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Consciousness
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Protecting the Health of Children: A National Snapshot of Environmental Health Services

“Voices of Flint”

American Public Health Association Webinar

Presented by:
E. Yvonne Lewis, BS, BBA
Co-Director, HFRCC
February 28, 2019
Community/Academic Partnership

National Center for African American Health Consciousness
Community Based Organization Partners (CBOP)

- Tonya French-Turner, MBA
- E.Yvonne Lewis, BS

Michigan State University

- Debra Furr-Holden, PhD
- Richard Sadler, PhD

University of Michigan – Flint

- Kenneth Sylvester, PhD
- Michelle Sali, PhD

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

- Susan Wolford, MD, MPH
- Patricia Piechowski, MPH

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Who we are

The HFRCC:

- Is a **Community-Academic Partnership**
- Involves voluntary participation by community members, organizations and researchers
- Is focused on
  - the economic environmental, behavioral and physical health of Flint residents,
  - data dissemination, as well as training and education for academic and community partners
Community Engagement

- Identify opportunities to hear voices of community on a variety of concerns
- Connect Community with Academic Partners
- Discuss and vet research questions/ideas
- Gain insights on perspectives and community impact
- Encourage participation at various levels of the research process
Community Conversation

- Building on Community Dialogues, a Solution-Oriented approach to identifying a problem(s)
- Engaging Community members in providing input and perspective
- Encouraging participation in sharing knowledge and identifying needs
- Understand Community Concerns and Expectations
Contextualize the Conversation

- Make it relevant to the Community
- Gain an Understanding of the Community Perspective
  - Concerns and issues may vary
  - Impact on Children’s Health may differ
  - Eligibility criterial by differ
  - Resources may differ
- Encourage participation at various levels of the conversation
- Connect Community with Partners
Address Access Issues

**Access to information**
- Is there an awareness about what is available?
- How is this information communicated?
  - Is there consideration for special populations:
    - Non-readers/low literacy
    - Deaf and hard of hearing
    - Non-English speaking

**Access of information**
- How can community members access information and services?
- Are the information and services both accessible and acceptable?
Voices from Flint

- APHA Children’s Environmental Health
- Executive Committee Member – Ella Greene-Moton
  - Coordination with HFRCC - CC
    - Engaging community members
    - Engaging appropriate service organizations

- Event Date: April 24, 2018
- Co-Facilitated by APHA & HFRCC
- Participants:
  - 25 community members
  - 3 agencies

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Participation

- Community Members who had children ages 0-8
- Flint Water Crisis
  - Lead exposure
  - WATER & LEAD BASED PAINT
  - Other environmental toxins
- Community Agency/Organization Representation
  - Genesee County Health Department – Environmental Health
  - City of Flint Recovery Officer
  - RECAST - City of Flint/Michigan State University
Bridge and Broker

- **Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center (HFRCC) - CC**
  - Assist in coordinating research
  - Engaging Community to clarify Research & Research Opportunities
  - Engage Service Organizations/Agencies
  - Provide Education and Coaching on how to access and use resources
  - Serves as a resource

- **Community Organizations & Research & Service Projects**
  - Build on existing Relationships
  - Community Partnerships can serve as connectors between Community, Academic Partners and Agencies
APHA Expectations

- Better understand community’s:
  - Questions/concerns regarding environmental health
  - Background on the issue
  - Knowledge of services available in the community and accessibility
  - Community’s response to information presented

- Better understand how this information could be used at a policy level
Community Expectations of APHA

Better understand:

- Questions/concerns regarding environmental health
- Background on the issue
- Benefit to community for participation
- Long-term impacts of the project/conversation
- How the community will be informed of outcomes
Outcomes

- Greater awareness of the:
  - National focus on Children’s Environmental Health
  - The programs and services available in our community
  - How their voices can assist other communities
  - Waiting to learn more about the results of this project

- Commitment to maintain connection and communication with Community
HFRCC – Community Core Staff

E. Yvonne Lewis, BBA
Co-Director, Community Core

Kenneth Cabine, MPH, MS
Program Manager, Community Core

Tonya French-Turner, MBA
Co-Director, Community Core

Ella Greene-Moton
CERB Administrator

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Administrative Assistant

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