



Yakima Valley  
Farm Workers Clinic

# CHC Research Involvement: Developing a Mutually Beneficial Relationship

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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





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