PACIFIC HEALTH GATHERING 2016
WORLD CAFÉ DISCUSSION RESULTS

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Fayetteville, Arkansas
May 24-26, 2016
World Café

• Opportunity for community leaders, patients, providers, researchers, etc. to meet and get to know each other.

• Opportunity for conference participants to confirm and discuss the six Pacific Health Priorities.

• Priorities were selected by the Gathering 2016 Advisory council.
Priorities

1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)
2. Maternal Child Health
3. Health Policies and Data
4. Infectious Diseases
5. Mental Health
6. Youth and Young Adults
Non-Communicable Diseases

Challenges
a. Culture/Context: Lifestyle with Pacific and Western influence; Lots of needs but not enough time to spend with them.
b. System: Language access and lack of resources.
c. Research/Practice: Understand and apply what we know about PIs to develop behavioral economics interventions; not using PI values in our research and interventions.

Resources and Best Practices
a. Culture/Context: Story telling, collaboration, inclusiveness, and transparency. “Everyone is brought to the table and the conversation is open.”
Non-Communicable Diseases (cont.)

Information we need to know

a. Community: How to get buy-in from community?; Do programs/research meet community/family needs and values?; How to build a system that makes it easy for people just to do the good behavior.

b. System: sustainability

Research Topics and Ideas

- Genetics and environment
- Dental caries and obesity/diabetes
- Fatalistic attitudes, denial, etc.
- Follow-up with patients at home after clinic visits in partnership with pastors and traditional healers
Non-Communicable Diseases (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Culturally and linguistically appropriate materials, tools, and programs.
- Repository for resources, materials, and tools
Maternal Child Health

Challenges
a. Culture/Context: Women don’t want to see male providers.
b. Culture/Context and System: Delay in women seeking pre-natal care; Increased number of obese pregnant women; Herbs for herbal wraps not available in US.
c. System: Language access and Lack of resources
d. Research/Practice: How to incorporate culture in the western system? (ex. using herbal wraps post-partum)

Resources and Best Practices
a. WIC Breast Feeding Campaign
b. Water only in school
c. Important to answer “why” when educating patients and community. For example, why breast feeding? Why food portioning?
Maternal Child Health (cont.)

Information we need to know
a. Do PIs use midwives?
b. Do young generations still heed advise from their elders? Does it supersede the doctors instructions?
c. How to grow herbs for wraps in the US?
d. Role of food in the PI culture.

Research Topics and Ideas
a. Obesity and pregnancy
b. Obesity and children
c. Benefits of herbal baths
d. Body images of children
Maternal Child Health (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Grandmothers and “Aunties”
- Pacific Women Organizations
- Men: Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, etc.
- Churches
Health Policies and Data

Challenges
b. System: Convincing policy makers on the needs of PIs, Allocation of resources for PIs, Medicaid Access pre-1996 Health Reform
c. Data: Lack of comparable data to national datasets

Resources and Best Practices
a. Public/private partnerships can be very helpful
b. Education of broader population – advocacy
c. Education for health leaders, media, faith community, and interdisciplinary teams
Health Policies and Data (cont.)

Information we need to know
a. Community: Who is the “we”? Who is the facilitator? What is our national scope?
b. Community and System: Who will fund policy, data, and advocacy efforts?

Research Topics and Ideas
a. How do we take the information to the right people?
b. What is a better way to align efforts?
c. Who is better at coordinating on the community level?
Health Policies and Data (cont.)

Resources that can help us

• Our own stories
• Civic Organizations
• Corporate partners
• Reach from larger CBOs to local CBOs
Infectious Diseases

Challenges

a. Culture/Context: Small living quarters; Belief system; Stigma
b. Culture/Context and System: Strenuous and tight working environment; Lack of focus/attention; Focus is on NCD
c. System: Funding depends on politics and set priorities; Data and documentation is not disaggregated; Limited staff to address PI needs
d. Research/Practice: Hepatitis B is on the rise; Emerging cancer (infectious disease related); Need PI specific statistics; US standard is different than International
Infectious Diseases

Resources and Best Practices

a. Culturally and linguistically appropriate screening and vaccinations campaigns
b. Having enough translators (translate culture and language)
c. To address stigma: use holistic approach; public education
d. 10 course curriculum done in the FSM and Saipan focused on youth, women, and LGBT
e. SISTA – focused on women to be educated on STDs/HIV during lunch time
f. Church-to-Clinic education on cancers, STD/HIVs, etc. preachers then translate this information to their congregation (RMI Cancer Program)
g. Community Coalitions
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Information we need to know

a. How can we develop new cultural models to educate the public?

b. How to develop partnerships and joint efforts to mobilize community?

c. What elements cause a PI to come back to a clinic or site even when they have to pay for care? Is it having interpreter, quality of care, or having money?
Infectious Diseases (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Patients
- New media and technologies
- Old methods: “talk story” and partnership
- Free capacity building programs (CDC, Fed Agencies, etc.)
Mental Health

Challenges

a. Culture/Context: High suicide rates; PIs do not talk about or share feelings and stresses; Accidents that are suspected suicides
b. Culture/Context and System: PIs not accessing existing behavioral health services
c. System: Interventions follow a western concept (need culturally appropriate interventions)

Resources and Best Practices

a. Working with Churches: Where people gather and there are huge gatherings at church for funerals, 1st birthdays, and Christmas
b. Set up relationship with community.
Mental Health (cont.)

Information we need to know
a. How PIs cope and seek help?
b. Process to address MH issues. Western approaches appear to be inappropriate and not acceptable.
c. Is working with pastors more appropriate?
d. Why is suicide only among men and not women? How do women deal with stressors?

Research Topics and Ideas
a. Explore culture PLUS school and work environment to provide support
b. Explore views on wellness, inspiration, faith
Mental Health (cont.)

Resources that can help us

- Pastors and Deacons are very influential. PIs need to be “inspired, which is why we go to church.”
Youth and Young Adults

Challenges

a. Culture/Context: Stress of dealing with the stress of two worlds; Parents, grandparents, and family have a strong “vote” in higher educ. decisions

b. Culture/Context and System: Low graduation rates and under-represented in higher education; Social media negative effects (bullying)

Resources and Best Practices

a. Mentors and a Meal program in Saipan
b. Islander Clubs in Springdale Schools (Arkansas)
c. Leaders to Leaders: Springdale school superintendent meets with pastors
d. University of Hawaii PI Initiative – for 1st generation students program
e. New Zealand – 4th yr med students spend a weekend with a PI family
f. Learning liaison officers
g. EPIC: 5 days, culturally adapted leadership institute
Youth and Young Adults (cont.)

Information we need to know and Research Ideas

a. How to get professionals involved in mentoring youths?

b. How to get schools involved?

c. Better ways to educate parents, ministers, community on the school system – K-12 and college.

d. Better ways to educate teachers and administrators on Pacific Island culture and context.
Youth and Young Adults (cont.)

Ideas and Resources that can help us

• Celebrate events like graduations visibly with community/family/providers to promote success
• Invite parents and family members to college night
• Find allies on all sides
Moving Forward…

- Frame the agenda for the 2017 Gathering – October 3-5 in Honolulu, Hawai‘i!
- World Café 2017 at the Gathering
- Forming work groups and joining existing work groups.
- Open to ideas…
Thank YOU!