



Data and Information Tools to Tackle Population Health Challenges in Your Community

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Name of project or collaborative

CommunityRx: Connecting Health Care to Self-Care

Geography

Chicago, Illinois

Brief description

Most people manage their health outside the health care setting most of the time – at home, work and in the community. Patients routinely leave the doctor or emergency care setting with recommendations for self-care, but with very poor quality information about self-care resources in their community. CommunityRx is a new, patient-centered health information technology system that transforms the quality of information about and access to self-care resources, especially in lower income communities.

CommunityRx aims to improve health and health care through 3 main components. 1) A personalized “HealthRx” referral list for self-care resources generated in the clinical setting via the electronic medical record and delivered to patients during medical encounters. 2) A resource navigation and information service delivered by Community Health Information Specialists to anyone seeking to access community resources in the target geography. 3) MAPSCorps (Meaningful Active Productive Science in Service to Community), a community resource mapping program, that employs and trains local youth while promoting physical activity, health awareness and STEM careers.

Health issue or condition that is the focus of the project/collaborative:

CommunityRx does not focus on a single health issue/condition, but rather is built to support patients who are well or sick, managing a variety of conditions across the life course. Currently, diagnoses can be mapped to 26 wellness and condition-specific ontologies.

Main strategies used by the project/collaborative:

Asset-based community-engaged research, meaningful engagement of local youth, integration with existing clinical workflows and health information technologies.

Partners/sectors that are part of the project/collaborative:

Diverse technical, clinical, workforce development and community-based partners, including community-based development organizations and organizations with federal funding to promote HIT adoption and meaningful use

Duration/when it was initiated:

As of 9/2014, MAPSCorps has completed its 6th consecutive summer of mapping. Funding for CommunityRx was received 7/2012 and the system began generating HealthRx 4/2013.

Relevance of project to this breakout session

CommunityRx is a new patient-centered health information technology that aims to improve population health by promoting use of community resources for wellness, self-care and independent living. The data engine for this technology, a youth employment and STEM education program called MAPSCorps, is exposing local youth to careers in STEM fields,

including health, and is producing data that community businesses and organizations are using to fulfill their mission.

Results/outcomes

- Implemented at 20 clinical sites (15 FQHCs, 3 ambulatory practices, adult and pediatric EDs)
- Integrated with 3 widely-used EMR platforms (Epic, GE Centricity, NextGen)
- 100,000+ HealtheRxs generated for 45,000+ unique patients
- High quality database of 10,000+ open and operating businesses and organizations in the region with detailed services and eligibility information for 4300+
- 2 million+ referrals to nearly 1,800 community-based organizations
- 950+ health care professionals trained to deliver HealtheRxs
- MapApp™, a Droid- and iOS-compatible community asset mapping application
- Scalable web-based training for Community Health Information Specialists and health care providers
- 250+ Chicago Public School high school students and 100 science-oriented college students employed
- 75% of patients participating in volunteer call-in survey (N=261) are “very satisfied” with HealtheRx; about half report telling a friend or family member about information on the HealtheRx, 100% of these people say something positive about HealtheRx
- Developed Community Health Advocacy Certification course with University of Chicago Graham School of Liberal and Professional Studies and certified 3 Community Health Information Specialists
- MAPSCorps replicated in East Harlem, New York and supported LAMPS effort in Dublin, Ireland

Funding

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Contact

www.HealtheRx.org

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