



CBPR Partnership Academy – 2015 Cohort

FLORIDA TEAM

New Town Success Zone & University of North Florida

This partnership hopes to foster a sustainable community-academic partnership between the New Town Success Zone and University of North Florida to reduce diet-related chronic disease among underserved populations in Jacksonville. By working with community leaders, residents, and academic partners, they will work to develop a research agenda and secure funding to transform the social landscape of the local food system.

- **Irvin Pedro Cohen**, is the Executive Director of the New Town Success Zone, a place-based initiative designed to be a continuum of care for children and families living in the New Town community. Irvin serves on the advisory board of the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, the Community Research Advisory Board for Mayo Hospital Jacksonville, the University of North Florida's School of Education's Dean's Advisory Council, and the Institute for Urban Education and Policy. Irvin received his doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University.
- **Emma J. I. Apatu**, who received her doctorate degree from East Tennessee State University, is an Assistant Professor of Community Health at the University of North Florida. Her most recent work centers on improving community nutrition and improving food security among underserved populations. Emma is a 2015-2016 UNF Community Scholar and a member of the Duval Food Policy Council.

ILLINOIS TEAMS

Westside Health Authority & DePaul University

Westside Health Authority is a 501(c) (3) community-based organization with the mission of maximizing the assets of community members to bring about positive, sustainable change. Through this partnership, Jocelyn Smith Carter and Alecia M. Hollowell hope to 1) build the foundation for a long-standing partnership between DePaul University and Westside Health Authority, and 2) explore and identify shared interests that will inform program, research, and proposal development. For two years, the two have worked together to examine the factors that influence the health of ethnic minority children and their families. With limited knowledge of CBPR principles, the pair is excited about the opportunity to participate in the Partnership Academy and learn how to competently engage in community-driven research.

- **Alecia Hollowell**, who serves as the Program Director for the Westside Health Authority in Chicago, is passionate about working with low-income African American communities to promote the development of positive health beliefs and behaviors and immobilize health disparities. She received her master's degree from the University of Michigan.
 - **Jocelyn Smith Carter**, who received her doctorate degree from Vanderbilt University, is passionate about reducing health disparities in ethnic minority children and their families. As an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at DePaul University, her program of research has focused on examining the mechanisms through which stressors influence health outcomes. She has also begun piloting culturally-sensitive health prevention and intervention programs to reduce health disparities.
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West Humboldt Park Development Council & Northwestern University

This partnership is between the West Humboldt Park Development Council (WHPDC) in Chicago's West Humboldt Park community area and the Smith Child Health Research Program at the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. The partnership will involve multiple investigators from our academic center, Northwestern University, of which Dr. Mason will serve as the lead academic partner. WHPDC will involve multiple community organization partners in West Humboldt Park and serve as the lead community partner. Their organizations have come together to build what they envision to be a long-lasting partnership that will improve the health of West Humboldt Park community members through community-engaged research. Together they have identified a number of community health concerns including violence, obesity, and the connections between community stressors and chronic disease, on which they will focus their efforts over the coming years.

- **Megan Hinchy**, who received a master's degree from Florida International University, serves as the Healthy Community Initiatives Program Coordinator of the West Humboldt Park Development Council. Megan has a passion for people and has been working with low-income communities in Chicago for the past seven years, providing education about healthy lifestyles with an emphasis on nutrition. She has had the benefit of working hands-on in planning and coordinating many neighborhood events, and she enjoys participating in those events (especially if they are outdoors). Megan embraces new challenges and looks forward to working with the residents of West Humboldt Park to continue to take steps to better the community.
- **Maryann Mason** received her doctorate degree from Loyola University and is an Assistant Research Professor of Sociology in the Pediatrics Department at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago. She also serves as the Community Research and Evaluation Director for the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children and Research Director for the Injury Prevention Research Center, both of which are located at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She is interested in community-engaged research to improve community support for health and well-being.

