# **Emerging Channels**

### **For Health Communication**



## **Objectives of Session:**

Define Media Channels in the Context of Health Communication

List 2 Ways to Refocus Communication Efforts

List 2 Measures of Health Communication

List 2 Building Blocks for Story Tellers

List 3 Emerging Channels for Health Communication

## What is Media?

# MEDIA

# All the channels used to deliver a message to an intended group of people.

Research shows that health communication best supports health promotion when multiple communication channels are used to reach specific audience segments with information that is appropriate and relevant to them.

## **Types of Media**

Print media, communications delivered via paper

Electronic media, communications delivered via electronic or electromechanical energy

Multimedia, communications that incorporate multiple forms of information content and processing

Mass media, all Broadcast TV, Cable, Radio, Newspaper

Grassroots media – MORE LATER

## What Can Be Done with Good Media?

You Can:

Alert, Inform, Enlighten, Empower, Activate, Reinforce

You Can't:

Change Individual Behavior or Social Norms with just media. It takes action, involvement, partners, work, study, humor, and music!

## **Intended Audience**

The intended audience, (referred to as "the target audience" by people out to sell widgets) is the group of people that you want to reach with your message.

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Learn as much as you can about them. This might include: age, race, ethnicity, life style, gender, sexual orientation, interests, etc.

## Health Communications for the 21st Century

Behavior change communication uses understanding of people's situations and influences to develop messages that respond to the concerns within those situations.

Behavior change communication then uses various media to persuade people to increase their knowledge and change the behaviors and practices which place them at risk.

Characterization of where we are presently a very positive base from which to move forward.

Adapted for the Mecklenburg County Health Department from material provided by the Rockefeller Foundation's Communication and Social Change Network The Rockefeller group's definition attempts to rebalance strategic approaches to communication by taking the emphasis:

Away from people as the objects for change ....

➤...and on to people and communities as the essential components of their own change

Away from designing, testing and delivering messages ....

....and on to supporting dialogue and debate on the key issues of concern

Away from the didactic conveying of information from technical experts....

 $\succ$ .... and on to sensitively placing that information into the dialogue and debate

# Away from a focus on individual behaviors....

....and on to changing social norms, policies, culture and the building of a supportive environment

Away from merely trying to persuade people to do something ....

....and on to negotiating the best way to go forward in a partnership process (community dialogs instead of focus groups)

Away from agencies dominating and guiding the process...

....and on to people most affected by the issues of concern playing a central role

## **Evaluation Challenge**

Identifying predictors of outcome

- Increased immunization levels predict decreased child mortality
- Increasing numbers of girls in school is often cited as a predictor of economic progress in developing countries

In communication, intent to change has been used as predictor of actual change

#### Have you supported the people centrally affected by an issue, voicing their perspective in the debate and dialogue

Key measurement questions

•Which groups in relation to the issue of concern are most disadvantaged?

•How were they supported to give voice to their perspective?

•What happened?

## Is there an increased leadership role by people negatively impacted by the issues of concern

Key measurement questions

•Who makes the major decisions concerning the priorities and activities of the communication intervention?

•How are the people centrally affected by those issues engaged in the decision making process?

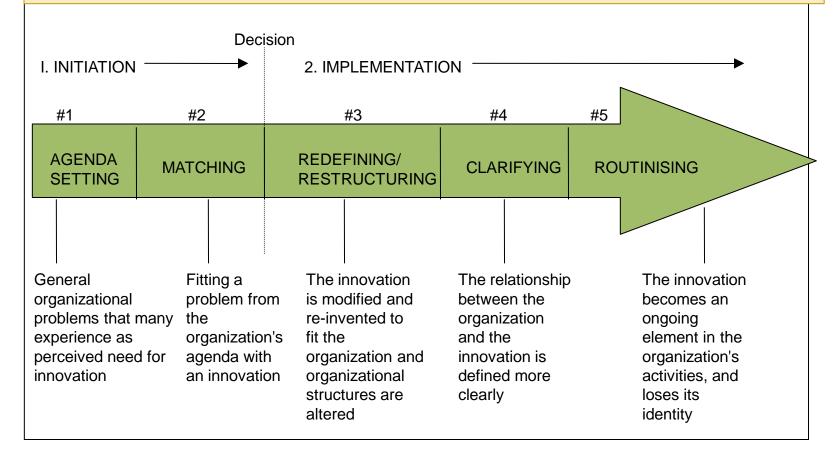
•What are some specific examples where the involvement of that group has influenced strategic or fine tuning decisions?

#### Have we linked people and groups with similar interests who might otherwise not be in contact

- Key measurement questions Which groups are involved? What are their interests?
- •Have they been linked together?
- •How does that linking take place?
- Is there an alliance?
- •How does the alliance work?

