Center for Health Equity Research
California State University, Long Beach

Renewal Report
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 25 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. CHER was renamed and reconstituted in April 2014 through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize and build upon the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. In the summer of 2014, Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Professor in the department of Health Science, was named Center Director upon the retirement of founding Director, Dr. Kevin Malotte, Emeritus Professor. Dr. D'Anna previously served as Associate Director for CHER from 2009-2014. She is the recipient of the 2018 American Public Health Association (APHA) HIV/AIDS Section Presenter Award, the 2018 CSULB College of Health and Human Services Community Service Award, and the 2020 CSULB Early Academic Career Excellence Award. In 2017, CHER received an "Award of Recognition" from the College of Health and Human Services for its work towards addressing health disparities. Core members of the CHER team include Ms. Carol Canjura (CSULB alumna) and Mr. Jeff Wood, who each have over 20 years of community-based research experience at CSULB through various roles under the previous iterations of CHER. Ms. Canjura began her tenure as an interviewer in 1997 and currently serves as the Center Coordinator for CHER. Mr. Wood was a member of the AIDS Community Demonstration Project at CSULB and was a long-time staff member at the Center for Behavioral Research and Services beginning in the mid-1990s. He currently serves as the IT/Data Manager for CHER. In addition, Dr. Pari Sabado (CSULB alumna) joined CHER in July 2014 as the Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation, and has been integral to the expansion of CHER's evaluation portfolio and network of community partners. Although, Dr. Sabado recently accepted a tenure-track position at California State University, Dominguez Hills, she continues to serve as Community Engagement and Evaluation Advisor in support of CHER's ongoing collaborations in the community. Under the direction of Dr. D'Anna, the CHER team also includes an outreach team comprised of recent CSULB graduates, Ms. Jasmine Doxey (Master of Public Health) and Jaelen Owens (BA, Family and Consumer Sciences) who are involved in aspects of the research including instrument development, data collection, analysis, and manuscript and presentation development. Support is also provided by Dr. Wendy Nomura (retired lecturer, CSULB Health Science), Evaluation and Data Coordinator, Dr. Kyle Chang, Statistician, and Ms. Ashley Guerrero (current CSULB graduate student, Geography), Research Assistant. In addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center, Dr. D'Anna also serves as the principal investigator on ongoing projects and provides direction and oversight for all Center activities.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports

research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships and student research assistant positions. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach and the Greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Built upon its successes with the RIMI Project, CHER was awarded two faculty research training grants from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, totaling $4,013,400 in funding. The CHER Institute broadens the reach of RIMI, and is open to early career faculty across the United States with priority given to faculty at minority serving institutions that face structural barriers to engage in research and garner research funding. As an example of the success of RIMI, Dr. T. Alex Washington, Professor in the CSULB School of Social Work, was the PI on a RIMI sub pilot award, is now the Co-Investigator/Co-Director for the CHER Institute.

The following pages contain a summary of CHER's activities from 2018 to the present. No changes are requested to its name, mission or scope. Based on its contributions to CSULB and the broader Long Beach community, we anticipate approval of this report and request its term be extended for five years. CHER has been successful in gaining extramural funding in support of its mission. Its research and evaluation funding has remained consistent, building upon its completed work to further advance its research and collaborative efforts in the community. The faculty research training and mentorship provided by CHER has been beneficial to CSULB early career faculty and has been expanded to reach other minority serving institutions in the U.S. and created opportunities for cross-collaboration. Per the National Institutes of Health, educational activities are needed that "complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs and encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research." In addition to its research and faculty training, CHER's evaluation activities and partnerships with local community-based organizations and local health departments have generated further collaboration and contributed to research capacity building in the community. This work also supports community-based health promotion to address health disparities among at-risk populations and provides research training and career building opportunities for students who are engaged at CHER as interns and volunteers. With decades of experience, CHER team members are committed to continuing its work and supporting the next generation of health disparities researchers.

Center Funding

CHER has been awarded a total of approximately **$9.8 million in new funding** for research, faculty training, and evaluation since 2014 (see Table 1 below for awards since 2018). Center funding has remained consistent over the past few years with new sources of federal and state grant funding and an increase in awards to conduct local evaluation.

The NIGMS funded RIMI Project, which was the impetus for the establishment for this Center, ended in 2015. In the following year, CHER was awarded a 5-year, grant through the Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) funding mechanism by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to conduct the CHER Institute, a training and mentorship program for early career faculty across the U.S. After a one-year no-cost extension, the CHER Institute was renewed for an additional five years resulting in approximately **$4 million total for faculty training and mentoring activities**. In addition to these training grants, CHER has been awarded **$3,309,354 for research funding** to conduct intervention testing and exploratory research to address substance use and sexual health disparities among racial, ethnic, gender and sexual minority populations. This includes two research awards from the University of California, Office of the President Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, and an NIH supplemental award through the UCLA CFAR. **CHER's research funding and training grants have generated approximately $1,277,748 in indirect support.**

With a half million dollar increase in funding beginning in 2015, the Center has maintained an average of approximately $1.2 million in support each subsequent year. CHER has submitted a total of 16 proposal applications to conduct research as of 2018, with six submissions in 2021. In additional to state and local resources, CHER has a robust history of being invited to serve as the evaluators for local efforts by community-based organizations and the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. In total, subcontracts have garnered **$1,238,600 in evaluation funding** for CHER and has spurred ongoing collaboration with a diverse group of organizations.

