CHC Research Involvement: Developing a Mutually Beneficial Relationship

August 28, 2006

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Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

- Large community/migrant health center system
- Clinics in WA and OR
- Served >115,000 patients last year
- 64% Hispanic
- 39% m/sfw + family members
Context for Research Opportunities-1990s

- Increased health profession student placement
- Students and faculty interested in research opportunities with unique population
- Increased research interest from academic researchers
- Researchers with individual relationships with YVFWC clinicians
Some negative experiences

• Negative process – projects that diverted resources from primary care

• Negative outcomes – in one case results of community survey reflected poorly
Agency Tools

- Policy on Research Involvement
- Application Elements and Process for prospective researchers
- Principles of Community-Based Research
- Research Review Committee/HIPAA Privacy Board
Change in Orientation

CHC as....

• Proactive
• Responsible to identify needs
• Asserting an equal relationship
• Introducing negotiation
• Taking risks
Considerations for Research Review Committee

- Costs and Benefits
- Alignment with agency priorities
- Confidentiality
- Sustainability
- Equitable budget distribution
- Pressures on key staff
- Balance of buy-in and pressure on clinic sponsor
Principles of Community-Based Research

Opportunity for discussion:
• Early involvement
• Real influence on project direction
• Process and outcome should benefit community
• Part of analysis and interpretation
• Relationship beyond specific project
• Empowered to initiate research