

## **Building Healthy Communities Merced-Learning and Evaluation Team**

**Center for Public Policy Studies, CSU Stanislaus**

Kelvin Jasek-Rysdahl

April Aleman

209-667-3182

kjasekrysdahl@csustan.edu

aaleman@csustan.edu

### **What is it?**

The Learning and Evaluation team include of university researchers, community residents, Hub Steering Committee members, and TCE grantees who have agreed to spend time thinking about and discussing:

- their experiences in the community,
- activities related to BHC, and
- desired outcomes of a learning and evaluation plan.

### **What is its purpose?**

The team's purpose is to develop and implement an **evaluation** process that helps the community **learn** about the effectiveness of the BHC initiatives. The team will focus on three questions:

1. What information is needed in order to **evaluate** the effectiveness of the BHC initiative in Southwest/East Merced?
2. How can the community, Hub Staff, Hub members, policy makers, and TCE **learn** from the actions and outcomes in Southwest/East Merced?
3. How can the evaluation and learning be effectively **communicated** to key stakeholders?

### **How will the team operate?**

- The team will have an average of two 2-hour meetings a month for eleven months.
- These meetings will be organized and facilitated by Kelvin Jasek-Rysdahl and April Aleman from the Center for Public Policy Studies at CSU Stanislaus.
- Translation services will be available as needed as will child care services.
- The team will determine the best meeting times.
- We will have food and beverages at the meetings.
- Gift cards for local businesses will be given out in appreciation for the work of team members.

### **What can you expect to happen in these meetings?**

- The first few meetings will focus on building relationships within the research team. People will be asked to share their experiences of living in Merced, the projects associated with the BHC initiative, and the objectives of the initiative.
- The team will look at the Logic Model and discuss how it connects to their experiences.
- The team will use this early discussion and sharing to identify the most important questions that need to be addressed by a learning and evaluation plan.
- Once the important questions have been identified the team will develop tools and procedures to find answers to the questions.
- The final step will be to determine the best ways to communicate what is learned in ways that are appropriate for the community.

### **Who are we looking for?**

- People who have been involved in Building Healthy Communities.
- People who are familiar with the Building Healthy Communities activities.
- People who are interested in understanding the impact the BHC activities have had in the community.
- People with a passion for your community.
- People who are able to commit to the time needed for the process.