El Paso
 - to work together to prevent and control cardiovascular disease



Grant funded by NIH
Can *Promotores* Change Clinical Outcomes for
Chronic Diseases in
El Paso, Texas?

*Pueden los Promotores Cambiar los Resultados
Clínicos de las Enfermedades Crónicas en
El Paso, Texas?*

An NIH Funded Case - Control Study funded by the Initiative in Reducing and Eliminating Health Disparities looking at the role of Community Health Worker/*Promotores* (CHW/Ps) in chronic disease prevention.

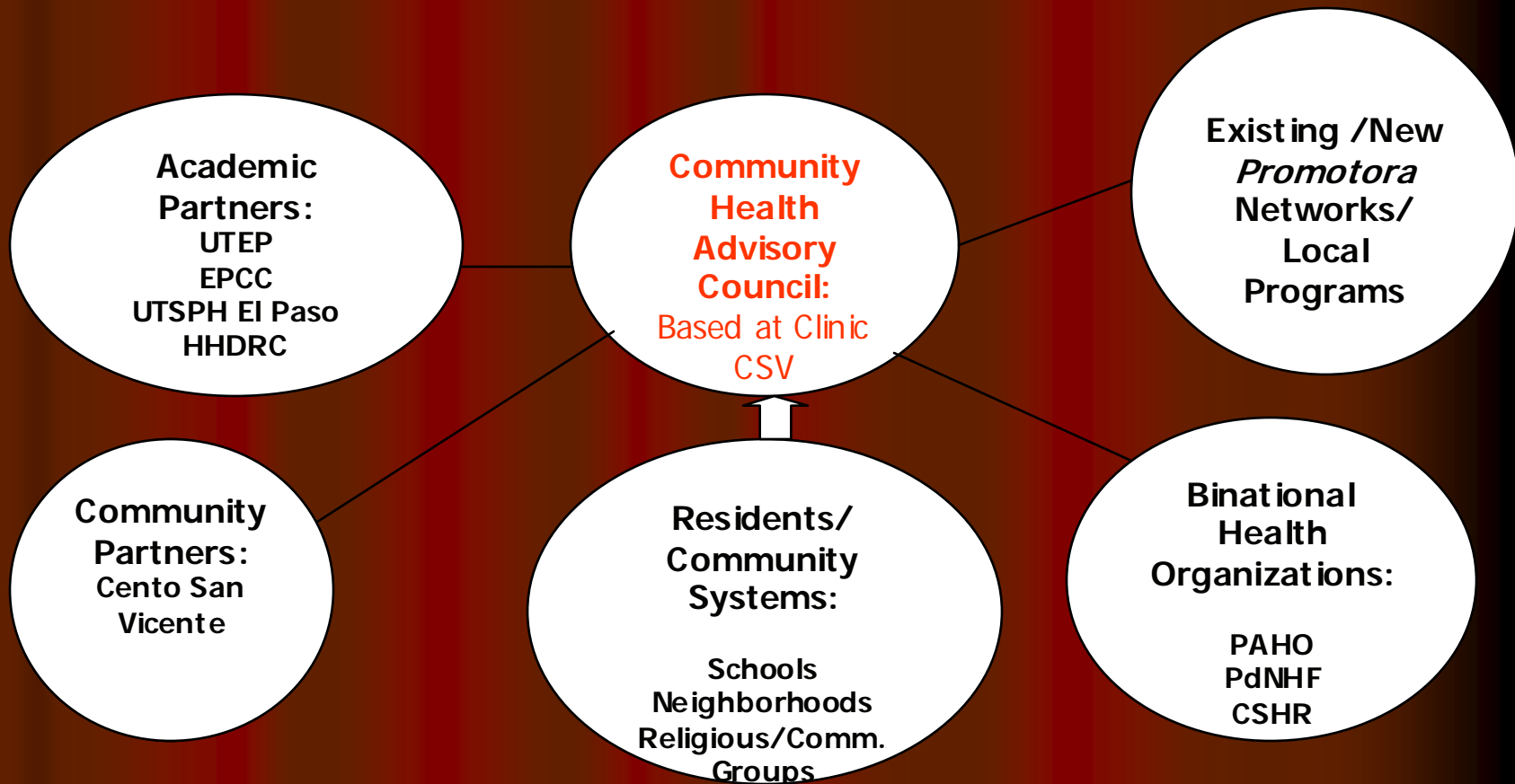
- R24 MD0001785-01- 09/01/05- 08/31/08
- PI: Dr. Leslie Schulz;
- Co-PI: Dr. Hector Balcazar

HEART

- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- AWARENESS
- RESEARCH
- TEAM



