

Empowering Youth, Empowers Communities: The Role of Young People in Community Engagement



2023 ALL-GRANTEE MEETING

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY GROWING COLLABORATION

Presenters

COVID-19 Equity Project

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Project Insight

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Acknowledgments

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LaMecia Ward



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PEDIATRIC PANDEMIC NETWORK

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Disclosures

The presenters have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose.



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Objectives

- Understand the importance of youth engagement.
- Discuss the engagement of youth to enhance efforts in COVID-19 prevention.
- Discuss lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities for successful youth engagement.
- Discuss opportunities for youth engagement as youth advisory members and public health leaders.



The COVID-19 Equity Project



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IMMIGRANT REFUGEE *coalition*



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Building Trust with the Immigrant Refugee Coalition (IRC)



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Junior Community Health Worker (Jr. CHW)



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Become a Jr. Community Health Worker!

Do you enjoy helping others in your community?
Are you outgoing and enthusiastic?
Do you want to make a difference while learning
about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19?



Become part of our
Promotoritas Internship
Program and join the
COVID-19 Equity Project!



Requirements:

- 16 years or older
- Ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds
- Enthusiastic and willing to learn new skills
- Ability to follow directions
- Access to reliable transportation (including the bus or a bicycle!)
- Bilingual/Trilingual is a PLUS!



IMMIGRANT
REFUGEE
coalition



PAID OPPORTUNITY!!!

\$16/hour



Apply by June 10!

Contact:
Wonuola Olagunju
wlagunju@fresnobhc.org

Patsy Mejia
pmejia@fresnobhc.org

Apply on-line: www.fresnobhc.org/youth-internships

- Learn how to be an effective advocate for COVID-19 safety and protocols
- Help increase public access to COVID-19 vaccines
- Work closely with other teens to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our public schools and our community



How did the work find you and how did you find the work?

“I was unsure about what to expect, but soon came to realize that the work that I was doing mattered to the community that I was serving.”



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How did the work find you and how did you find the work?

“I quickly realized how distant I was from the community and did as much possible to change that.

Within a month of working at Fresno BHC I assisted numerous events from community outreach to immigrant housing rights.

As a first generation daughter this work resonated to bring as many resources and information to other immigrant families.”



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What you believe young people bring to the community engagement table?



LaMecia Ward, MPH
Research Associate
Central Valley Health Policy Institute



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Training Junior Community Health Workers

- Training Format
- Methodology
- Incentives



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Junior Community Health Worker Activities (cont.)

⚡ **EL SANO**



STRENGTHS

-  Wears a mask
-  Washes his hands
-  Keeps 6ft distance
-  Is vaccinated

HEALTH




www.fresnocep.org/getvaccinated

EL RONA



WEAKNESSES

-  Doesn't wear a mask
-  Doesn't wash his hands
-  Doesn't keep 6ft distance
-  Is not vaccinated

HEALTH



www.fresnocep.org/getvaccinated



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Lessons Learned

Challenges

- Jr CHWs would primarily work weekends and after school hours.
- Develop robust evaluation tools to assess Jr. CHW impact and outcomes.

Highlights

- Jr CHWs were engaged in all aspects of community efforts.
- Utilized their free time to engage peers at school.
- Developed interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Educated and empowered families and friends.



How Do We Continue to Incorporate Young People in Public Health Matters?

- Jr CHW programs are able to incorporate a wide variety of personalities.
- Planning ahead thinking through what a healthy workload looks like for Jr. CHWs.
- **Continue to allow younger people to have a voice in local level conversations about their health and safety.**



Project Insight

Alex Villeda, M.D.

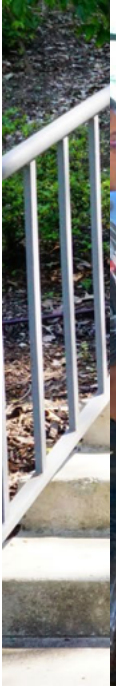
PGY-3 Pediatric Resident

Children's National Hospital



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Ab



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Community resilience looks like...