Table 1: Funding (Direct and Indirect Costs) Awarded to CHER 2018 – Present

PROJECT	YEAR(S)	FUNDER: AMOUNT
Faculty Training Grants		
CHER Institute II	2022 – 2027	NIGMS/NIH: **$2,089,404**
CHER Institute	2016 – 2022	NIGMS/NIH: **$1,923,986**
Research Studies		
Implementing a Community-engaged Equity Approach to Explore Barriers and Community Assets to Improve the PrEP Care Continuum in Long Beach, CA for Black and Latinx Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals	2022 – 2024	UCLA-CDU: Center for AIDS Research NIH: **$533,438**
Is marijuana the new menthol? Can marijuana use among young Black men (YBM) serve as a hook for nicotine addiction? (E-TERM Study)	2022 – 2024	UC Office of the President, Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program: **$747,765**
Exploratory Interviews: Are blunts and spliffs the new menthol? Exploring the potential role for marijuana to increase health disparities within the Black community	2021 – 2022	CSULB College of Health and Human Services, Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA) Grant: **3 WTUs for Dr. D'Anna**
Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking	2021 – 2022	UC Irvine (subcontract) UC Office of the President, Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program: **$24,426**

PROJECT	YEAR(S)	FUNDER: AMOUNT
Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources 2 (PPOWER^2) Project - Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black Men	2018 – 2022	UC Office of the President, Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program: **$1,106,197**
Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) Project	2015 – 2018	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/DHHS: **$897,528**
Evaluation Subcontracts		
Community Wellness Program Evaluation	2022 – 2026	Cambodian Association of America Funder: California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity: **$240,00**
Cambodian COVID-19 Needs Assessment	2023 – 2024	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services/U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: **$25,000**
Community Engagement for Ending the HIV Epidemic in Los Angeles County (HIV.e Project)*	2023	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: **$45,000**
Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities	2018 - 2023	St. Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health/California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program**: $191,385**
Community Wellness Program (CWP)	2017 - 2022	Cambodian Association of America/ California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity: **$228,000**
My Sister's Keeper Program	2019 – 2021	City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services/U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime: **$49,500**
Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Learning and Evaluation	2018 – 2021	The California Endowment **$281,505**
Long Beach Tobacco Education Program (TEP)	2019 – 2020	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services/California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program: **$24,970**
B-Free OC, Hepatitis B Demonstration Project	2019 – 2020	Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation/ Office of Minority Health: **$85,000**
Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project: The *I Am Possible!* Campaign	2016 – 2018	The California Endowment: **$68,240**

**Will be renewed for 2024*

Addressing Health Inequities: Research Studies

CHER has a long history of conducting social and behavioral research and evaluation on health-related issues among diverse and vulnerable populations. These projects have focused on the evaluation of experimental and quasi-experimental, theory-based and protocol-driven interventions using multiple methodologies. Activities have included ethnographic observation, focus groups, and structured and semi-structured interviews with members of populations facing health disparities using standardized instruments, trained interviewers, and ethnographers. During the formative stage of many of these studies, community participants were involved in the development of the interventions to better target the needs of marginalized populations.

In 2015 CHER was awarded a 3-year grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) for the original Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources (PPOWER) Project. PPOWER was a three-year to adapt and test two evidence-based interventions, BASICS and Community PROMISE, to: 1) engage young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM); 2) provide motivation and support to YBMSM through role model stories; 3) recruit 300 YBMSM and their sex/drug partners; 4) conduct screening and provide a brief intervention on reduction of alcohol and cannabis use; 5) increase access to HIV and HCV testing; and 6) establish a continuum of physical and mental health care. From 2016 to 2018, YBMSM ages 18 to 25 were recruited from the greater Long Beach area in Los Angeles, California using convenience sampling techniques at health-related events, gay-friendly bars and clubs, college campus events and venues. With support from members of our community advisory board, 250 YBMSM completed a baseline, a 3-month follow-up (N=199, 79.6% retention rate), and a 6-month follow-up (N=214, 85.6% retention rate). The project was conducted in collaboration with Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (BHS), and The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (The Center) with additional support from CSULB Student Health Services and other CSULB student support organizations who served on the community advisory board for the study.

