The Starting Point for Research: Building a Research Infrastructure at Access Community Health Network

Milton “Mickey” Eder, PhD
Director of Research Programs
NACHC Community Health Institute, Chicago, IL
August 24, 2009
Access Community Health Network

215,000 patients
60,000 uninsured
50 sites
All FQHCs
Primary Care
Specialty Care
Clinicians ~ 275
Support Staff ~ 440
UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH

Experiments are not Standard of Care
Collect data (to inform evidence based practice)

Research participants are often called subjects

Ethical oversight by an Institutional Review Board
How can Research add Value?

MONEY $$$$$

PRESTIGE - through publications that contribute to science and public policy

Improve the quality of systems and services

Improve the health of individuals and communities
Making Research Valuable

• Examine best-practices in primary health care.
• Examine access to health care and related social services.
• Investigate new methods of outreach and health education.
• Study the effectiveness of innovative programs linking health care, drug treatment, mental health care, and other social services.
• Examine costs and cost-effectiveness of community based health care and intervention services.
• Address health disparities by including minority and low SES populations in research protocols.
ACCESS Research Department Goals

Bench Science
Quantitative Study
Controlled conditions

Field Science
Qualitative Study
Variable Conditions

Obtain Funding to Assess and Improve
• Systems and Operations
• Quality of Care
• Patient Outcomes
• Create new knowledge about CHC practice(s)
Implementing a successful Research Program

- Aligns with your Mission, Vision and Values
- Reflects real partnerships with external researchers
- Health center staff understands research and the goals of specific projects
- Projects build trust among clinicians, patients and communities
- Projects improve quality and scope of healthcare services and patient health outcomes
Research Mission Statement

Research will focus on improving processes, systems, quality of care and patient outcomes, and provide opportunities for professional development through involvement, training, and education.
Research Conduct: *External Relations*

- Identify researchers working on questions important to you and develop a relationship; teach them about your organization.
- Get involved in writing proposals, formulating goals and asking questions of importance to you.
- Review the IRB application prior to its submission.
- Provide input on projects at local, regional and national levels.
Research Conduct: *Internal Relations*

- Build relationships with medical operations, providers and health center staff
- Collaborate with health center leadership to involve staff in the implementation of all research protocols
- Effectively report on results of research
- Research Administration – contracting, finance, compliance
- Identify staff and infrastructure needed to support different types of research protocols
Selected NIH Funded Collaborations

- Chicago Cancer Navigation Project
- Refining and Standardizing Health Literacy Assessment
- Subjective/Objective Health Measures by Race/Ethnicity
- Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort study RIC and Hispanic CRIC
- Risk Assessment of the Testing Processes at Access Community Health Network
AHRQ Funded ACCESS Projects

- Risk Assessment of the Testing Processes at Access Community Health Network (P20 HS17131)

- A Toolkit for Primary Care Practices to Improve the Safety of Testing (R18HS017911)
Other ACCESS Research Collaborations

- Developing an Evaluation Framework for the ACCESS Performance Based Compensation Plan
- Quality and Patient-Centeredness in a Pay for Performance Environment
- Low Literacy Strategy to Improve Self-Management of Hypertension and Elevated Cholesterol
- Controlling Asthma in Chicago
- Pregnancy Intention in African American and Latina Women
ACCESS Program Evaluations

- Stand Against Cancer Evaluation Report
- Healthy Births for Healthy Communities Interconceputal Project
- Westside Connect
- Women Returning Home
ACCESS Research Department

Comments, questions, etc….

Milton “Mickey Eder, Ph.D.
edem@accesscommunityhealth.net