Quarterly Report

Name and address of reporting institution:
University of Kansas Medical Center
Research Institute, Inc.
3901 Rainbow Boulevard, Mailstop 1039
Kansas City, KS 66160

Project Title: Información de Salud para Promotoras

Name of person submitting report: Amy Ritterskamp
Email address: aritterskamp@kumc.edu
Telephone number: (913) 588-7168

Reporting Period start date: February 15, 2010
Reporting Period end date: August 15, 2010

Publicity:
The training sessions that were held were for a specific audience – the Promotoras – so no publicity was done during this quarter.

Outreach:

Other accomplishments:
I met with the directors of the KCKPL branches in late April 2010 to put together a plan for the delivery of the trainings. The group determined dates for the trainings and which librarians would deliver what content. I then scheduled meetings with the individual librarians as needed to discuss each of the trainings in further detail.

Through a colleague, I have identified a group of interns funded through another grant who are tasked with preparing health information for an upcoming Latino-focused health fair. We are planning to connect these students with the Promotoras to insure reliable consumer health information will be made available. While the roles of each group are somewhat different, it is our hope to reduce redundancy and make sure the health information needs of attendees are properly met.

Target audience:
The Promotoras program run by El Centro is a new program that is still growing and changing. Some of the members are more invested and dedicated than others which made it hard to get an overall feeling of buy in regarding this project. The group has varying levels of computer skills as well as literacy skills, making it difficult to present content that was relevant and interesting to the group as a whole. Not being a fluent Spanish speaker made connecting and communicating with the group very difficult for me. I attended all the trainings but without the ability to talk directly with the Promotoras, I
often felt that I had no active role in the delivery of the content and couldn’t understand their questions, comments or comfort level with the material.

Goals, Outcomes, Objectives:
Five training sessions were held for the Promotoras during the months of May through August. The Spanish-speaking public librarians delivered the content of the sessions. In addition to sharing our planned lessons, this was a great opportunity for the librarians to plug computer training sessions and other Spanish-language programming going on at each library branch. The first two sessions covered basic computer skills, the next two were about browsing the Internet and general online searching, and then the last session shared information about finding and evaluating health information.

I have not yet compiled and printed health information for the Promotoras to distribute because I felt this would have been premature. In meetings with Cielo, the program director, we altered this objective slightly and will have the Promotoras compile information themselves. Not only will this ensure the information is at the right level for the user, it will give us some insight into the ability of the Promotoras to find and evaluate health information; the collection of materials will serve as an evaluation piece of their skills.

Evaluation:
During the introduction of health information web sites in Spanish, the librarian had each person take notes on what they liked and did not like about each site. I have not compiled this information yet, but it will serve as preliminary focus group data to understand what features and content the Promotoras prefer.

Impacts and Observations:
It is difficult for me to observe indicators of success due to the language barrier, but each of the public librarians that has worked with the group feel they get a generally positive response. Not only are the Promotoras interested in the content of the session but often ask questions about the other programs going on at the public libraries. A positive connection with public libraries is definitely being built.

I anticipate more anecdotal evidence of success once the Promotoras begin working with their peers to search for and provide health information in the next quarter.

Planned Activities:
The laptops have been purchased and are in the process of being imaged for use by the Promotoras. We will have one more training session with the actual laptops to insure the group understands the nuances – where the power button is, how Windows 7 functions, using a track pad versus a mouse. Cielo and I have outlined terms of use and requirements for reporting interactions with peers. The Promotoras will be acting as guides at an upcoming health fair, assisting as attendees get screenings, learn their results, and think about next steps. They will have prepared information on hand as well as two of the laptops with broadband capability to do searches on site with anyone requiring more information.