November 18th, CCHERS celebrated 25 years of sustaining partnerships for innovations in community health. Founded in 1991 with a $6 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, CCHERS has evolved into a sustainable community-academic partnership working in strategic areas of health professions education, workforce development, community engaged research, and healthcare policy analysis.

The occasion was a day-long community symposium that highlighted CCHERS’ work in the strategic areas above and culminated with a celebratory evening reception recognizing the original founders and current partners.

The symposium consisted of two plenary panels, Community Engaged and Patient Centered Research and A Community Health Workforce for System Transformation. During the research panel, guests got to view a live demonstration of "Gabe" an online animated character focusing on improving health outcomes for young Black men. It is a project between CCHERS’ academic partners, Boston University and Northeastern University and is also funded by the Kellogg Foundation. The workforce...
training through the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, the Vital Village Network, and the HEART Consortium home health aide training program.

The highlight of the symposium was the keynote speech by Dr. Alonzo Plough, one of the original founders of CHERS, and now the Vice President for Research and Evaluation and Chief Science Officer of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

These events were followed by an evening reception where CHERS’ founders, Board of Directors, partners, friends and supporters shared stories, anecdotes, lessons learned, and the impact of CHERS on the healthcare and public health landscape of Boston and beyond.

Consider gifting us with a donation to help CHERS sustain partnerships for innovations in community health for another 25 years. Click here.

CCHERS Receives PCORI Eugene Engagement Award in August 2016!

BRI ... DGE

For the first time, CHERS received funding from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The project, titled Boston BRI...DGE, focuses on engagement with a goal of engaging community members and researchers of color in Boston to promote a more equitable approach to research. Our two-year funding will allow us the opportunity to host networking receptions, workshops, and two annual conferences.

So far, we have sent out round one of a Delphi survey to all of the PCORI projects in New England, focused on barriers and successes of stakeholder engagement. Our next step is to analyze the data to pull out themes for round two of the survey.

We are also planning a networking reception on the evening of Thursday, January 19th for researchers of color to come together, form relationships and learn a little more about PCORI. We have a few speakers who will talk about their own experiences applying and carrying out a PCORI grant. This event will take place at Northeastern Crossing from 5:30-7pm. Join us by registering here.
Keep on the lookout for our upcoming events and if you have any questions or want to learn more, email the Project Coordinator, Yareliz Diaz at y.diaz@northeastern.edu

Community Advocacy Program (CAP)

On October 27th, the Community Advocacy program and Northeastern’s Domestic Violence Institute hosted their annual event, Surviving the System: Domestic Violence, Healthcare, and the Law. The event was a true success and highlighted survivors, the difficulties with the legal system, and the resilience they must have to get through it all.

During the event, CAP was also awarded with the Roth Award from the Mary Byron Project. This award is given annually to an organization serving the needs of underrepresented groups from low socio-economic backgrounds, disabilities, non-english speaking, and LGBTQ identifying individuals etc. The award provides a $10,000 grant to the receiving organization and is a great honor. The Mary Byron Project sent a representative to deliver the check and a framed award for Elmer and the CAP Advocates.

Attendees left with an idea of what a survivor may go through in the aftermath of reporting abuse. Law students from the Domestic Violence Institute led a skit to give attendess an idea of the timeline and stress involved. The event ended with a discussion on the complexities of the legal system and a survivor also sharing her story.
Program Overview

The Health Education Action Research and Technology (HEART) Consortium is leading a workforce development initiative, whose goal is to gain employment for residents of the HEART geographic target area into entry level health sector jobs. The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc. (CCHERS) is the lead organization working on behalf of the HEART Consortium. Partners Healthcare, SkillWorks and Commonwealth Corporation are funding the HEART Consortium’s training initiative.

HEART is partnering with the Home Care Aide Council (HCAC), which is a recognized leader in the Massachusetts in providing the 75-hour home health aide training curriculum (PHCAST). JVS Boston (Jewish Vocational Service) provides an additional 8 hours of job readiness and life skills workshops, including financial literacy and has been providing coaching for training participants. Outreach and recruitment is targeted to residents of public housing living in the HEART target area. Upon successful completion of the training program, newly trained home health aides are awarded a certificate and are assisted in finding employment through an employment pipeline to home health aide employers.

HEART Success

To date, two cohorts have completed. 23 out of 24 participants received a home health aide certificate, which is an industry recognized certificate and will allow them to apply and get jobs as home health aides. The majority of graduates in the first cohort report finding employment within the first month of completion.

Next Home Health Aide Training Program
January 2017

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