

BLENDING COMMUNITY RESIDENT-STUDENT CHW MODEL

Abstract

Federal and private agencies advocate formalizing the community health worker role to address health disparities. Students trained in traditional research approaches and community residents may be unfamiliar with community health worker models and community engaged research. This article describes challenges, opportunities, and successes in creating partnerships across institutions and educational programs while using community residents and students working as a blended team of community health workers. We describe the community project, project team, challenges and opportunities, and successes experienced using this blended model. Despite different life experiences, residents and students successfully engaged in the project as equal partners. Using this blended community health worker model of residents and students could increase local community capacity while facilitating training of health care providers and researchers who understand, value, and support community-based participatory research.