Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health

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Presentation Abstract & Outline

The Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health (MCHH) is a network of local groups, statewide organizations and academic partners that was organized in 2008 for the purpose of addressing cancer disparity issues in the Milwaukee Hmong community. Nationally, cancer is the leading cause of mortality for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women in the United States. Of the more than 50 different AAPI groups in the US, the Hmong have some of the worst screening rates and cancer health outcomes; in Milwaukee, the situation is no better. The mission of the MCHH is to engage the Milwaukee Hmong community for positive change regarding women’s cancer health and wellness through (1) providing communication, education and outreach on cancer issues, (2) building capacity to address cancer issues, and (3) addressing barriers to/encourage cancer screening and follow-up. While the focus is on women’s health, the activities of the MCHH are more inclusive of the Hmong family, recognizing the role that men play in healthcare decision-making processes for family members in general.

Since 2008, the MCHH has engaged in a community-based participatory research (CBPR) process in partnership with the Milwaukee Hmong community, identifying and interpreting barriers to cancer screening and identifying community priorities for improving women’s health outcomes. Based on these expressed community priorities, the MCHH is embarking on a two-year process of developing and piloting a culturally-appropriate lay health education and patient mentor/navigation program to improve cancer screening rates for Hmong women and support women recently diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer.
Presentation Outline:

1. MCHH’s formation and development

2. Use of community-based participatory research (CBPR)

3. Advantages & disadvantages of using the CBPR model in the Hmong community

4. Lessons learned to-date

5. Current lay health education and patient navigation project and future directions