

Dates of Activity: July 2008 through September 2008
Seed Grant: Health Enterprise Zone Project
Grantee Organization: Central Valley Health Policy Institute, California State University, Fresno
Contact Person: Laurie Primavera
Phone: 559.228.2156
Email: lprimavera@csufresno.edu

Goal 1, Objective A: Establish a UC Merced medical school within 10 years.

Action: Work with UC Merced to identify and engage key leaders to champion effort.

Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

- Work has been focused on finalizing the medical school proposal and business plan for the Regents' approval by the end of 2009.

Planned Activities for the next 3-6 months

- The Regents' endorsement enables UC Merced to move forward with plans to establish a School of Medicine, including creating a planning office; developing curriculum and a full proposal and business plan; planning for initial infrastructure; seeking faculty review and approval of the curriculum and new school; and launching a fundraising campaign.
- The campus anticipates submission of a formal proposal for a School of Medicine to the president of the University of California in approximately 12 to 18 months. Pending approvals and the commitment of new resources, the School of Medicine is proposed to open in 2013.
- The Valley Coalition and its three subcommittees—Advocacy, Community Outreach, and Fundraising—will continue to: 1) engage our Valley legislative delegation for their support on this critical initiative, 2) further broaden the base of support for this initiative throughout all eight counties, and 3) raise funds for the medical school.

Next Steps

- Outreach will continue to be significant to increase awareness and regional support for the medical school, and it will need to coincide with the work that UC Merced officials are doing for planning.
- Continue advocacy and fundraising activities.
- Valley Coalition meeting scheduled Monday, Oct. 20, 2008

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

- The challenge is to continue to increase awareness and gain full support for the medical education program through UC Merced throughout the region. An aggressive outreach effort is required.
- Fundraising is an ongoing challenge.

Goal 1, Objective B: Establish Central Valley Nursing Education Consortium

Description of Quarter's Activity

- Continue strategies to increase NCLEX scores
- Continue strategies to increase nursing faculty
- Prepare for use of a Computerized Clinical Placement Program for Spring 2009
- Continue strategies to support and increase distance education for nursing students

Planned Activities for the next 3-6 months

- See above
- Prepare to implement the Computerized Clinical Placement Program in Spring 2009

Next Steps

- The two-unit graduate level faculty training course that has been developed will continue through the use of Song-Brown funds obtained by California State University, Fresno Center for Nursing Excellence. These funds allow additional faculty training classes to continue. The next course will begin February 2009.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

- The greatest challenge is to procure additional funding to support the progress in this objective

Goal 2, Objective A: Provide incentives for difficult-to-recruit health and medical professionals.

Action: Develop regionwide strategic plan for enterprise zones and financial incentives (Health Enterprise Zone project).

- Refer to HEZ report by Melanie Briones

Goal 2, Objective B: Enhance public health capabilities

Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

- Data collection continues in the eight-county region that includes assessment and development of products specific to epidemiology resources and staff time, as well as a regional template for reporting.
- In addition, a major focus will be an assessment of the adequacy of currently available data for documenting the region's challenges with chronic conditions and documenting the activities of the health departments in addressing key health challenges.
- Public Health Partnership with CVHPI staff support continues to explore other opportunities for shared services.

Next Steps

- Complete the data collection in the eight counties

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

- Data collection in each county will be challenging based on different tracking systems in each county, time and staffing required to collect the data.

Goal 2, Objective C: Develop a regional plan to address the needs of the uninsured

Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

- Although the Public Health Partnership endorsed the public education concept to increase civic engagement in continued health discussions specific to Valley health reform needs, no further action has ensued based on a lack of funding, state and federal financial turmoil and uncertainty and the inability to move forward an agenda to address the needs of the uninsured without state and/or federal health reforms.
- In the meantime, CVHPI participates in and supports efforts specific to Children's Health Initiatives, Specialty Care Access Initiatives and a local farm worker expansion effort.

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

- Continue participating in the Children's Health Initiative efforts, both local and regional
- Participate in local farm worker expansion initiative
- Participate in and provide technical assistance to Specialty Care Access Initiatives.
- Monitor political environment specific to health reform
- On Friday, October 17, 2008, CVHPI is hosting a special Central Valley Health Policy Institute Leadership day with special lunch hour guest Dr. Walter Zelman. Dr. Zelman is a Professor and Chair, Department of Health Sciences, California State University, Los Angeles. The topic is *"Health Care Proposals of the 2008 Democratic and Republican Presidential Nominees: Implications for Improving Access, Affordability and Quality for America's Minorities."* This event will be used as a tool to inform voters in the San Joaquin Valley.

Next Steps:

- Continue participation in regional health expansion initiatives
- Monitor political environment and opportunities to address the objective

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

- Dramatic external and political changes result in uncertainty about the future
- Limited to no resources to support the Partnership work beyond current commitments
- Need time to monitor current political activity before implementing further actions specific to this objective.

Goal 2, Objective D: Improve delivery of health care services through the use of information technology infrastructure and services.

Action: Assess e-health readiness

Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

- Pilot study completed
- Completing surveys at several health care organization sites

Planned Activities for the next 3-6 months

- Initiate data analysis
- Complete final report

Next Steps:

- Complete surveys 10/31/08
- Complete data analysis mid-November
- Complete final report 12/31/08

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

1. Although four sites have participated in the survey, it has been challenging to coordinate staff availability with the interviewers to conduct the surveys.