CHER was subsequently awarded a three-year, high impact, research award grant from the California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) in 2018. The overarching goals of this quasi-experimental study, the PPOWER^2 Project, were to develop and pilot test evidence-based, distinct primary and secondary prevention components designed to avoid the initiation of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use among cisgender young Black men (YBM), and to prevent infrequent users from transitioning to frequent users. Dr. Jennifer Unger, Professor in the Keck School of Medicine at University of Southern California served as study advisor. The intervention components were informed by and tailored to meet the needs of YBM through a formative phase consisting of interviews and focus groups with YBM. Similar community-engaged framework and peer-based approaches to those used in our preliminary PPOWER Project were included. The intervention-testing phase of the project was launched in February 2020, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person study activities were successfully transitioned to an online format a month later in March 2020. Using social media participant engagement and outreach approaches, PPOWER^2 staff screened 1,073 participants and recruited 206 YBM for the study. Beginning July 2020, new items were added to the baseline and follow up assessments to determine the impact of COVID-19 on participants' substance using behaviors. Among the 206 YBM who were enrolled in the study; 105 and 101 were assigned to the intervention (greater Long Beach area) and comparison groups (elsewhere in Los Angeles County), respectively. Among intervention participants, 84 (80.8%) completed the full 2-session intervention and 9 (8.6%) completed at least one session. A behavioral questionnaire was administered online at baseline, 3-month, and 6-month follow up. Follow up rates were 75.7% at 3-month and 73.3% at 6-months.

Building on its previous work, CHER was awarded a 2-year pilot study in 2022 by TRDRP to further explore marijuana and tobacco co-use among young Black men. The E-TERM (Exploring

Tobacco Exposure through Recreational Marijuana use) study uses a mixed methods approach to explore how marijuana may function as the new "hook" for nicotine addiction by collecting self-report data on marijuana/tobacco use and biological (cotinine levels in saliva) data on tobacco exposure among YBM. The quantitative (survey) and biological (saliva) data collection phase is under way with 60 young Black men enrolled in the study towards an objective of 100 participants. Dr. Raina Pang, Professor in the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, serves as our study advisor who is assisting with the saliva sample data collection processes and interpretation of findings within the context of behavioral data.

In addition to E-TERM, CHER is part of a collaborative effort with the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) on an NIH-funded Ending the HIV Epidemic supplement award through the UCLA-CDU: Center for AIDS Research. CHER and LBDHSS serve as partner Principal Investigators on the study. The 2-year mixed-methods study is designed to identify individual and structural barriers and facilitators affecting engagement in the PrEP care continuum among Black and Latinx sexual and gender minority (BLSGM) diverse individuals in Long Beach, CA for the development of a culturally appropriate PrEP readiness tool and other potential interventions for implementation in a variety of community and healthcare settings. Currently in its second year, a formative phase consisting of interviews and focus groups with PrEP providers and BLSGM individuals has been completed, and recruitment is underway for participants for provider-facing surveys (n=25) and community surveys (n=400 BLSGM) to further inform the development of the readiness tool and potential interventions. Findings from this study will also inform the development of a new HIV and STI city-wide strategic plan led by LBDHSS.

Community Advisory Board

CHER enjoys a rich and long-standing partnership with several community-based organizations in the Long Beach and Greater Los Angeles areas dedicated to serving vulnerable populations at risk for health disparities who have served as members of the community advisory boards for our research studies. Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (BHS) and the CSULB Student Health Services (SHS) Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Program have served as long-time members of the CAB for our current E-TERM study and past PPOWER projects. Ms. Heidi Ortiz, Coordinator for the CSULB Student Health Services (SHS), Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Program (ATOD) has been a CAB member since 2017. In addition, CHER partners with a number of community-based organizations when carrying our research and evaluation projects as noted in the Community-based Evaluation Section below.

BHS is a not-for-profit community-based healthcare organization providing medical services, substance abuse, mental health, drug-free transitional living, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, housing for women with HIV, and prevention services for the local community. BHS operates from 24 locations covering the South Bay (includes Long Beach), East Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Valley, and the metropolitan areas of LAC. Focusing on hard-to-reach men, including those experiencing homelessness or engaged in sex work, BHS has been instrumental in assisting CHER with outreach to members of our target populations who are disenfranchised and marginalized. They were particularly integral to the success of our PPOWER and PPOWER2 Projects, and currently assist with participant recruitment efforts for our E-TERM study. Another long-standing CAB member is The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (The Center), who served as a collaborator on the PPOWER Project. Mr. Ismael Salamanca, former director of health services at The Center, and now at the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, continues to share his expertise on engaging members of sexual and gender minority communities. Other community-based organizations who have served as members of our CAB have included REACH LA, Success in Challenges, Bienestar Human Services, and St. Mary Medical Center

CARE Program. On the CSULB campus, student support organizations who have participated include the African American Men's Success Initiative, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the LGBT Student Resource Center. CAB meetings for our studies are convened on a quarterly basis.

Additional Contributions to the Community

Jaelen Owens, Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator, served as a co-chair for the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group from 2021 to 2022. He continues to participate in the HPG as a member of the PrEP and Trans Wellness Workgroups. The HPG meets quarterly to coordinate efforts between Long Beach-based health agencies and community leaders to achieve the goals of the Long Beach HIV-STD Strategy. Jaelen is a CSULB graduate with a B.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences who began his employment at CHER as a student in 2016 as a part-time Health Education/Outreach Specialist.

