

Background

- Addressing health disparities requires collaboration with community based organizations (CBOs)
- UM Global Health and Disparities Path of Excellence provides UM medical students mentored, experiential learning to address health disparities

Goals

- Determine value to CBOs of short-term projects with pre-clinical medical students

Methods

- 34 students partnered with 9 CBOs in AY 2013-14
 - Teams of 2-4 students, limited choice lottery
 - Studied GRPI* model of team development
 - CBOs recruited over previous 9 months
- CBOs: 5 community clinics, urban girls org, school-based clinics, public school, pediatricians' office; (2 student-led)
- Project requirements
 - Collaborative project, useful to CBO
 - Total 4 student-hours per month for 7 months
- Assessment: 5 Likert-type and 3 open questions measuring CBOs view of worth of projects to their organization

Results



- 8 of 9 projects worked
- 1 failed to launch
- 1 project was published



- CBOs 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that students...
 - Efficiently communicated
 - Behaved respectfully
 - Designed a project helpful to the CBO
 - Communicated findings to the organization
 - Developed a continuation plan
- 8/9 CBOs
- 7/9 CBOs

We were amazed at (the students') skills and dedication.

The students' openness to work on a topic important to the Center (worked well).

...with modest time commitment it was important to have a scope that allowed for them to be effective.

Helpful...(but) interventions (showed) limited understanding of how the organization ran.



Conclusions

- Student-CBO projects can be crucial opportunities to learn leadership and collaboration skills to address health disparities
- CBOs responded well to short-term collaboration with pre-clinical students
- Key success factors
 - Clear guidelines to students and CBOs on time (limited) and outcomes (useful to CBO)
 - Early communication and recruitment of CBOs
- Challenges
 - Substantial faculty time to recruit and communicate with multiple CBOs
 - CBOs felt more time in contact with students would help develop better projects

Next Steps

- To achieve sustainability, moved to student-initiated, projects of limited scope requiring less faculty time.
 - Successfully piloted 2014-15.