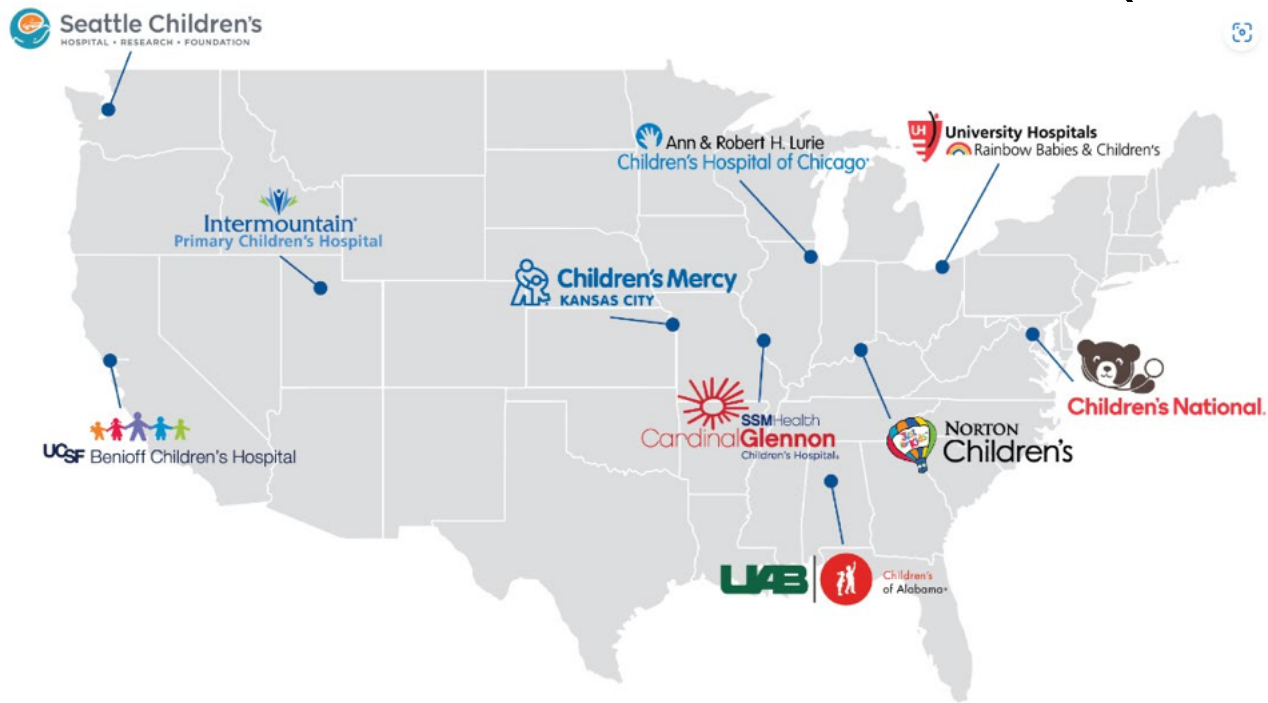


Pediatric Health Justice Issues

- Food Insecurity
- Housing Insecurity
- Environment and Climate
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Mental Health
- Education
- Neighborhood Violence
- Vaccines
- Racism
- Poverty
- Substance Use
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Maternal and Child Health
- Immigrant Health
- LGBTQIA+ Wellness
- Mass Incarceration and Police Violence
- Health Care Access



Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN)



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So how do we get youth involved with the Pediatric Pandemic Network?



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Vision:

Educate, empower, and learn from the next generation of young public health leaders

Mission:

Develop critical consciousness for health justice issues and foster advocacy and leadership in collaboration with youth from the District of Columbia



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Session 1 Agenda

Session Time: 11:45am - 4pm

A	11:45am - 1:00pm	Arrival and Welcome
B	1:00pm - 1:30pm	Community Accountability
C	1:30pm - 2:00pm	Health Justice and Liberation
D	2:00pm - 2:30pm	Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience
E	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Group Causal-Loop Diagram Build
F	3:30pm - 4:00pm	Closing



Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

Two-way sharing of information and resources

- YAC provides immediate feedback during training
- PPN will establish proposals for best practices
- PPN will seek feedback on proposals from YAC to inform policy changes
- Through strengthening of community relationships and co-investment with stakeholders, PPN will refer YAC members as change-agents to serve D.C.'s health needs
 - YAC members will select projects/opportunities based on their own interests
 - Gives YAC members agency and choice in their own professional development
 - YAC members will provide feedback to optimize relationships and opportunities
- PPN can establish its own local/national opportunities for YAC members to participate in



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Future Steps

Complete Curriculum and Implement Program!

Research Goals:

- Improve baseline knowledge of social drivers of health and health justice issues
- Develop critical consciousness - *the capacity to recognize socio-political inequities and act towards personal and collective improvement* - for health justice issues
- Improve perceptions of community resilience by exposing students to resources and organizations in their community
- Increase critical action based behaviors by serving on a Youth Advisory Council for the Pediatric Pandemic Network and by referring them as change-agents for other key stakeholders

Other goals

- Enhance community partnerships
- Establish sustainability



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References

<https://www.undrr.org/words-into-action/engaging-children-and-youth-disaster-risk-reduction-and-resilience-building>

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/sendai_framework_for_children_28plan_201529.pdf/

https://ccr.publichealth.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs4361/files/2022-06/final_poa_resiltrees_tutorial.pdf

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/youth>

<https://pedspandemicnetwork.org/about/>

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Conclusions

- Youth engagement is important in preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and resiliency efforts.
- Authentic youth engagement has been associated with numerous benefits (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019):
 - Reasoning
 - Decision-making
 - Self-esteem
 - Leadership
 - Professional development
- Youth create more relevant communications for their communities and peers.
- Youth provide invaluable insights into their needs and priorities for health and well-being.



Thank you!

Questions?

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Questions?

