Stand Against Cancer: Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program in Chicago, IL

Chicago is notorious for the black/white disparity in breast cancer deaths. About 25 percent of non-elderly minority residents of Illinois are without health insurance.

**Partners Involved:** Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Public Health, Access Community Health Network, Mt. Sinai Hospital

**Description of the Integration:** Access Community Health Network (Access), as the lead agency for Stand Against Cancer (Stand), has brought in various public health and health care partners, other community health centers, and churches to work together to form a seamless garment of protection for women from breast and cervical cancer. Churches offer sessions for education and awareness and they get involved in promoting screening with the Pin-A-Sister program; Mt. Sinai offers screening mammograms, diagnostic testing, and treatment for Stand patients. Other FQHCs contract to offer screening at their facilities. Funding is through IDPH.

- **Resources Required:** state grant
- **Results:** Continuity of care is a key metric. Screening is successfully concluded when the participant receives a diagnosis. For all screenings requiring follow-up, nurse case managers track participant progress to initiation of treatment. To provide feedback, retrospective review of patient progress occurred regularly in close proximity to the case management monitoring function. About 90 percent of patients with an abnormal screening result receive a diagnosis. For program evaluation, continuity also focuses on repeated screening, with over half of women returning within two years.
- **Key Elements for Success:** Participating organizations play their role well without trying to do what the others are doing. The program grew from a small program that worked to a large program that worked based on continuing evaluation of what worked best and what needed to be changed.
- **Lessons Learned:** Cancer screening can work among low-income patients. Organizations do best when drawing on core competencies. Frequently, community members do not follow through on screening referral and they are difficult to track when they do occur. Evaluation of program processes in combination with participant health outcomes directly supports program management, allowing for refinements to the program and increased effectiveness.

**Movement on the Integration Scale:** *Start:* cooperation; *Finish:* collaboration; *Desired:*

**Website Links:**

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