



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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**Bianca Hawk, MPH, MSW**

CRFT Project Director

Gulf States Health Policy

Center

**UAB**  
MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES  
RESEARCH CENTER

Knowledge that will change your world

 **Gulf States**  
Health Policy Center

# Agenda

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Introductions

Project Overview

Background

Application Process

Fellows' Roles and Responsibilities

Questions and Answers

# Project Overview

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**Implement** and **evaluate** a community based participatory research training program for community members.

**Promote** the role of underserved populations in research by enhancing the capacity for community based participatory research.

**Bridge** UAB Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center, Gulf States Health Policy Center, researchers, community based organizations, and community members serving Mississippi to address health disparities.

# Program Goals

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Train community members to become good consumers of research.

Understand how to use research as a tool in improving health outcomes in communities.

Increase community members understanding of how to work with researchers.

# Specific Aim 1

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## **Enhance community knowledge and understanding of research**

- Recruit a multidisciplinary faculty and a cohort of 20-25 Community Fellows to participate in a semester long (16 weeks) public health research training course for community members.
- Create a pool of community members who may potentially serve on Institution Review Boards and Community Advisory Boards.

# Specific Aim 2

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## **Evaluate Community Research Fellows Program**

- Conduct a comprehensive (formative and summative) mixed method (quantitative and qualitative) evaluation.
- Semi-structured interviews, quantitative and qualitative assessment and evaluation questions.
- Assess participant knowledge and satisfaction with the fellows program.

# Background and Significance

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# Health Disparities in Alabama

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In 2013, the leading cause of death for Alabamians was stroke.

As of 2015, 43.2% of African Americans were obese and 27.6% of Hispanics were obese.

As of 2015, 40.4% of Alabama adults had hypertension and 13.5% had diabetes.

Alabama infant mortality rate as of 2013 is 8.61 per 1,000 live births, higher than the national average of 5.96.

As of 2014, 9.8% of Alabama residents did not have health insurance.



# Challenges & Opportunities

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Marginalized communities often mistrust the institutions designed to serve (e.g., police, justice, medical)

Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) has been shown to be effective in addressing some of these issues by engaging underserved communities as partners in the research process

The change is in the context, the attitudes of the researchers, and the power dynamic between researchers and the community, not the scientific research methods

**\*RESEARCH CONDUCTED WITH COMMUNITIES NOT ON COMMUNITIES\***

# CBPR Training

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Engaging community members in research is often the missing link to improving the quality and outcomes of health promotion activities, disease prevention initiatives and research studies.

Participating in public health research training can prepare community members for collaborative work with academic researchers and empower them to act as equal partners in the research process.

# CBPR Principles

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Build on **strengths and resources** in the community.

**Collaborative** and equitable partnerships in all phases of the research.

**Co-learning and capacity building**

Balance **research and action** for the mutual benefit of all partners.

Emphasize **local relevance** of public health problems.

**Disseminate knowledge and findings** to all partners and involve all partners in the process.

View CBPR as a **long term process and commitment**.

# Community Research Fellows Procedures

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# Application Process

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Completed application packet

- ✓ CRFT application form-Hard Copy or Electronic Copy
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ 2 Reference letters (1 professional, 1 personal)

**Due: November 6, 2017**

Reviewed by Community Advisory Board

Letter of Acceptance by November 17, 2016

# Curriculum

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Session	Topic
1	Orientation and CBPR
2	Community Health
3	Health Disparities / Social Determinants of Health
4	Evidence-Based Public Health
5	Grant Writing
6	Research Methods
7	Quantitative Methods
8	Family Health History/Health Literacy

Session	Topic
9	Epidemiology
10	Qualitative Methods
11	Photovoice / Cultural Competency
12	Health Policy
13	Program Evaluation
14	Research Ethics / Human Subjects' Certification
15	Clinical Trials
16	OPTIONAL: Intensive Grant Writing Session

# Evaluation Methods

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- **Baseline assessment** before the first training session
- **Mid-training evaluation** at training session 6 to assess participants' satisfaction
- **Follow up assessment and evaluation** after last training session
- **Pre-test, Post-test, and evaluation** administered at each training session
- **Qualitative Interviews** with Fellows after completion of training program

# Fellows' Roles & Responsibilities

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Make a 3-hour, once a week, 16 week commitment

Have an interest in improving minority health, public health research, or reducing health disparities

Understand the potential benefits & risks of research

Participate in CRF evaluation



# Important Dates

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Orientation – **January 9, 2018**

Class Begins - **January 9, 2018**

Class Ends - **May 8, 2018**

Graduation Ceremony - **May 15, 2018**

# Class Logistics

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➤ **Location :** UAB Medical Towers

1717 11<sup>th</sup> Ave South

Room 634 and Room 419A

Birmingham, AL 35205

➤ **Day & Time:** Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **How do I apply?**

- An application packet consists of a complete application, a resume, and two reference letters. Each application package will be reviewed before being accepted into the program. Incomplete application packages will not be reviewed.

## **Is there a cost?**

- CRFT is free to the participants. CRFT was developed based on a standard Master's of Public Health curriculum. The level of knowledge gained through the 16 weeks of CRFT can be compared to attending a graduate school part-time which can cost approximately \$2,870.58, including books and admission fees.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Is this a job opportunity?**

- No. CRFT is an educational training on public health and public health research. CRFT does provide an opportunity for you to network with public health professionals and meet other driven community members.

## **Will CRF certify me in public health research?**

- You will receive a certificate of completion. However, we share the individuals who have successfully completed CRFT with organizations who are looking for community members to serve on Institutional Review Boards, community advisory boards, or to partner for funding opportunities.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Is there a stipend for CRF?**

- There is not a stipend for participating in CRFT or for travel to the classes. However, CRFT materials and meals are provided each week.

# Project Team

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- ❖ Bianca Hawk, MSW, MPH – CRFT Project Director
- ❖ Maria Pisu, PhD – GSHPC UAB Principal Investigator
- ❖ Mona Fouad, MD, MPH – MHRC Director

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# References

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The State of Obesity 2016

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Trust for America's Health

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

# Questions & Answers

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# Contact Information

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