

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.



Evaluation Report

Community Health Assessment Toolkit Pilot Project

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Prepared by:

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

Tribal Epidemiology Center

2214 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Telephone: 602-258-4822

Fax: 602-258-4825

Email: TECinfo@itcaonline.com

Website: www.itcaonline.com/TEC

Funded by:

Red Star Innovations

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Indian Health Service

Department of Health and Human Services

Grant No. U1B9400002/12

BACKGROUND

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION AND COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)

The public health accreditation process for tribal, state, and local public health departments is overseen by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). PHAB requires health departments working toward accreditation to conduct strategic planning, community health assessments, and community health improvement plans. The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) was tasked with constructing and piloting a Tribal Community Health Assessment (CHA) Toolkit, the results of which are evaluated herein.

A community health assessment is a collaborative process including regular and systematic data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of health information. Partners, including Tribal leadership and Tribal health directors, may then use this information to identify and prioritize existing health resources and needs, allocate funding and other resources, verify community health concerns, and monitor progress over time. The Tribal CHA Toolkit focused on the following eight main areas involved in conducting a CHA: developing a plan, engaging the community, defining the population, identifying community health indicators, collecting data, analyzing data, identifying health priorities, and reporting the results.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT PILOT

The CHA Toolkit pilot was a component of Red Star Innovations' Project TARGET. The ITCA TEC received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to work with three tribes on the implementation of the Tribal CHA Toolkit. Tribes in the Phoenix and Tucson Indian Health Service Areas were recruited to participate.

ITCA TEC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR TRIBES

A technical assistance plan was developed for the participating Tribes. Activities associated with this component of the project included a kick-off workshop, trainings, technical assistance meetings, conference calls, technical assistance with the preparation of three success stories, and the completion of feedback forms for each chapter of the toolkit.

ROUND TABLE EVENT

Round Table events were conducted separately by each Project Pilot TARGET partner. The ITCA TEC Round Table was held June 3, 2014. The meeting focused on Tribal and state public health relationships and included an opening emerging public health initiatives presentation, Tribal public health code panel, and Tribal public health institute information.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT EVALUATION

The three participating tribes were each asked to complete three "Success Stories" and five short questionnaires to provide feedback on the process, content, style, presentation, and usefulness of the Tribal CHA Toolkit. This feedback is summarized in the next section.

SUCCESS STORIES

Each Tribal Health Department working on the Tribal CHA Toolkit pilot project was asked to provide three Success Stories in which they were to describe the challenges that were overcome during the CHA process. Below are some selected quotes from these Success Stories.

SUCCESS STORY #1, Planning and partnerships

“As a result of our PHAB work, the tribe has established better relationships and regular/quarterly meetings with the County Health Department. The County has become a partner for our work in Emergency Response.”

SUCCESS STORY #2, Survey process and building capacity

“Given that we are using an existing CHA survey, we inherited many of our health indicators. We did look at different sources (i.e., BRFSS) to update our survey and integrate this information in our data... This partnership between the Tribe and our TEC has been invaluable and has allowed for an exchange of information that has built the capacity of tribal personnel and hopefully built the capacity of our TEC to work with other Tribal Health Departments implementing CHAs.”

SUCCESS STORY #3, CHA process

“Our biggest success in this project was the overwhelming support we received from people... Leadership, various Tribal programs, and community members were instrumental in ensuring the approval of our project, navigation of the communities, distributing project information, providing safety and precautionary measures for staff, translating the survey, staff training, providing a project space, and devoting time and resources to our project.”

TOOLKIT PILOT QUESTIONNAIRES

A total of five questionnaires were developed to evaluate the Tribal CHA Toolkit. Specific questions were asked for each section of the five chapters within the toolkit, and participating Tribes were given the opportunity to provide other information pertinent to the evaluation.

NATIONAL EVALUATION RESULTS

In fall 2014, individuals from selected organizations nationwide were invited to provide feedback using a four-question survey on the content, style, presentation, and usefulness of the pilot Tribal CHA Toolkit. A total of six surveys were completed.

SUMMARY

Both participating tribes and national partners provided feedback regarding the Tribal CHA Toolkit pilot project. Suggestions for revisions included amending the CHA definition based on Tribal feedback and adding greater clarification and examples regarding the other components of public health accreditation. Additional information and examples were requested throughout the Tribal CHA Toolkit.