In addition, CHER Director, Dr. Laura D'Anna serves as a task force member for the new Long Beach HIV/STI/Substance Abuse Harm Reduction Strategy Task Force, and is a member of the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group and the PrEP and Trans Wellness Workgroups. These roles include monthly meetings, providing advice for data collection strategies, and cultivating collaborative grant proposal opportunities.

Data Sharing Through CHER

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research provides cooperating researchers and students and opportunity to access unique data sources through the CHER website's data portal. Collaborators may use the portal to review available datasets, topics, assessments, and scales collected in previous research, and to review summary data for some projects. Requests for access to de-identified individual-level data can be made using a downloadable fillable form. Individuals interested in accessing CHER data for research purposes should visit https://sites.csulb.edu/HealthEquity/data-portal or contact the CHER data management team at CSULB-CHER@csulb.edu. At present, CHER is collaborating with both intra and extra mural faculty members, Drs. Fiona Gorman (CSULB) and Tamika Baldwin-Clark (Prairie View A&M University), who both previously participated in the CHER Institute. Each are exploring aspects of the PPOWER2 data related to their areas of research and are preparing peer-reviewed journal manuscripts. CHER data is also assisting a CSULB Master of Public Health graduate student who is using data from the PPOWER^2 project to complete the MPH thesis requirement.

Research Technology Capacity

CHER maintains 11 computer workstations connected directly to the CSULB network infrastructure using 100Mbps Ethernet, and a virtual file server provided through the University's information and technology services. CHER employs a multi-site installation of the open source "Drupal" content management system to maintain multiple websites. It is housed on CSULB web servers and designed to support dynamic content updates, data feeds, social networking, and the distribution of editing and updating responsibilities among all members of the project team. The privacy of research data collected through the CSULB/CHER Internet infrastructure is ensured through a combination of physical security procedures, encrypted (SSL) network communications, and the encryption of personal data before being stored on protected database servers. CHER has extensive experience conducting secure web-based data collection through web-enable devices, including laptops, tablets, and smartphones. This is our preferred method of data collection because of the increasing power and ubiquity of web-enabled

devices, along with their relatively low cost and easy wireless internet access, making computer assisted web-based data collection an attractive option in even the most challenging data collection environment.

Building Academic and Community Partnerships: Community-Based Evaluation

Beginning with the Building Healthy Communities Long Beach Learning and Evaluation Project (BHCLB) in 2012, CHER has expanded its portfolio of community-based evaluation to include local projects funded by federal and state entities. BHCLB was a large ten-year public health initiative funded by The California Endowment to eliminate health disparities by empowering residents and advancing statewide policy. Since 2018, CHER has completed five evaluation projects. These include the California Tobacco Control Program Asian and Pacific Islander Regional Initiative and the Tobacco Education and Prevention Program, both funded by the California Department of Public Health to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke among Asian American and Pacific Islander residents; and My Sister's Keeper, a wraparound project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to serve victims of human trafficking. CHER currently serves as the evaluator for the Community Wellness Program, a California Reducing Disparities Project funded by the California Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity to reduce mental health disparities among older Cambodian adults. The CWP is a collaborative effort among Cambodian-serving organizations in Long Beach and Santa Ana led by the Cambodian Association America with support from the United Cambodian Community, Families in Good Health at St. Mary Medical Center and The Cambodian Family. CWP activities are coordinated and conducted by community health workers (CHWs) at each organization. CHER also serves as evaluator for the HIV.E Project. Funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs, the Ending the HIV Epidemic (HIV.E) Project is implemented in partnership between LAC+USC Medical Center Foundation and the AMAAD Institute (AMAAD) to increase awareness of HIV prevention and treatment throughout LA County. The HIV.E Project supports the goals and strategies of the five-year federal initiative, Ending the HIV Epidemic: A plan for America. CHER has recently been engaged by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services to develop and administer a community needs assessment to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Cambodian community in Long Beach, California. CHER's efforts to support community-based organizations as well as local health departments to provide programs and services is in line with its mission to support the objectives of Healthy People 2020 as outlined in its establishment proposal.

Through these projects CHER has and continues to provide capacity building to the community-based organizations leading the work in the form of trainings on data collection, data entry and management, protection of human subjects, and the use of scientific rigor in the formulation of an evaluation plan. CHER staff have developed web-based data collection tools and data management portal developed and managed by our IT/Data Manager, Mr. Jefferson Wood. In addition, evaluation activities provide training opportunities for student interns to participate in data collection, data entry, analysis, and report writing. In particular for students in health science, this provides them with an opportunity to observe and put in practice theories and tools they have learned in their respective programs and leverage their internship experience and research skills development to gain employment after graduation. It also exposes them to real world experiences which enhance the classroom curriculum. Findings from our evaluation projects have resulted in multiple presentations at national conference and two publications (See Appendix for a list of publications and presentations).

