



CERC-SON-UVI

# A RICH VI NEWSLETTER

## HSRP-VI Year I Highlights—Part II

Noreen Michael, PhD

### Notable Tidbits:

- The Human Services Research Partnership: Virgin Islands (HSRP-VI) has a Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement with the V.I. Department of Human Services.
- The Partnership roster has included current and former Head Start and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families clients.
- In August 2017, Core Research Team members presented findings from the Environmental Scan Report at the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics in Pittsburgh.

**THE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP:** Year I of the Human Services Research Partnership: US Virgin Islands (HSRP-VI) was an eventful one. With the successful establishment of the Research Partnership, in addition to the Data Committee, five workgroups [Capacity/Infrastructure; Communication and Engagement; Head Start; Policy; and TANF] were formed to increase partner engagement and support the completion of an environmental scan of the HS/EHS and TANF programs in the US Virgin Islands.

A major output from the Data Committee in Year I was the completion of a *Catalogue of Secondary Sources*, available on the Project’s micro-

site.



**RESEARCH ACTIVITY:** By the end of Year I, the HSRP-VI core research team had completed focus group discussions with Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) teachers, supervisors, directors, and key informant interviews with program administrators. The research team also completed focus group discussions with TANF personnel and key informant interviews with TANF administrators.

**SITE VISIT TO HSRP-PR:** The HSRP-VI core research team had an opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico to meet with the Human Services Research Partnership-Puerto Rico. The team attended the HSRP-PR’s Year II culminating partnership meeting and gained valuable insights from the visit. The team had an oppor-

## THE IRB AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE HSRP-VI PROJECT: PART I

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**WHAT IS THE IRB:** You have probably heard the RICH-VI staff talk about waiting for IRB approval. Have you ever wondered what they meant? Well, IRB is the acronym for Institutional Review Board. It is the university committee that reviews and approves human subjects research for protecting the rights and welfare of those subjects. The Board is charged with the responsibility to formulate and implement procedures to assure the University’s compliance with federal, state and institutional regulations for the safeguarding of the welfare and well-being of human

subjects involved in research projects.

**HOW ARE IRB MEMBERS SELECTED:** The University President/Provost appoints members to the Institutional Review Board. The board also includes the Director of Sponsored Programs who serves as institutional IRB/IACUC administrator, and at least eight faculty/staff and one community member. The members reflect the diversity of the institution and community. During reviews of protocols dealing with special prison populations, a non-affiliate alternate

is brought in.

**WHAT IS REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR THE IRB:** Before the HSRP-VI team could begin their research they had to have the approval of the UVI IRB. In addition, each researcher must have at a minimum a Certificate of Completion which certifies that the individual has completed the National Institute of Health (NIH) Web-based training on Protecting Human Research participants.

*Part II will appear in our next newsletter.*

SPOTLIGHT ON SOME PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

HSRP-VI  
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**SOME OF OUR PARTNERS:**  
 Department of Health  
 Family Resource Center  
 Frederiksted Health Care, Inc.  
 St. Thomas East End Medical Center, Corp.  
 Virgin Islands Housing Authority

**STAFF OF THE HSRP-VI:**

Lead PI: Noreen Michael, PhD  
 Co-PI: Gloria B. Callwood, PhD, RN, FAAN  
 Co-Investigator: Janis M. Valmond, MS, DrPH, CHES®  
 Post Doctoral Research Fellow: Deborah E. Brown, PhD  
 Administrative Specialist: Jahmila M. Matthew, BA  
 Research Associate: E. Aracelis Francis, PhD  
 Student Assistant/Researcher: Tatiana Green, AA

**We're on the Web!**  
<http://uvi.edu/academics/nursing/cerc/default.aspx>

**DESIREE BENNET-FELIX [DEPARTMENT OF LABOR]**— *My experience with the Human Services Research Partnership (HSRP) has been an invaluable one. The partnership granted me deeper insight into the environment and functionality of families within our community that participate in several Human Services programs. I obtained a broader understanding of the relationship between early Head Start, Head Start and the TANF program and the need for research that can help to strengthen the foundation of these programs while fostering innovative ways to improve the services.*



**ROBERT GRAHAM [VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING AUTHORITY]**— *VIHA has learned from the research project that there are significant barriers to achieving best practices in early childhood education and healthcare services. Accordingly, VIHA has evolved its commitment to creating sustainable, progressive communities based on the idea that everyone benefits, from both an economic and health perspective, when the Territory and independent agencies coordinate their investments in housing, early childhood education and positive health outcomes. VIHA understands that we must leverage resources and ideas to improve the well being of U.S. Virgin Islanders.*



**JASLENE WILLIAMS [ARCH INSTITUTE]**— *I am honored, as one at the table from the beginning of this project. ARCH Institute has been providing prevention education to youth and adults on St Croix since 2004 and we can safely say that some of the very recipients of services within these various agencies have also received our services either as a youth in the public schools and/or Group Homes or, as adults from Early Head Start/Head Start or the Women's Coalition Parenting courses. I am gaining quality insights and will continue to add to the rich and dynamic voices as we follow and enrich future programmatic services within the targeted agencies. The recipients can only benefit from this research.*



Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) as a Framework for the HSRP-VI: Part II

Janis M. Valmond, MS, DrPH, CHES®

CBPR AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE HSRP VI

The HSRP VI contracted with a consultant to guide the implementation of the CBPR process in partnership with CERC research team. Partnership members, comprising of community and academic researchers, received training on the CBPR approach, and participated in the selection of a name [A RICH VI®], mission statement, and guiding principles that would guide the deliberations of the partnership established to frame the issue(s) and coordinate the efforts of the project.