HEART Collaborators in our Promotores de Salud Study



Community Health Worker/Promotor Roles in HEART

- Some recruitment of participants (door-to-door)
- Trained other CHWs/Ps to lead curriculum
- Attended some HEART partnership meetings
- Reviewed questionnaires for clarity
- Led *promotor* team and classes
- Encouraged Case/Participants to attend classes
- Helped identify and distribute incentives
- Follow up with people failing to attend classes
- Other activities as needed

Salud Para Su Corazon

- Lead Promotora: Esperanza Vasquez



Photo courtesy of Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Promotoria



THE PROMOTORES DE SALUD
Community Health Outreach Model
Salud para su Corazón (Health For Your Heart)



AGENDA

HEART Community Health Worker/Promotor(a) Forum

8: 30 Tiempo para preparar cartulinas y desayuno

- **9:00**
- Bienvenidos y introduction de grupo de investigadores
Introducion de agenda
- Discurso sobre el proyecto
- **9:45**
Tiempo para revisar presentciones de cada programa
- **10:45**
Break
- **11:00**
Discurso sobre los posters de los programas

- **12:00**
Hora de la Comida

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- **1:00**
Continuar discurso sobre los posters

- **1:45**
Evaluacion del dia

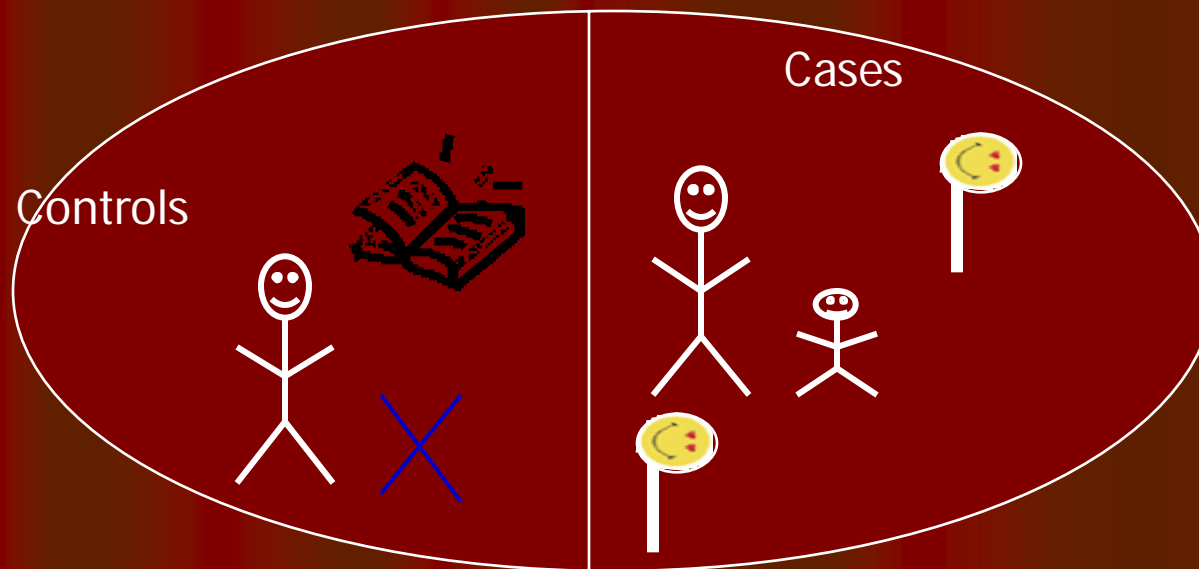
- **2:00**
Break

Promotor(a) Networking Meeting

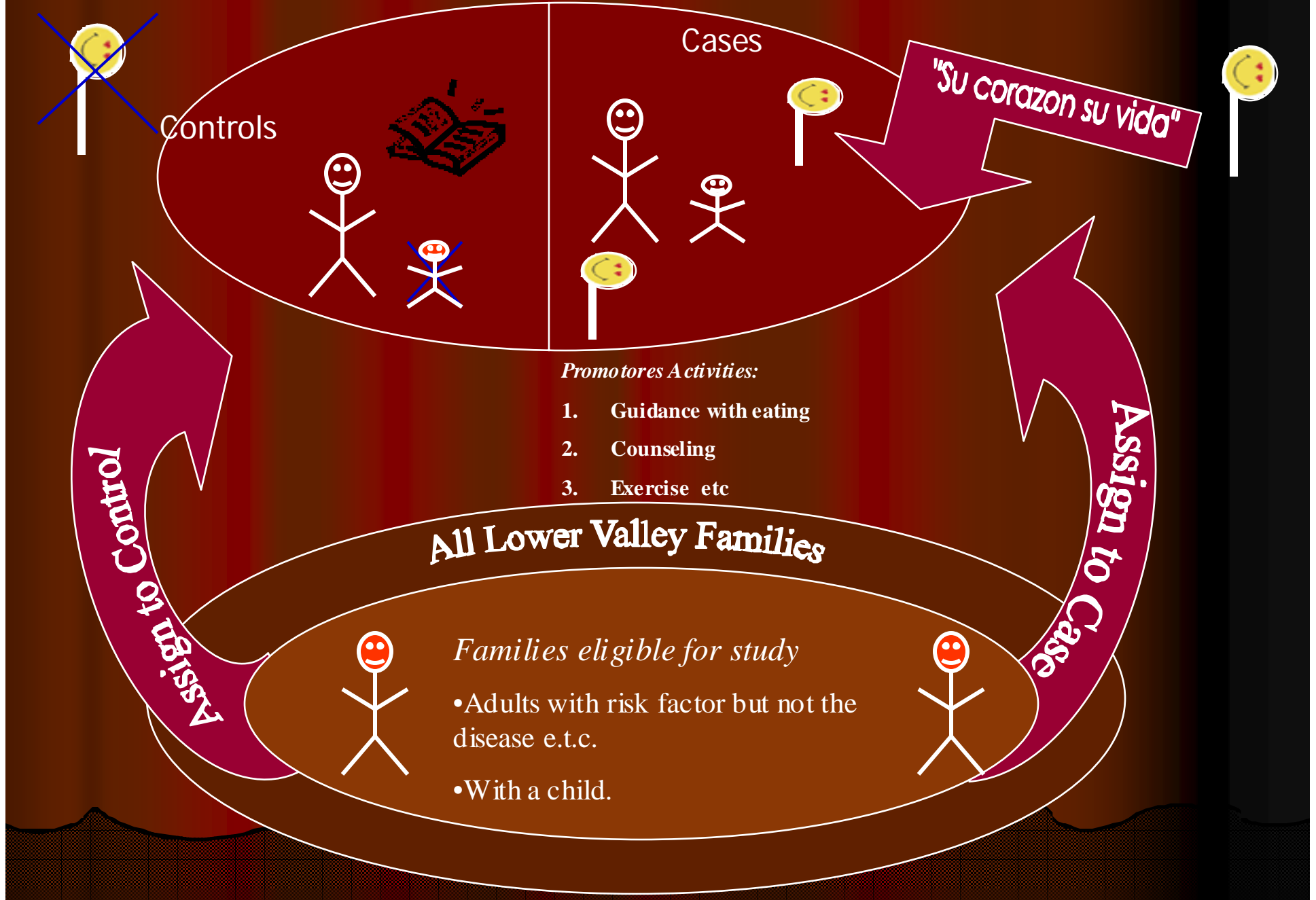
- **2:15**
Junta para hablar sobre el desarroyo del area de El Paso Promotores Network
- **4:00**
Despidada

Understanding the Research Process

- Step by step:



The Intervention



Forum Findings Informed the Intervention and Research Process

CHW/Ps gave many recommendations

Example of Forum Discussion Question:

FQ - How do we best recruit families?

FQ - ¿Como podemos reclutar a miembros de la comunidad?

Responses:

- Use the clinics that are located in the area to promote the program
- Use the personal relationships that the promotores have already created within the community to spread the news by word of mouth
- Use schools and the different programs within the school to promote the program and encourage individuals to participate