Faculty Research Training and Mentorship

CHER is fortunate to have continued support from the National Institutes of Health to continue its efforts to contribute to research capacity building among junior and early career faculty. The CHER Institute (2016 – 2022) and CHER Institute II (2022 – 2027) funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Innovative Programs for Educational Research Training (IPERT) funding mechanism provide educational and mentored activities to enhance the readiness of diverse early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-engaged research designed to promote health equity. Through the CHER Institute, CHER aims to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators and increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants. The CHER Institute II consists of a six-day research training program held annually in June, two research-related webinars per semester (see list of webinars below), and two new extended mentoring components for graduates from the summer institute. During the six-day summer institute, faculty fellows participate in daily plenary sessions and one-on-one mentoring and professional development from NIH funded senior scientists (heretofore "faculty mentors"). Faculty fellows developed and strengthened a Specific Aims page, engage in science chats with their faculty mentors and peer fellows, participate in peer reviews of written work, experience a mock NIH grant review, participate in a responsible conduct of research training, and engage with graduated faculty fellows during the CHER Institute Research Spotlight. The daily sessions are on topics relevant to developing an NIH application, cultural and practical knowledge and tips for better understanding and navigating the NIH application process and culture, and skills and supports relevant for ethnic minorities and other URM groups desiring to be NIH R01 level researchers. Faculty fellows are paired with CHER faculty mentors, who are recognized experts in their field (see table below) and experienced NIH-funded investigators. From 2017 - 2023, 101 early career faculty (13 from CSULB) participated in the CHER Institute 6-day research training program, the majority of whom were female (80.2%), at an MSI (81.2%), and self-identified as being a member of a racial/ethnic minority group (72.3%). See Appendix for citation for 2023 publication on CHER Institute outcomes. The original CHER Institute did not provide structured opportunities for mentoring beyond the intensive experience and the CHER Institute II now offers this through the Scholars and Champions programs. Eleven early career faculty participated in this year's CHER Institute, with six Faculty Fellows selected to participate as Scholars (4) and Champions (2).

The table below lists faculty/senior researchers and their affiliated academic institutions from across the U.S. who are currently serving as Faculty Mentors and webinar facilitators for the CHER Institute II. A select group also served as faculty mentors for the CHER Institute during its first award, 2016 – 2022.

Table 2: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentor	Institution
Sonya Arreola, PhD	University of California, San Francisco
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH, MPA	University of Southern California
Roshan Bastani, PhD	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Niloo Bavarian, PhD	California State University, Long Beach

CHER Institute Faculty Mentor	Institution
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Ronald Braithwaite, PhD	Morehouse School of Medicine
Dorothy C. Browne, DrPH	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bradley T. Connor, PhD	Colorado State University
Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS	Indiana University School of Medicine
Naomi Hall-Byers, PhD	Winston-Salem State University
Robin Miller, PhD	Michigan State University
Matthew Mutchler, PhD	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Nina Harawa, PhD	David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles
Daniel Sarpong, PhD	Yale University
Fernando Wagner, DS, MPH	University of Maryland, Baltimore,

CSULB Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute

A total of 13 CSULB faculty have participated in the CHER Institute since its inception, with ten faculty (77%) from the College of Health and Human Services (see list below). Responses from an annual follow up survey to assess research productivity and career development among CHER Institute Faculty Fellows, indicate that participation in the Institute benefited CSULB faculty during the retention, tenure, and promotion (RTP) process, and enabled them to accomplish goals, as articulated in their professional development plan developed during the CHER Institute. The list below highlights the accomplishments of CSULB Faculty Fellows. In addition, we have been fortunate to have CSULB Fellows present at subsequent Institutes to share their experience with new Institute faculty participants and offer recommendations on how to navigate a balance between teaching and research. In 2021, Dr. Niloo Bavarian, Health Science faculty and Institute Faculty Fellow (2017 cohort), participated in a panel discussion during the CHER Institute, *Persisting through the Challenges, Getting Funded and Doing the Science at a Teaching University*, sharing her personal experience at CSULB. At this year's Institute, Dr. Bavarian also facilitated a plenary session on the *Importance of Creating a Professional Development Plan* and is currently serving as Faculty Institute Mentor for the CHER Institute Scholar Program, which provides extended mentoring to Faculty Fellows on the development of a proposal and/or manuscript.

