

Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Address SDOH: Design Sprints

With support from a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization (AAPCHO) launched “Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Address SDOH: Design Sprints.” Using human-centered design concepts, NACHC and AAPCHO facilitated four design sprint cohorts of community health centers and their cross-sector partners to tackle social determinants of health challenges in their communities and advance health equity. Each cohort was focused on one aspect of the RWJF Theory of Change framework (purpose, data, governance, finance) to strengthen both emerging and established partnerships, and foster improved alignment between sectors.

Partnership



Overview

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Crescent Community Health Center share a vision for making a difference in the Dubuque community and improving health equity, particularly around special populations in our diverse service area.

The COVID-19 pandemic had an outsized and shocking impact on Dubuque’s Pacific Islander community. While many agencies stepped in to assist with critical emergency services, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Crescent Community Health Center realized two key points: 1) that the challenges faced by local Pacific Islanders were only exasperated by the pandemic, not caused by it; and 2) that a systemic approach was needed to address these issues. And because any successful intervention would need Pacific Islander leadership, the partnership looked to equip local students at the high school level with relevant data on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), providing them the tools to serve their community.

The partnership had not used the design-sprint tool before and found it to be an innovative way to find solutions, prioritize and make tasks actionable.

About CCHC

Formed in 2006, **Crescent Community Health Center (CCHC)** is Federally Qualified and located in Dubuque, Iowa. CCHC serves patients in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. The CCHC service area includes approximately 800 Pacific Islanders, many of whom choose to call CCHC their health home for medical, dental, brain health, wellness and other enabling services. In 2020, CCHC saw 7,043 unique patients and recorded nearly 21,000 visits.

About CFGD

The **Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD)** envisions a vibrant and inclusive Dubuque region where everyone can thrive. Since 2002, we have inspired people to give back to their community, and we turn this generosity into lasting change across our region, increasing access to resources and opportunities that help all people succeed.



Dubuque
Pacific Islander
Health Project

What are you most proud of that came about from the design sprint?

- Sprint model allowed thoughtful dissection of our overall ideas
- Final prototype and ideas to support are measurable
- Model can also be repeatable and reproduceable to other populations
- Illustrative of collaboration with greatest strengths brought forward
- Initial feedback is positive
- Efforts are do-able and innovative
- Youth model can leverage other future projects



Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Crescent Community Health found this unique learning collaboration to be innovative, interesting, impactful and rewarding!

Addressing our Community Challenge

Through this partnership, CFGD and CCHC utilized culturally appropriate educational engagement around SDOH components as a means to empower Pacific Islander youth. Our designed program involves equipping Pacific Islander students with PRAPARE data and other SDOH information, and then providing them with resources and a platform so that they can take a leadership role and use their natural talents to initiate projects aimed at helping their community.

This program rests on the potential of the next generation of leaders from our Pacific Islander community; a supportive network of community partners like schools, colleges, churches, nonprofits, and governmental bodies; and engagement and buy-in from Pacific Islander elders, whose involvement is crucial for preserving the spirit and culture of our local Pacific Islander community. We recognize the importance to this program of strong alliances, storytelling and continual reassessment of the model.

The partnership is most proud of using the design sprint to generate ideas, prioritize, streamline and continuously brainstorm an innovative solution to a complicated challenge, and especially one focused on empowering our target population to serve their own community.

Design Sprint Highlights

The design sprint process moved the work forward by allowing the flow of ideas to be systematically generated, analyzed, and prioritized. This allowed for healthy conversations around options and choices; ultimately moving toward the consensus paths of a best solution. Our coach was invaluable in helping visualize our work through a Mural board and guiding our discussion when necessary.

The tool and our particular attention to replication will enable us to use the templates for future projects with only minor adjustments.

Moving Forward

Important next steps for the project include engaging with key partners, including the local school district and community elders. The explanation of the 'why' of this project is a critical kick-off step. Long-term we are looking to broaden our outreach to include local employers and businesses, and there is also an interest in using this project to help build a coalition with other Pacific Islander communities around the nation. And if our pilot program is successful, we hope to replicate this project with other local populations.

- Partner engagement around the 'why'
- Expand to local businesses – reassess/replicate

Support for this program was provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

For more information about the partnership, please contact Gary Collins, CEO Crescent Community Health, gcollins@crescentchc.org or Alex Baum, Knowledge Management Director, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Alex@dbqfoundation.org
For more information about the design sprint program, please visit www.prapare.org