# The Innovation Process in an Organization

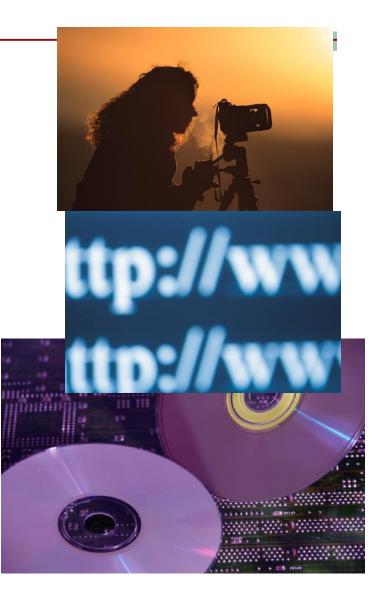
Source: "Communication and Community Development for Health Information: Constructs and Models for Evaluation" by John E. Bowes, Review prepared for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, December 1997. Jbowes@u.washington.edu



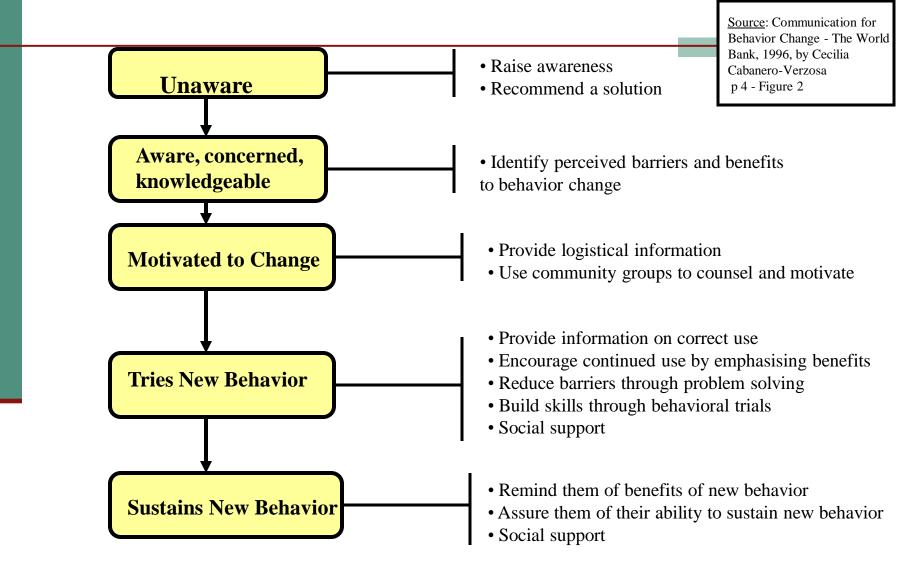
### Health Communications for the 21st Century

# <u>Story</u>

Telling



#### **Audiences along a Behavior Change Continuum: Possible Communication Strategies**



## **Stages of Change Model**

CONCEPT	DEFINITITION	APPLICATION
Pre-contemplation	Unaware of the problem hasn't thought about change	Increase awareness of need for change, personalize information on risks and benefits.
Contemplation	Thinking about change, in the near future.	Motivate, encourage to make specific plans
Decision/Determination	Making a plan to change	Assist in developing concrete action plans, setting gradual goals
Action	Implementation of specific action plans	Assist with feedback, problem solving, social support, reinforcement
Maintenance	Continuation of desirable actions, or repeating periodic recommended step(s)	Assist in coping, reminders, finding alternatives, avoiding slips/relapses (as applies)

Source: "Theory at a Glance: A Guide for Health Promotion Practice" National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute.

### **Community Level Models**

Designing health promotion initiatives to serve communities and intended populations, and not just single individuals, is at the heart of a public health orientation.

Source: "Theory at a Glance: A Guide for Health Promotion Practice" National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute.

## **Effective Communication**

- Capture the reader's attention like a stop sign and direct it like a road map.
- Make an emotional connection before attempting to convey information.
- Use pictures to attract and convince.
- Write headlines that offer a reason to read more.
- If you want people to read your text, make it readable.
- Test before, measure after.
- When everyone zigs, it's time to zag.

#### The most educated investment you can make



#### Should your investing and charitable giving work together? Yes if you work a about to an provide increased increase

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And Yes, if you want to make more of a contribution to your community than you throught possible

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## He beat her 150 times. She only got flowers once.



Every 15 seconds, a woman is beaten in this country. For as many as four million women, this battering is so severe, they require medical or police attention. But for nearly 4,000 women each year, the abuse ends. They die.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hyperward to help and 1-2015/04-082. Or serie: NCADV. P.O. des 101-06. Derree: COMUSATION

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## **Health Communication**

## The grassroots level

You Tube My Space Face book Twitter My IPOD Your Laptop Posters on Telephone Poles Guerilla Theatre Closed-Circuit TV in Schools Local radio Low Powered FM **Digital Spectrum** Cell phones Stepping Media meshing Media Mashing and others yet to emerge



# Got Billboard?



Inbound Brookshire Freeway At The Beatties Ford Road Exit: Look Right Toward The Railroad Tracks





# 1-800-QUIT-NOW

I smoke players on the hoop court, not tobacco! ~ Terrance Smalls



Wilso

"In the unpredictable and fearful future that awaits civilization, the poet must be prepared to be alienated and indestructible."

**Delmore Schwartz**