CSULB CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

<u>2017</u>
Niloo Bavarian – Health Science/CHHS
Virginia Gray – Family and Consumer Sciences/CHHS
Amber Johnson – Health Science/CHHS

<u>2018</u>
Salim Al-Ani – Speech Language Pathology/CHHS
Fiona Gorman – Health Science/CHHS (
Kellie Walters – Kinesiology/CHHS

2019
Isabella Lanza – Human Development/CLA

2020
Sandra Arevalo – Human Development/CLA
Joanna Barreras – Social Work/CHHS
Melawhy Garcia – Health Science/CHHS

2021
Olajide Bamishigbin Jr. – Psychology/CLA
Matthew Jarequi – Family and Consumer Sciences/CHHS

2023
Judy Jou – Health Science/CHHS

Table 3: CHER Institute Research-Related Webinars 2017 - 2023

Date	Topic	Presenter
10/11/2017	What to Consider for an NIH Proposal to Conduct Qualitative Research	Dr. Matt Mutchler California State University, Dominguez Hills
11/30/2017	Components of a NIH Application and Review Process	Dr. Roshan Bastani University of California, Los Angeles Fielding School of Public Health
3/18/2018	Innovation in NIH Reviews: The Population, Approach, or Both	Dr. Ricky Bluthenthal Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
4/24/2018	Developing Effective Culturally Relevant Intervention	Dr. Nina Harawa Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
10/11/2018	Incorporating Internet-Based Data Collection for Sensitive Topics within Vulnerable Populations	Dr. Hugh Klein Kensington Research Institute
11/29/2018	Why and When to Consider the R03 Mechanism	Dr. Bradley Conner Colorado State University
3/28/2019	The Use and Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Program for Health Disparities Research	Dr. Naomi Hall-Byers Winston-Salem State University
5/16/2019	Mentoring Early Career Faculty for the NIH Research Climate and Culture	Dr. Ronald Braithwaite Morehouse School of Medicine
10/24/2019	The Use of Social Media to Recruit and Engage High Risk Populations in Health Disparities Research	Ms. Elizabeth Wu UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
11/14/2019	Tips for Writing a Compelling NIH Approach Section	Dr. Jonathon Rendina Hunter College of the City University of New York
4/7/2020	Tips for Persisting through the Challenges, Getting Funded and Doing the Science at a Teaching University	Dr. Matt Mutchler California State University, Dominguez Hills
4/23/2020	Career Development is Essential: Preparing Yourself to be Successful with the NIH Process	Dr. LaRon Nelson Yale School of Nursing, Yale University
10/29/2020	What's So Special About the K Award: Exploring Mentored Career Development Awards (e.g., Ko1, K99)?	Dr. Willie Abel University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Date	Topic	Presenter
11/12/2020	Navigating the NIH Extramural System: Does Race Matter?	Dr. Ronald Braithwaite Morehouse School of Medicine
4/8/2021	Journey to a Successful Career as an Academic and Funded Researcher	Dr. Tanya Coakley University of North Carolina at Greensboro
4/15/2021	Science with Impact: Leading Community Based Participatory Research; Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Communities	Dr. Sonya Arreola Arreola Research
10/28/21	Transforming Clinical or Community-Based Research Approaches to Improve the Health of People of Color	Dr. Lisa Bowleg George Washington University
11/11/21	The Use of Social Media to Recruit during the COVID Pandemic	Ms. Tiffany Daniel Pineda University of Florida
3/24/22	Writing the Quantitative Data Analysis Section for an NIH Proposal	Dr. Yan Wang George Washington University
4/7/22	Alternative Ways to Get Involved with Conducting NIH Research	Dr. Sheldon Fields The Pennsylvania State University
10/12/23	Intramural Independent Scientist Opportunities for Early Career Investigators at NIH	Dr. Roland Owens NIH, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
11/9/23	Making the Case: How to Present Use of Qualitative Approaches Seeking NIH Level Funding	Dr. Robin Miller Michigan State University

Student Research Training and Mentorship: Supporting New Generation of Researchers and Public Health Professionals

CHER began providing research training and mentoring opportunities to CSULB students prior to its establishment as an academic research center. Since its establishment in 2014, 56 CSULB have served as interns and/or volunteers at CHER. From fall 2018 through fall 2023, the reporting period for this renewal request, **19 graduate students and 15 undergraduate students were engaged at CHER averaging 3-5 students per academic semester.** Beginning with the COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, there was a reduction in student engagement in the subsequent semesters due to the challenge of providing a meaningful internship experience with the entire campus functioning in a remote capacity. However, we are pleased that we were able to assist some students in moving forward with their internship requirements despite these challenges. Upon CHER's staff return to campus in a hybrid capacity, student engagement at CHER has returned to the level of previous years. Under normal circumstances, the total number of student interns and graduates over the five-year period would have been greater.

Currently, the majority of individuals seeking intern and volunteer positions are undergraduate and graduate students in the Health Science Department seeking placement for their internship requirement of 120 – 240 hours per semester for their respective program. However, students from other departments such as health care administration have sought out an internship/volunteer experience at CHER as part of efforts to augment their academic training and skills development in community-based research. As interns and volunteers, the students serve as research assistants, providing support to Center staff with various research and evaluation related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, quantitative data entry, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, preparation of graphs, tables, and narrative summaries of findings for reports, assistance with proposal and manuscript development. During this 5-year period, five student interns were included as co-authors on four peer-reviewed publications based on their contributions to the manuscript. In addition, five students participated in the development of seven abstracts that were accepted for presentation at a national scientific conference. In two of these instances, a student was the lead author. **(See Appendix for list of publications and presentations)**

