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: November 1, 2010
Reporting Period end date: January 31, 2011

Publicity:
None

Outreach:
None

Other accomplishments:
The Department of Preventive Medicine at KU Medical Center received a sizeable U54 grant to do cancer research and education among minority populations in rural Kansas. Dykes Library will be collaborating with them to connect with libraries in the target communities. Part of the grant is to establish Promotores programs in these communities; we hope to provide training information and curriculum once they are ready to begin working with the new health navigators.

Target audience:
The group has varying degrees of computer skills. Instead of throwing them all into a series of classes together, it would have been best to assess their skill level then structure the trainings accordingly. It’s become clear those with no experience with computers needed much more time with the laptops. Offering the training on finding health information online later, once the group has the same skill level, would have increased its impact.

Goals, Outcomes, Objectives:
We had planned for the Promotoras to use their skills with a weight management group that was to be started through another collaboration with KUMC. Unfortunately, this has project has been delayed. While it has postponed the Promotoras’ opportunity to provide health information, it has given those in the group who weren’t as comfortable with the
laptops to gain skills and experience. Hopefully a larger group can get involved and provide support and information about weight loss to the group.

El Centro was fortunate to establish a position for a dedicated Promotoras Coordinator during this time period. This person has worked with the Promotoras on the laptops on a more consistent and recurring basis. She targeted those most resistant to using technology, having them come in three to four times a week, two hours at a time. This time was built into their schedule as part of their meeting time and was not optional. They worked on basic computer skills, typing, using Microsoft Office, and establishing e-mail accounts. The pace and consistency seemed more effective, as they all have noticeably improved their skills.

We plan to have business cards printed for the Promotoras. In talking further with the program coordinators at El Centro, they felt a monetary incentive was counterproductive; it’s their hope these women will participate in the spirit of volunteerism and advocacy. Instead, these funds will be spent on designing and printing generic business cards the Promotoras can personalize then pass out to peers. This will give the program a brand identity as well as legitimacy. We will also print brochures or other promotional materials with their brand identity to support the program and share resources with the community.

In addition, some of the incentive funds were spent on a wireless portable printer and ink. The group expressed a desire to be able to print materials for people while in the field. We felt this was a practical use of funds and would increase their impact with the community.

**Evaluation:**
None. We will give a final assessment in the coming weeks to determine the general technology comfort level of the Promotoras, now that they have increased access to the laptops. We will also assess any interactions they’ve had with peers, noting best practices for how to approach peers as well as the general types of information they seek.

**Impacts and Observations:**
None.

**Planned Activities:**
To close the project, we will conduct the assessment and have the aforementioned materials printed.