Enhancing a Community’s Health Through an Innovative Partnership with a Public Utility Company by Karine Crow, Ph.D, RN
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Disclosures

Karine Crow, Ph.D., RN & Adelita Cantu, Ph.D., RN are employed by UT Health Science Center, School of Nursing

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Population Health clinical students from the Baccalaureate and RN to MSN programs
Learning Objectives:

1. The learner will be able to identify potential partnerships within their own community

2. The learner will be able to choose a population/public health clinical alternative to brick and mortar clinical sites
San Antonio, Texas, USA

- Population 1,144,697
- 8th largest city in US
- Weather: Semi-tropical
## San Antonio Environmental Health Risk

### Weather Variance

#### Summer Temperatures
- Average 95°F (35°C);
- Often 100°-105°F (37.78°- 40.55°C)
- Highest recorded 111°F (43.89°C)

#### Winter Temperatures
- Range 17°-36°F (5° - 24°C)

### Air Pollution
- 22nd -25th challenging city to live in US
- Smog; Ozone-frequent alerts
- Spring pollen, mold, grass
- Hackberry, Mulberry, Oak, Nettle, Cedar (fever)
## Partnership between UT Health SON and CPS Energy

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<tr>
<th>UT Health SoN Population/Public Health Nursing Clinical Course</th>
<th>CPS Energy CASA Verde Weatherization Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>• BSN &amp; RN to MSN nursing students</td>
<td>• Promoting environmentally healthy homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Implementation of Public Health Core Functions: Essential VI: Assurance &amp; Essential VII: Health Promotion and Risk Reduction</td>
<td>• Protection from weather variances</td>
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<td>• Deterrent to air pollution</td>
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<td>• Decrease energy cost</td>
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Partnership Implementation

Community Assessment
• Census Tract Identified
• Windshield Survey
  • Windshield Survey Form
  • Windshield Survey Likert Scale (rates condition 1-5)
• CASA VERDE OBSERVATIONS
  • Pay attention to single story homes
  • Are there window units?
  • Does not appear to have window units or central air
  Note address – to be submitted to CPS
• Energy (over 1400 homes submitted)
  • Place door hangers on door or gate
• Agency/Activity Identified
Partnership Implementation cont.

Creating Liaisons' between CPS Energy and Communities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agencies</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community Centers</td>
<td>Health Fairs</td>
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<td>Community Businesses</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing: Home Owners Association</td>
<td>Home Owners’ Newsletter</td>
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## OUTCOMES: WIN-WIN

### STUDENTS
- Understanding Environmental Health
- Social Determinants
- Housing and Health
- Community Assessment and Engagement
- Volunteer Activities
- Developed Relationships and Created Liasons Between Agencies
- Project Development and Evaluation

### CPS ENERGY
- Access to Communities
- Ongoing Presence in the Communities Through Community Venues
- Provided Speakers and Assistance for Signing Up for the Outreach Community Programs

### COMMUNITY
- Access to Public Utility Personnel
- Application for Community Programs Completed in Their Own Homes or Community Agencies
- Community Engagement with Other Families That Received Such Assistance
Community-Academic Impact Grant Project: Partnerships Working with Neighborhoods to Co-Create Health

Describe the impact of home weatherization and other housing characteristics on asthma-related symptoms and quality of life for all home occupants.

Identify meaning-linked themes that emerge relative to the way that the home occupants understand their participation in environmental health and stewardship.
Partnerships Working with Neighborhoods to Co-Create Health cont.

40 Homes received Casa Verde within the last 6 months

QOL since weatherization has occurred
Asthma, respiratory issues, etc

Qualitative interviews about sustainability
Partnerships Working with Neighborhoods to Co-Create Health cont.

Yes, I have noticed a difference on my utility bills and saving me so money, maybe $30 a month.

I am very happy with this during winter, it makes house warmer

I have referred my neighbors
SUMMARY

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS WERE INCREASED

PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN A CITY MUNICIPALITY ORGANIZATION AND EDUCATION PROMOTES COMMUNITY HEALTH

COMMUNITY SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT IS ONGOING

FUTURE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE AND CURRENT WORKFORCE ARE MORE ENGAGED IN PROMOTING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS TOWARD A MORE HEALTHY COMMUNITY
REFERENCES


REFERENCES


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