As well as providing training opportunities, CHER has offered full and part-time employment to former interns upon graduation based on their interest in research and contingent upon staffing needs at the Center. For example, during the present review period, Ms. Jasmine Doxey, currently serving as a Health Education/Evaluation/Outreach Specialist, is a former intern and CSULB Master of Public Health graduate. Miss Angineh Babakhanians, also a former intern and Health Science graduate, served in a full-time role as Evaluation Coordinator from 2019 to 2020 after graduating with her degree, and is currently employed as a program coordinator for maternal and child health services at a community-based clinic in Los Angeles. Mr. Jaelen Owens who is our Health Education/Outreach Coordinator is also a CSULB graduate from the family and consumer sciences department. Although he did not intern at the Center, he was hired as a part-time outreach worker while a student and upon graduation, transitioned into his current full-time role where he has thrived and demonstrated his acumen as a researcher. In addition to our current employees, we have also hired an additional 13 students in various part-time capacities over the past ten years and have provided employment references and letters of recommendations for students pursuing an advanced degree. We appreciate the support we receive from our student interns and volunteers and are committed to contributing to their career advancement beyond the training and mentorship they receive at our Center.

APPENDIX

- Current and Completed Research Studies and Evaluation Projects
- Publications
- Conference Presentations

CURRENT RESEARCH STUDIES

Is marijuana the new menthol? Can marijuana use among YBM serve as a hook for nicotine addiction?
(Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Raina Pang, University of Southern California, Study Advisor)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), The Regents of the University of California, Office of the President, High Impact Pilot Award, July 2022 – June 2024
Grant# # T32IP5376
Award: $747,765

Implementing a Community-engaged Equity Approach to Explore Barriers and Community Assets to Improve the PrEP Care Continuum in Long Beach, CA for Black and Latinx Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals
(Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Everardo Alvizo, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Principal Investigator; Nina Harawa, UCLA, Co-Investigator)
Lead Agency: UCLA-Charles Drew University Center for AIDS Research (UCLA-CDU CFAR)
Funder: NIH Ending the HIV Epidemic Supplement Award, July 2022 – June 2024
Grant# IP30AI152501-01A1
Award: $533,438

FACULTY TRAINING GRANTS

CHER Institute II: Community-Engaged Biomedical Research Training and Mentored Experiences for Early Career Faculty (Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; T. Alex Washington, Co-Investigator)
September 2022 – August 2027
Funder: National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Grant# 2R25GM121266
Award: $2,089,414

CHER Institute (Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; T. Alex Washington, Co-Investigator)
Funder: National Institute of General Medical Sciences
September 2016 – August 2022
Grant# 1R25GM121266
Award: $1,923,986

COMPLETED RESEARCH STUDIES

Exploratory Interviews: Are blunts and spliffs the new menthol? Exploring the potential role for marijuana to increase health disparities within the Black community (September 2021 – August 2022)
Funder: CSULB College of Health and Human Services, Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA) Grant
Award: One 3-unit course release time for Center Director, Dr. Laura D'Anna

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources 2 (PPOWER^2) Project - Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black Men (July 2018 – March 2022)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Research Award, University of California Office of the President
Grant# 28IR-0068
Award: $1,279,870
*Granted 6-month extension with COVID-19 administrative supplemental award

Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) Project (October 2015 – March 2019)
Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Grant# 5H79SP021340
Award: $897,528

Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking
Subcontract: Dr. Laura D'Anna, Community Engagement Consultant/Dr. David Timberlake (PH)
(July 2021 – June 2022)
Lead Agency: University of California, Irvine, David Timberlake, PhD (PI)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Pilot Award, University of California Office of the President
Award: $24,426

CURRENT COMMUNITY-BASED EVALUATION PROJECTS

Community Wellness Program Evaluation (May 2022 – April 2026) *
Lead Agency: Cambodian Association of America
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity
**Initial 5-year award (2017-2022) was renewed for an additional four years.*
Award: $240,000

Community Engagement for Ending the HIV Epidemic in Los Angeles County (HIV.e Project)
(March – December 2023) *
Lead Agency: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs
Funder: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
**One-year renewal for $80,000 is currently in progress.*
Award: $45,000

Cambodian COVID-19 Needs Assessment (July 2023 – June 2024)
Lead Agency: Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Funder: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities
Award: $25,000

COMPLETED EVALUATION PROJECTS

Community Wellness Program Evaluation (January 2017 – April 2022)
Lead Agency: Cambodian Association of America
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity
Award: $228,000

Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (May 2018 – April 2023)
Lead Agency: St. Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health

Funder: California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program
Award: $191,385

My Sister's Keeper Program - Evaluation Project (September 2019 – December 2021)
Lead Agency: City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS)
Funder: U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Award: $49,500

Long Beach Tobacco Education Program (TEP) – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2020)
Lead Agency: Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program
Award: $24,970

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project (January 2012 - June 2020)
Lead Agency: Long Beach Forward
Funder: The California Endowment
Award: $1,129197

B-Free OC – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2020)
Lead Agency: Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation Hepatitis B Demonstration Program
Funder: Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Award: $85,000

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project: The I Am Possible! Campaign (May 2016 – October 2018)
Lead Agency:
Funder: The California Endowment
Award: $68,240

CHER PUBLICATIONS 2018 – 2023

**Master of Public Health Graduate Student, **Health Science Undergraduate Student*

Chang K, D'Anna L. The effects of previous experiences of healthcare discrimination on HIV intervention outcomes. AIDS and Behavior (in press.)