MASSACHUSETTS TEAMS

Strong Woman, Strong Girls & Harvard University

With a working name of "Our Time: Raising Girls' Voices," the objective of this partnership is to promote mental health and well-being among girls involved in Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG) programming. They intend to conduct mixed-methods research to identify the prevalence and social determinants of mental health and well-being outcomes in this community, which predominately consists of black, Latina, and Asian girls from low-income families. They plan to use their research findings to revise the SWSG curriculum so it includes evidence-based content and activities pertaining to mental health and well-being tailored to the concerns, needs, and experiences of girls of color from low-socioeconomic backgrounds. Lastly, they intend to evaluate the influence of these activities on mental health and well-being outcomes among SWSG girls.

- **Kenyora Johnson**, who received her master's degree from Boston University, serves as Senior Operations Manager for Strong Women, Strong Girls, a non-profit organization in Boston that focuses on empowering and raising the ambition of women and girls. In addition to her commitment to female empowerment, Kenyora pursues her other passion, fashion, by working as a part-time sales associate at Eileen Fisher, which she says is an amazing company focused on collaborative workplace culture, wellness, and personal development (in addition to top-quality clothes). Kenyora is an active and proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public-service organization dedicated to positive social change. She is also the Vice President of the African American Alumnae/I Association of Simmons College.
 - **Madina Agénor** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Lecturer on Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Harvard University. Madina uses quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate the social determinants of women's and girls' health – with a particular focus on the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls of color and sexual minority women and girls. She earned her doctorate degree from Harvard.
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MotherWoman & Holyoke Community College

Shannon and Vanessa have worked together to increase awareness of critical support services available to mothers at every stage of motherhood through MotherWoman. The pair is interested in using ethnographic research methods, particularly Photovoice, to investigate how mothers develop strategies to negotiate their maternal mental health needs when their choices are constrained by class, race, and traditional definitions of motherhood. Specifically, their work together will investigate how Massachusetts' Hampden County's Latina and Black mothers address their maternal health concerns and how best to implement a MotherWoman Support-Group model in these communities.

- **Shannon Rudder** empowers the resiliency of mothers and advocates for families as the Executive Director of MotherWoman, Inc. The span of her non-profit career has involved inspiring the forward movement of social justice and equity. Shannon embodies a wealth of experience in non-profit development and leadership. Active in the community, Shannon contributes as a member of the Women's Leadership Council of United Way, as well as Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Shannon received a master's degree from Medaille College and is a proud wife and mother of a 15-year-old daughter.
- **Vanessa Martinez-Renuncio** received her doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts and is a trained cultural and medical anthropologist. Her research specializes in how social inequities impact access to medical care and educational opportunities. As an Associate Professor and Honors Program Coordinator at Holyoke Community College, Vanessa is the queen of multi-tasking and is an advocate for liberatory teaching.

South Coast Community Health Worker Collaborative & the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

A perception exists nationally that advances in HIV prevention and treatment have removed the disease from crisis status. However, this is not the case in certain regions of the country, and certainly not the case in New Bedford and Fall River, Massachusetts. These two diverse and economically challenged cities located in Massachusetts' south-coast region, bear a significant burden of HIV infection in the Commonwealth. HIV-positive individuals in New Bedford and Fall River require culturally specific resources and access to adequate healthcare to prevent advancement of HIV disease and HIV-related co-morbidities. However, more information is needed on what the culturally specific needs are and how those needs can be met. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's College of Nursing and School of Law partnered with the South Coast Community Health Worker Collaborative to conduct a comprehensive community health assessment to identify gaps in resources and services, across the spectrum of physical, social, cultural, and legal factors, within the HIV-positive community. In response to this new knowledge, the academic side of the partnership will design faculty-led and student-engaged services to address these identified gaps.

