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1. Program competencies to be achieved/developed:

- Knowledge of and skills in applying the principles of CBPR
- Ability to negotiate across community-academic groups
- Ability to transfer CBPH skills to the community, thereby enhancing community capacity, and ability to share CBPH skills with other faculty
- Understanding of the policy implications of CBPR and ability to work with communities in conjunction with advocacy groups and decision-makers in translating the process and findings of CBPR into policy
- Knowledge of community-based teaching and learning approaches
- Ability to write grants expressing CBPR principles

2. Academic Mentor: Derek M. Griffith, PhD, the University of Michigan, School of Public Health
Community Mentor: Bettina Campbell, LMSW, YOUR Center

3. I am working on YOUR Blessed Health (YBH): an HIV/AIDS education program being conducted in forty-five African American faith-based organizations (FBO) in Flint, MI. YBH is a partnership between YOUR Center and the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. I am participating in the overall evaluation of YBH as my secondary project, and I have decided to examine how YBH is mobilizing faith-based organizations to address HIV/AIDS in an urban, African American community as my primary project. I will use a mixed methods approach to examine key factors associated with the community-mobilization efforts.

The first part of my primary project will be a quantitative survey of the leaders – pastors, pastors' spouses, youth leaders, etc. – that implemented the YBH program in the FBOs. For this component of the primary project, I will test the following research questions: a) How did YBH trainers' beliefs about the role of the church relate to their level of participation in YBH events? b) Were leadership from different denominations significantly different in their comfort level discussing key sexual health issues? c) Is comfort level discussing key health issues associated with trainers' level of participation in YBH events?

For the second, qualitative portion of my primary project, I will examine the characteristics of YBH that were perceived by the leaders to be most effective. I also will examine perceived barriers to program implementation.

I am partnering directly with the YOUR Center Executive Director (Mrs. Campbell), core YOUR Center staff, and the Univ. of Michigan evaluation team to:

- Develop the survey instrument and focus group script using an iterative process with a community advisory board (e.g., Rev. Bell, YOUR Center staff)
- Analyze survey data
- Publish key findings in a peer-reviewed journal

**Progress to Date: drafted survey instrument and focus group script

4. Implications for Policy

I will work with my community mentor, Mrs. Campbell, to enhance and facilitate her local efforts to address policy and leverage relationships with state policy makers to create positive change in the community. For the annual KHSP networking meeting, a policy brief was developed with input from Mrs. Campbell to support her agenda and highlight key mobilization efforts on behalf of the FBOs involved in YBH to reduce the burden of HIV/STIs on Flint residents.

5. Problems/Issues

- I have had difficulty transitioning from a doctoral student to an independent researcher. What are some things I might do to continue to facilitate this developmental process?
- How might we continue to balance the needs of YOUR Center to mobilize the community to address the health issues in the community, and the need to continue to study HIV prevention strategies in Flint, MI?

6. Lessons Learned - Competency #2: "Ability to negotiate across community-academic groups"

I have learned the value of working collaboratively with community-based organizations and I have a greater appreciation for the expertise community partners contribute to the research process.