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.
- Members of the Core Research Team attended the culminating activity of the Human Services Research Partnership: Puerto Rico and met the newest member of their organization.

Inside this issue:

- Highlights of Year II: HSRP-VI
- Spotlight on Partnership Members
- Notable Tidbits
- Meet the Newest Member of the HSRP-VI Team
- Recovering Research Post-hurricanes Irma and Maria
- Data Committee: Charge, Objectives, and Members

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HSRP-VI RECOVERING RESEARCH POST-HURRICANE IRMA AND MARIA  E. ARACELIS FRANCIS PhD

As we prepare for another hurricane season, it is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished since our last newsletter. Although we continue to share office space and like everyone else are still challenged with intermittent power outages, telephone disruptions and internet access, we have still managed to move forward with our research agenda.

Two of our research projects had to be postponed but we have developed two new proposals to address issues arising out of our recent disasters. The first project will look at Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) and will examine the needs of parents, teachers and other staff to determine the impact of the hurricanes on their lives and on service delivery. Our other goal is to build program resilience by determining what policies and procedures can be implemented in the event of another disaster. The second research proposal will look at the impact of the hurricanes on TANF staff, clients, and other organizations that work with the TANF program.

As with the HS/EHS program we will be assessing the impact of the hurricane and the policies and procedures that can be used in the event of future disruptions in the U.S. Virgin Islands. As we enter the upcoming hurricane season Promising Practices recommended by SAMHSA provide a useful strategy we can adapt and employ. We will PREPARE for any eventuality; RESPOND to the research needs in the community even as we RECOVER; and we endeavor to use the findings from our research to INFORM decision making and ASSIST our partners and stakeholders in the Territory.

DATA COMMITTEE

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<th>CHARGE</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
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<td>The Data Committee is charged with actively engaging in the completion of the Environmental Scan; Using information from the Environmental Scan activities; and supporting efforts of the Partnership to implement data system that can be used by researchers interested in conducting research related to human services programs in the USVI; Emphasizing, within their specific agencies, the critical need for reliable, valid, complete, and secure data; Capacity building in the area of data collection, e-storage, and use for decision-making.</td>
<td>To document current capacity for conducting research on HS/EHS and TANF program</td>
<td>Noreen Michael, Chair, UVI  *Michal Rhymer-Browne, (VIDHS) Co-Chair (through 3rd quarter, Year 1)  Janis Valmond, Co-Chair, UVI  Desiree Bennet-Felix, VIDOL  Terry Daley-Stanley, VIHA  *Asha DeGannes, ECC, UVI (through 4th quarter, Year 1)  Kim Holdsworth, CFVI (through 4th Quarter, Year 1)  Frank Mills, RPS, UVI  *Randolph Thomas, VIDE (through 4th quarter, Year 2)  Carissa Zakers, VIDE  Lennox Zamore, VIDHS (through 4th quarter, Year 1)</td>
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<td>To provide guidance and leadership on the completion of the Environmental Scan the determination of the elements of the Human Services data system that needs to be established</td>
<td>To provide guidance and recommendations on the viability of VISIS as a platform to house the Human Services data system</td>
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<td>To provide leadership in championing the use of data for policy and program decision-making, particularly as it relates to the HS, EHS, and TANF programs in the USVI</td>
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We acknowledge the work of the Data Committee for adhering to the tenets of the CBPR approach, and guiding the extensive data collection and analysis required for the completion of the environmental scan.