Connecting with Community in a Public Health Emergency

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Prevention Research Center (UWPRC) worked with partnering organizations to design a community-based approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We worked with community health workers (CHW) to test the design with families and develop a toolkit that can be **adapted for other environments and situations**. The toolkit provides guidance and suggestions for using and adapting the module and associated training, establishing an action learning community, and creating a resource library with a corresponding menu of topics.

What is included?

Module

The module was designed with and for CHWs that work with families in families' homes. It will guide the CHW through conversations with families to assess their knowledge, provide education, and navigate resources.

Training on Module

A training using PowerPoint slides, provides an orientation for the CHWs on how to use the module and contains the following sections:

- Introduction
- Public Health process
- Understanding COVID-19
- Module design and process
- Action Learning Community (ALC)

Action Learning Community

The Action Learning Community brings the CHWs together to share their experiences with using the module and to learn from each other and guest presenters.

Resource Library

The resource library includes infographics and documents related to COVID-19. All the resources are in English; resources are in Spanish whenever they were available. There is an accompanying menu of topics for clients to select resources for further discussion.

Who is this for?

The toolkit can be used by anyone interested in bringing culturally appropriate and timely information about critical public health issues to families in their communities. Our intent is to promote open collaboration between community partners and public health for a whole community response to a health emergency.

Where can I find it?

The toolkit is located on the UWPRC website, www.prc.wisc.edu/chw. We invite you to explore the toolkit and consider how it can work for your organization.

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