- **Kathy Murphy**, who received a master's degree from Assumption College, is affiliated with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Community Health Network Areas. She is a Community Health Worker and Community Organizer for United Interfaith Action of Southeastern Massachusetts. Her work focuses on growing the capacity and advancing the role of Community Health Workers in Greater Fall River and Greater New Bedford. Kathy has decades of experience in teaching at all educational levels, academic advising, career counseling, and program development at local, state, university, and diocesan levels.
 - **Caitlin M. Stover** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts' Dartmouth College of Nursing, where she previously earned her doctorate degree. She is also the Chairperson of the Community Nursing Department. Caitlin's interests include examining the social determinants that contribute to healthcare disparities in marginalized populations and conducting community assessments to develop and evaluate community-based health programs. Her clinical research focuses on the healthcare experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations.
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NEW YORK TEAMS

Choice for All & Hofstra University

This partnership, the “Suburban Equity Alliance,” began informally through mutual assistance with research, grant writing, and community forums from 2012. Their overall goal through this initiative is to formalize their partnership in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and to bridge their work with youth and families in Roosevelt: a suburban community in Long Island. By teaching advocacy and community organizing skills, they, in turn, can be empowered as creators and caretakers of a vibrant, sustainable, and supportive community. Once best practices are established, it is the partnership's hope to share lessons learned with communities across the Long Island region towards improving self-efficacy, building community capacity for change, and improving public health outcomes.

- **Jacob Dixon**, who received his master's degree from the Bank Street College of Education in New York, is the Chief Executive Officer of Choice for All, a multi-service, non-profit organization in Long Island, New York. The organization's vision aligns with his interest in bridging community-based research, advocacy, community organizing, and human services towards positive family life and youth development. He formerly served as a special education teacher, community organizer, and child advocate.
- **Martine Hackett**, who received her doctorate degree from the CUNY Graduate Center, is an Assistant Professor in the public health and community health programs at Hofstra University in New York. Her research interests include maternal-child health, suburban public health, and visual participatory research methods. Martine has served as a deputy director at the New York City Department of Health's Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive health.

Make the Road New York & Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment, Queens College, CUNY

In November 2012, The Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment (BCCHE) at Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and Make the Road New York (MRNY) joined together to begin to address the workplace safety needs of Latino workers involved with the cleanup of, and recovery from, Hurricane Sandy through a grant for research and pilot intervention projects. The partnership has provided tremendous mutual support and resources to both partners. While it is not brand new, the partnership was implemented on an ad hoc basis because it responded to an acute post-disaster need. The group is eager to develop a more sustained research collaboration, and they have begun a new research project focused on community-based health promotion of diverse, low-wage workers. The team hopes to apply the skills they learn at the Academy to expand their methodological toolbox and implement a better communication infrastructure so that their collaboration, research participants, and communities at-large can get the most benefit from this undertaking.

- **Diego Palaguachi** is part of the second wave of mass transnational migration of Ecuadorians to the U.S. during the turn of the second millennium. As a construction, cleaning, and restaurant worker, he became involved with students, tenants, and immigrant workers by supporting their organizing struggles and efforts. Currently, as an Occupational Safety Trainer for Make the Road NY and the Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment (BCCHE) at the Queens College of CUNY, Diego supports immigrant Latina and Latino workers and is involved in community-based worker safety and health research projects. Diego earned a bachelor's degree from the Queens College of CUNY.
 - **Isabel Cuervo** received her doctorate degree from CUNY and is a Qualitative Research Associate at the Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment at the Queens College of CUNY. She developed research experience in New York and Colombia through many initiatives that span the fields of psychology, housing and urban planning, education, and, most recently, occupational health and safety. She is a native, bilingual Spanish-speaking New Yorker and hails from the same community that Make the Road New seeks to empower.
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NORTH CAROLINA TEAM

Strengthening The Black Family, Inc. & the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Strengthening The Black Family, Inc. (STBF) is a preeminent coalition of more than 40 organizations serving urban African American families, whose mission is to improve the quality of life and ensure the survival and strengthening of black families in Southeast Raleigh, North Carolina. Their partnership goals are to conduct collaborative, community-based research using focus groups, mobile health technology, and survey/physiological research to inform community outreach and opportunities, facilitate advocacy, and increase health equity for African American youth and families in Wake County. They are particularly interested in how parents and families help African American youth cope with racism-related stress, develop a positive identity, and experience positive mental and physical health.

