



Kellogg Health Scholars Program, 2009 Annual Networking Meeting, Washington, DC, June 3-5, 2009

M. Taqi Tirmazi: Scholar Program Plan KHSP-Community Track Scholar Poster

List the main program competencies that the scholar will be working to develop or achieve over the course of the post-doctorate.

- Further develop my understanding of the values and mission of community-based public health and the social determinants of health. Specifically, increase my knowledge in applying Community Based Participatory Research methodology.
- Enhance my knowledge of and skills in applying the competencies of Community-Based Participatory Research (e.g. community governance, equitable participation at all levels, local relevance of public health problems, trust building, benefits to community involved, dissemination of findings, translation of results into policy).
- Understand the policy implications of CBPR and ability to collaborate with communities in conjunction with advocacy groups and decision-makers in translating and disseminating the process and findings of CBPR into policy.
- By undertaking several CBPR projects, working on manuscripts, applying for grants, presenting at conferences, attending courses and workshops, and guest lecturing, I hope to further develop my ability to balance tasks in academia.

List academic and community mentors and their organizational affiliations.

- Dr. Kim Sydnor, Morgan State University, (Academic)
- Mrs. Kimberli Hammond-Hite DruMondawmin Health Families (Community)

Describe primary projects and scholar's role.

- The primary project, Baltimore Adolescent Health (BAH) is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project aimed to examine the contextual factors associated with the preconception and inter-conception health of adolescents age 16 – 24 residing in the Druid Heights, Upton, and Reservoir Hill communities in Baltimore, Maryland.
- This is a mixed methods study which will utilize a self-administered survey during the quantitative phase, followed by focus groups and in-depth interviews during the qualitative phase.
- With the help of my community partner, academic and community mentors, I will use a CBPR approach, to lead and assist in the development, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of the research.

In what ways do these projects incorporate community based, participatory research principles?

- The community partner and community members have been involved in the development of the project, and will continue to be involved in the implementation, analysis, and dissemination phases.
- In addition, this project addresses several key CBPR principles such as community governance, equitable participation at all levels, local relevance of public health problems, trust building, benefits to community involved, dissemination of findings, translation of results into policy.

Describe the role that community-based organizations play in these projects. Give update on progress.

- DRUM has played a tremendous role in the planning and development of the project.
- DRUM has provided me with the opportunity to shadow their staff, attend community partners meetings, invited me to community events, and encouraged me to participate in meetings at the community and state level, and provided me with ample resources and mentoring.

What implications for policy do these projects have? In what ways do you plan to involve policy/advocacy organizations and advisory team members in the process of translating your research to policy? What products will be produced or activities carried out in this process?

- DRUM has identified policy and advocacy contacts relevant to advocacy for preconception and inter-conception health and well-being of African American youth in Baltimore. Following the analysis of the data, we will work diligently to disseminate and frame findings in a useful manner for policy change.
- A product that will be produced from our research findings is implications to develop and modify culturally sensitive programs to address the preconception and inter-conception health of African American youth in Baltimore.

Lessons Learned related to competencies so far:

- I have learned that the CBPR approach to research is a slow process but a very rewarding one.
- I have learned that community partnerships and trust maybe the most importance aspect of this approach.
- Lastly, I am learning that the most challenging aspect of this approach may be sustainability.