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EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES

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GREETINGS!

Welcome to the Center for Community Health! We are excited to begin communicating with you through this new electronic format, where we will provide you with updates about new and ongoing projects, research publications, opportunities to become involved, and much more!

Since this is our first electronic newsletter, we included a lot of detail about each of our projects to catch you up. In future newsletters, we will provide you with brief updates along with website links to read more.

We hope to hear from you to see how we can best keep you informed and involved in our activities. Thank you for supporting our work.



Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, MPH
 Director of the Center for Community Health

Training Opportunity

The STAR Fellowship Program is a program designed for junior faculty and community leaders who are interested in conducting Health Disparity Research. The program offers the emerging faculty and community leader collaborative training and interaction with faculty from the UNTHSC and other institutions, directed toward fostering Health Disparities Research

Initiatives. Application Deadline is March 31, 2013. [Read more...](#)

Recent Grant Awards



The Center is proud to have been awarded a Health Literacy grant from United Way of Tarrant County. We began work in January 2013, applying these funds to coordinate connections between community organizations, area libraries, clinical organizations and United Way Live Well programs to amplify efforts that improve self-management of chronic disabling conditions. Settings will include libraries, specialty doctors, hospitals, and clinics. For more information on this project, contact [Anissa Carbajal-Diaz](#).

The Center is excited to work with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on a project with the Strategic Plan for Obesity Prevention in Texas. The purpose of the project is to create an implementation and evaluation plan for activities of the Strategic Plan, which is currently in the final stages of development by the DSHS. We will be assessing current efforts underway in Texas, and make recommendations on what additional measures are needed to reach target goals. For more information on this project, contact [Elizabeth Balyakina](#).



We received support to fund Celebrate ME!, a collaborative effort with the Southeast Fort Worth YMCA that will provide a 3-week educational series focusing on the physical, emotional, and spiritual for women, and culminating in a Mother's Day Luncheon.

Additionally, we received an award to fund Media

Madness and the Public Health Message, a week long symposium focusing on the representations of public health messages for women found in different media such as feature films, social media, music videos and more. For more information on this project, contact [Marcy Paul](#).

Dallas Cancer Disparities Community Coalition



The Dallas Cancer Disparities Community Coalition (DCDCC) is a collaboration between community partners and the UNT Health Science Center with the goal of reducing breast cancer disparities in South Dallas and beyond. This collaboration has resulted in several opportunities to improve the health of women in Dallas County.

An 8-week Breast Cancer Education Program education series began in August 2010 with a focus on three South Dallas

communities (zip codes 75210, 75215, 75223) and concluded in June 2012. Funded by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), this Breast Cancer Education Program delivered 9 class series and enrolled 430 women, 35% of whom had never received a mammogram before the program.

Meanwhile, in September 2011, the DCDCC began providing the 8-week education program through a second CPRIT-funded grant that targets all of Dallas County. As of March 2013, 277 participants were enrolled under this grant, with almost 70% attending one class or more. For more information about the projects of the Dallas Cancer Disparities Community Coalition, contact [Kim Linnear](#).

Community Outreach Core (Texas Center for Health Disparities)

The Center for Community Health is overseeing the [Texas Center for Health Disparities Community Outreach Core](#), part of a P20 Center of Excellence grant awarded in August 2012 from the National Institutes of Health. The Community Outreach Core serves to bring together the UNT Health Science Center's expertise with community-based resources in new and innovative ways to enhance local community capacity to reduce women's health disparities. The Community Outreach Core works on three initiatives, summarized below.

HIV Outreach and Prevention: The aim of this initiative is to work with the Dallas Family Access Network/Youth Angle to enhance HIV prevention among young women through improving their HIV health literacy and encouraging them to test.

Obesity Outreach and Prevention: The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen the efforts of the Greater Dallas Area Coalition to Prevent Childhood Obesity by building community capacity to reduce and prevent obesity among underserved Dallas County women.