- **Melvin Jackson** is the Program Director of Strengthening The Black Family, Inc. (STBF). He has partnered and served as Co-PI on several Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) initiatives and has co-presented workshops on how to strengthen community-campus partnerships both locally and nationally. Melvin received his master's degree from Boston University and is a member of the Community-Based Public Health Caucus of APHA and the National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON).
- **Enrique Neblett, Jr.** is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the African American Youth Wellness Laboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With a doctorate degree from the University of Michigan, Enrique's research examines racism-related stress experiences and African American youth health, with a focus on racial identity, racial socialization, Afrocentric worldview, and psychophysiological mechanisms that underlie the association between racism and health. His most recent honors include the UNC Institute of African American Research Faculty Fellowship and the Chapman Family Teaching Award for distinguished teaching of undergraduate students.

OREGON TEAM

Community Alliance of Tenants & Pacific University

After crossing paths through several projects related to housing and health, Justin Buri, of the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), and Moriah McSharry McGrath, of Pacific University, are excited to conduct research and organize around the negative health impacts of no-cause tenant evictions (the termination of a rental agreement at the landlord's discretion). Their experience suggests that the limited data available about the extent of no-cause evictions make it difficult for policymakers to understand the effects of Oregon's weak legal protections for people who rent their homes. Their data collection and analysis will emerge from CAT's current community-organizing model around safe and habitable housing, entitled the Safe Housing Project. They will work with tenants and other stakeholders to document the experience of no-cause evictions with the goal of describing the impacts on the health and stability of both households and neighborhoods.

- **Justin Buri** is the Executive Director of the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Oregon's only grassroots, tenant-led, renters' rights organization. CAT's mission is to educate, organize, and empower Oregon tenants to demand and obtain safe, stable, and affordable rental housing. Justin is working to complete his master's degree in Urban Studies from Portland State University, where he and Moriah met. Justin received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado.
 - **Moriah McSharry McGrath**, who received her doctorate degree from Portland State University, is an Assistant Professor of Public Health in the School of Social Sciences at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Her work focuses on relationships among health, place, and social stratification. Her practice experience includes Peace Corps service and five years at the Multnomah County Health Department in Portland.
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WASHINGTON TEAM

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department & the University of Washington Tacoma

The University of Washington Tacoma and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's successful collaboration and development of a community health assessment and community health improvement planning processes served as a foundation for this CBPR partnership. Their objectives are to build on the strength of their relationship, to develop the capacity for, and work with communities in the greater Tacoma region, to address health equity and improve quality of life by utilizing CBPR approaches.

- **Karen Meyer** is a Community Liaison Specialist with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD). She convened health system partners and coordinated the development of Pierce County's Community Health Improvement Plan. Prior to coming to TPCHD, Karen worked for the University of Washington as a community prevention specialist responsible for coordinating a nation-wide healthy youth study. She received a master's degree from California Polytechnic University.
 - **David Reyes** is an Assistant Professor the University of Washington Tacoma in the Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program. With a doctorate degree from the University of Washington, David's interests are in community and population health systems to improve outcomes for diverse, vulnerable, and underserved populations. David has held national leadership roles in the American Public Health Association and is a board member of the Washington State Public Health Association.
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WISCONSIN TEAM

Oneida Nation Community Education Center & the University of Washington School of Social Work

With the direction and encouragement of the Oneida Nation, the University of Washington, the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute, and the CBPR Partnership Academy, Shana Parker and Jessica Elm will lay the groundwork to establish community-based research programming and policies within the Oneida Nation. Their initial objectives are to establish a foundation of trust and community cooperation for future university-tribal partnership research initiatives.

- **Shana Parker** is a member of the Oneida Nation. She resides in Green Bay and serves as a cTeacher-Supervisor for the Oneida Nation Community Education Center on the Oneida reservation. She received a master's degree from Saint Norbert College.
- **Jessica Elm**, also a member of the Oneida Nation, is a Research Associate at the University of Washington's School of Social Work, where her research focuses on American Indian health inequities. She received a master's degree from the University of California – Berkeley and is currently working toward a doctorate degree.