HSRP-VI Year I Highlights—Part II

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 microsite.

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

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

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.