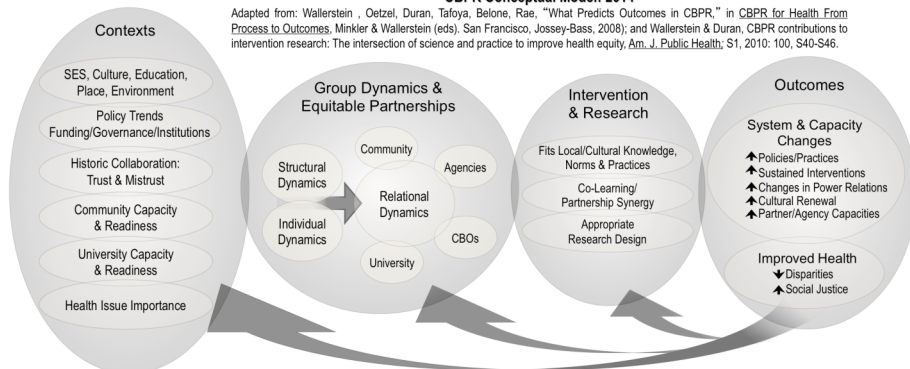
Member involvement include:

- ◆ Participating in workgroups: Communication and Engagement; Policy Review; TANF; Data Committee; Head Start/Early Head Start;
- ◆ Ensuring work group outputs were integrated into products;
- ◆ Participating in joint analyses of project data; and
- ◆ Disseminating products and findings to local and, as appropriate, national academic, community and policy stakeholders.

*This is Part II of a two-part segment on CBPR.*

CBPR Conceptual Model: 2014

Adapted from: Wallerstein, Oetzel, Duran, Tafuya, Belone, Rae, "What Predicts Outcomes in CBPR," in *CBPR for Health From Process to Outcomes*, Minkler & Wallerstein (eds), San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2008; and Wallerstein & Duran, *CBPR contributions to intervention research: The intersection of science and practice to improve health equity*, *Am. J. Public Health*, S1, 2010; 100, S40-S46.



Contexts	Group Dynamics	Intervention & Research	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social-Economic Status, Culture, Spirituality, Place, Education, History, Environment</li> <li>• Policy Trends: National/Local Governance &amp; Funding/Political Climate</li> <li>• Role of Institutions, i.e., Education; Research (positive/negative)</li> <li>• Historic Degree of Collaboration &amp; Trust between Community/Academic</li> <li>• Community: Capacity, Readiness &amp; Experience</li> <li>• University: Capacity, Readiness &amp; Experience</li> <li>• Perceived Severity of Health Issues</li> </ul>	<p><u>Structural Dynamics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Complexity</li> <li>• Formal Agreements</li> <li>• Sharing Power/Resource</li> <li>• CBPR Principles</li> <li>• Alignment</li> <li>• Time in partnership</li> </ul> <p><u>Individual Dynamics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core v/Values</li> <li>• Participation Motivation</li> <li>• Personal Relationships</li> <li>• Cultural Identities/Humility</li> <li>• Bridge People</li> <li>• Personal Beliefs/Spirituality</li> <li>• PI Community Reputation</li> </ul> <p><u>Relational Dynamics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety: Community Voice/Community Language</li> <li>• Trust</li> <li>• Dialogue, Listening &amp; Mutual Learning;</li> <li>• Flexibility</li> <li>• Leadership/Influence</li> <li>• Power Dynamics/ Stewardship</li> <li>• Self &amp; Collective Reflection</li> <li>• Participatory Decision-making &amp; Negotiation</li> <li>• Local knowledge Integration; Group Process</li> <li>• Task Roles &amp; Communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention is Culturally Created &amp; Centered</li> <li>• Intervention Informed by Local Settings &amp; Organizations</li> <li>• Partner Shared Synergy &amp; Trust</li> <li>• Community Language vs. Expert Language</li> <li>• Research &amp; Evaluation Design Reflects Partnership Input</li> <li>• Bidirectional Translation, Implementation &amp; Dissemination</li> </ul>	<p><u>CBPR System &amp; Capacity Changes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in Policies /Practices</li> <li>-In Universities &amp; Communities</li> <li>• Sustainable/Cultural-Centered interventions/Broader Reach</li> <li>• Changed Power Relations &amp; Empowerment</li> <li>-Community Voices Heard</li> <li>• Develops Skills to Benefit Individuals &amp; Partner Agencies</li> <li>• Productivity Measures, i.e. Papers, Grant Applications, Grant Awards</li> <li>• Cultural Revitalization &amp; Renewal</li> </ul> <p><u>Health Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformed Social&amp; Economic Conditions</li> <li>• Reduced Health Disparities</li> </ul>