- Go door to door with flyers/invitations
- Post flyers in the areas where members of the community frequent (grocery stores, clinics, etc.)
- Etc...

And finally at the Forum we asked...

How can we continue to involve *promotores* in roles of leadership in HEART?



Our *Guías*

Centro San Vicente *Promotores*



At the Forum: Supporting the Development of a local CHWs/Ps Network



Looking for More Opportunities to Integrate CHW/P Participation

- Cost-Benefit Analysis: (Ongoing)

The process of CHW/P integration has been complex due to the nature of the analysis, consultant interactions

- Family Photo Voice Project: (Spring 2008)

We expect the CHW/P engagement in this process to be successful because we have budgeted time and money to make this a highly cooperative process between the research team, CHW/Ps, and participants

CHW/P Involvement Successes

- Clinic-base gave the study team a grounding in the real world
- CHWs provided important refinements to the RCT design in terms of recruitment and retention of participants as well as intervention refinement
- CHW/Ps felt valued being a part of the research team; interest in results to come

CHW/P Involvement Challenges

- Interdisciplinary collaboration –varied perspectives-hard to find common ground
- Judgments varied between researchers and CHW/P program staff –
 - ex. regarding how to fill classes
- Follow up with patients by research team threatened CHW relationship
- Coordination of roles overall complex

CHW/Ps In C-B Research Efforts

Lessons Learned

- Find a way to involve CHWs/Ps in the research design up-front during the grant writing phase
- Take time to explain the research process
- Create opportunities for communication between CHWs/Ps and other research project partners
- Share stories of success and struggles together
- Work together on dissemination of findings

AND

- Include or acquire supplemental grant funds to support CHW network development

Next Steps: Continue to work to improve health in El Paso and better integration of CHWs/Ps in the region's health care safety net