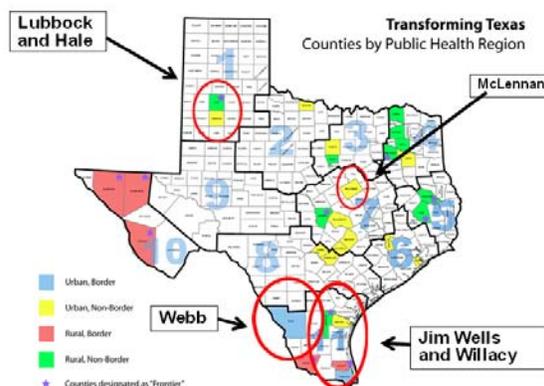
Local organizations and community members discuss breast cancer disparities.

Breast Cancer Outreach and Prevention: The purpose of this initiative is to create a Tarrant County Cancer Disparities Coalition, with technical assistance from the Dallas Cancer Disparities Community Coalition, with a focus on building community capacity to reduce cancer health disparities and an initial focus on breast cancer prevention among women in Tarrant County.

To learn more about how to connect with any of these activities, contact [Marcela Nava](#).

Transforming Texas

In the fall of 2012, the Center for Community Health began its evaluation of the [Transforming Texas Program](#), which includes 18 organizations with whom the Texas Department of State Health Services has contracted for their CDC-funded Community Transformation Grant. These organizations include in their scopes of work 30 counties across Texas, representing more than 3.6 million Texans living in urban, rural, frontier and border counties. The evaluation plan focuses on a cross-section of diverse communities (six counties: Hale, Jim Wells, Lubbock, McLennan, Webb, and Willacy) with health disparate populations in which chronic disease prevention and control strategies are being implemented that are likely to fill gaps in the evidence base. Data collection will continue at various times throughout the 5-year grant period. For more information contact [Kim Linnear](#).



Healthy Moms - Healthy Babies - Healthy Community (H3)



The goal of the [Healthy Moms-Healthy Babies-Healthy Community \(H3\)](#) initiative is to reduce infant mortality by engaging individuals and communities to build a healthier Tarrant County.

The Dean's Civic Council, now called the Public Health and Prevention Council, announced that H3 will be one of their initiatives for the 2012-2013 academic year. This means assistance with funding opportunities leading to implementation of a strategic plan. Under the H3 Action Learning Collaborative, a 2-day concept mapping and theme-sorting exercise was undertaken. The results were recently disseminated in a community forum. To learn more about how to become involved, contact [Marcy Paul](#).

Recent Publications

Breast Cancer in Tarrant County: An Overview. A summary of local statistical data on breast cancer presented in February 2013. [Download a copy...](#)

Reducing Breast Cancer Screening Barriers Among Underserved women in South Dallas. Published in the Texas Public Health Association Journal 2013;65(1):14-9. [Download a copy...](#)

North Texas Primary Care Research Network Newsletter. Information for a practice-based research network which functions in a collaborative effort to conduct primary research among North Texas primary care clinics. Spring 2013. [Download a copy...](#)

Upcoming Conferences & Presentations

March 9, 2013: [Sixth Health Disparities Conference](#): Improving Medical Effectiveness and Health Outcomes to Achieve Health Equity Through Interprofessional Collaborations. Held in New Orleans, LA. We will present a workshop on *Perceptions of Health Inequity Across Texas*. [Download our abstract...](#)

March 20-22, 2013: [Texas Public Health Association Annual Conference](#): ¡Viva! Public Health. Held in San Antonio, TX. We will present a workshop on: *Mammography Screening and Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors Among Low Income Women, findings from a Breast Cancer Prevention Program in South Dallas*. [Download our abstract...](#)

May 30-31, 2013: [8th Annual Conference on Health Disparities](#): The Intersection of Smoking, HIV/AIDS and Cancer. Held in Fort Worth, Texas at the UNT Health Science Center.

About the Center for Community Health

Mission: To partner with the community, conduct policy-relevant health research, and enhance community capacity for prevention.

Our activities include grant-funded community-based research, community-academic research and education, development of research briefs/policy analysis, and technical assistance for community partners.

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