

Hello all:

We want to reach out and connect with you; our community research partners in the CIHR funded *Exploring the Entrepreneurial Activities of Citizen-led Health Services Coalitions* research project.

Please see below for a short update on the research work to date.

Focus group consultations

It has been the research team's privilege and pleasure to travel to seven communities to meet with the various representatives of participating local citizen-led health service coalitions. We met with groups as small as three and as large as 15. Travelling our beautiful province together and meeting you all in your home community has been informative and delightful. In August we travelled to Hedley, Princeton, Ashcroft, Sorrento, Sicamous and North Shuswap to conduct six - two hour focus groups. Team members recently travelled to Nelson for the final (seventh) focus group. Now armed with a huge volume of confidential transcripts documenting every word of every dialogue (over 360 pages in all!); the hard work now begins to code, identify themes and analyze the findings. We are curious to dig a little deeper into the strategies and approaches you've shared. One researcher had this to say about the process to date: "*A few key themes are emerging around the ability of coalitions - through their membership - to a) work through initial crisis and hardships; b) to organize themselves around individual skillsets and connections to key individuals and groups to foster coalition activities and; c) the ability to produce and learn from the effects of their social and political experiments*". Stay tuned for the full analysis.

When can I find out more?

January 17th at noon! Select members of the research team along with one community coalition partner, will present the early findings of the project. [Sign up for the webinar at the hyperlink below or on the attached poster.]

Campus – Community Partnerships for Rural Health seminar series Co-sponsored by the UBCO Institute for Healthy Living & Chronic Disease Prevention & Interior Health Research Department.

<http://www.calendar.events.ubc.ca/cal/event/showEventMore.rdo>

What's next?

Thank you for completing the Doodle Poll – the results are now in! Please SAVE THE DATE of **Thursday, April 27th in Kelowna** for the full day project planning conference. The event will be held in centrally located Kelowna. The results of the focus group analysis will be presented as the basis for planning a future research agenda. Our research grant offers funds to cover one participant (travel and accommodation if required) from each of the seven participating coalitions. Additional coalition members are very welcome to attend but we are unable to financially cover their participation. Stay tuned for specific details of this event in the New Year.

Seasons greetings and best wishes for 2017!

We've added a little something to our summer research team travel photo to ensure it is congruent with the current season! It is attached for your viewing pleasure. We look forward to engaging with you again in 2017!

Best wishes for a peaceful and healthy holiday season... Kathy, Mike, Silvia, Barbara, Betty, Kristi, & Emily

