

Community Voices, <http://www.communityvoices.org/>
Dr. Henrie Treadwell, National Program Director

History

Established in 1998 with a grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In 2003, National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine became the home for the program office.

Purpose

Community Voices is working to make health care available to all. Eight community-based demonstration projects are designed to strengthen community support services and to help ensure the survival of safety net providers. These diverse communities or learning laboratories serve as working centers that will sort out what works from what does not in meeting the needs of those who receive inadequate and no health care.

The eight demonstration projects are in the following locations: Ingham County (Lansing) Michigan; Baltimore; Miami; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Oakland, CA; Denver; New York; and Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Initiative Outcomes

- Sustained increase in access to health services for the vulnerable with a focus on primary care and prevention
- Preserved and strengthen safety-nets in communities
- Changed delivery systems that delivers quality care in a more cost-effective way
- Models of best practice for communities to adapt to their unique circumstances

Other Issues on the Website

- Oral health
- Prison health
- Mental health
- Men's health
- Women's health
- Children's health
- Community-Campus partnerships
- Access to health care
- Workforce development

Notes from talking to Dr. Treadwell:

- Their most successful models have included a health coverage plan. Use a business model when developing.
- Look at Ingham County, Michigan. They have been very successful and are the most similar to us.
- Don't make people invisible! Sign people up for assistance programs even if there is no money. Use outreach workers to find people that should be in the health plan.
- Use navigators to help people get the help they need.
- Consider focusing some efforts on men's health. Men of color have less access and worse outcomes than white men and all women. Most programs have focused on women and children. If we want men to be present in the family and to be employed, we must focus on their health. Grant money for men's health may be available.
- Change things, don't just do projects. Consider sustainability.
- Look at Pinehurst, N.C. Strengths of their initiative are: health plan, great business planning skills, oral health, and prisoner re-entry program. They are very creative.
- Look at Denver. Very integrated system, good prisoner health, and outstanding use of outreach workers.