D'Anna LH, Washington TA, Nomura W. Supporting Minority Serving Institution Faculty to Enhance Biomedical Research: The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research Institute. Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice 2023; 16(2): 12-30.

D'Anna LH, Chang K. Healthcare discrimination, anticipated HIV stigma, and income as predictors of HIV testing among a community sample of YBMSM. AIDS Care 2023 Aug 22;1-8. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2023.2240068. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 37607018.

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Sngiem S, Peong V, Chan L, Hopson C, Veng T, Colfax G, Tham L, Sen-Matthews A, Ung V, Tieng P, Siphan C, Dance J, Wood J, Doxey J, D'Anna L. A Community-defined Approach to Address Trauma among Cambodian Immigrants and Refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana. Health Promotion Practice Epub 20230723.

Sabado P, D'Anna L, Fong G, Petit C, and Wood J. Examining Resident Power Building in a Place-based Initiative. Health Promotion Practice 2022 Nov;23(6):955-962. doi: 10.1177/15248399211045355. Epub 2021 Oct 11. PubMed PMID: 34628971.

D'Anna LH, Chang K, Wood J, Washington TA and PPOWER Team. Marijuana use and sexual risk behavior among young Black men who have sex with men in California. Journal of Ethnic and Racial Health Disparities 2021 Dec;8(6):1522-1532. doi: 10.1007/s40615-020-00915-3. Epub 2020 Nov 16. PubMed PMID: 33197039.

D'Anna LH, Washington TA, Cabudol M, Canjura C, Owens J, and the PPOWER Project Team. Exploring awareness of HCV among sexual-minority Black generation Millennials and Gen Z: A qualitative study. Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities 2020 Jun;7(3):555-562. doi: 10.1007/s40615-019-00684-8. Epub 2020 Jan 31. PubMed PMID: 32006242.

Steinberg J, Kral AH, Sumstine S**, Wenger LD, D'Anna LH, and Bluthenthal RN. Gang involvement and drug use histories among people who inject drugs in California: A retrospective analysis. Journal of Drug Issues 2019; 49(4): 593 – 606.

D'Anna LH, Fisher D, Trinidad LE**, Canjura C, and Wood J. Building health equity one institution at a time: The Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions Project. Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice 2019; 12(2): 138-147.

D'Anna LH, Peong V, Sabado P, Valdez-Dadia A, Hansen MC, Canjura C, Hong M**. Barriers to physical and mental health: Understanding the intersecting needs of Cambodian and Latino residents in urban communities. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health 2018 Oct;20(5):1243-1260. doi: 10.1007/s10903-017-0677-2. PubMed PMID: 29189993; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5976518.

D'Anna L, Hansen M, Mull B*, Canjura C, Lee E**, and Sumstine S*. Social discrimination and health care: A multidimensional framework of experiences among a low-income multiethnic sample. Social Work in Public Health 2018;33(3):187-201. doi: 10.1080/19371918.2018.1434584. Epub 2018 Feb 9. PubMed PMID: 29424681; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6464629.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS 2018 – 2023

**Master of Public Health Graduate Student*
***Health Science Undergraduate Student*

2023

Doxey J, Owens J, Canjura C, Sabado P and D'Anna L. PrEP provider perspectives on barriers and facilitators to using novel forms of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among Black/Latinx sexual and gender minority populations (BLSGM.) Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2023. Atlanta, Georgia.

Kunipo-Aguirre M*, Owens J and D'Anna L. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2023. Atlanta, Georgia.

2022

Sabado P, Lacambra K*, Kuoch K, Wood J, Colfax G, Chan L, Dance J, Hopson C, Peong V, Ung V, Siphan C, Sngiem S, Tham L, Tieng P. Examining the association between cultural identification and trauma and mental health outcomes among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2022. Boston, Massachusetts.

Owens J, Tri I*, D'Anna L. Marijuana use, expectancy, and sexual risk behaviors among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) and with women (BMSW). Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2022. Boston, Massachusetts.

Doxey J, Owens J, D'Anna L. Intimate partner violence (IPV), HIV-risk behaviors, marijuana expectancy and use among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) in Los Angeles County (LAC), California. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2022. Boston, Massachusetts.

2021

Chang K, Wood J, Owens J, D'Anna L. An intervention to address alcohol and drug use among Black men in Los Angeles County during the COVID-19 lockdown. Virtual poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado.

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Peong V, Sngiem S, Chan L, Hopson C, Soeung S, Colfax G, Sen-Matthews A, Ung V, Tieng P, Tham L, Siphan S, Dance J, D'Anna L. Using community-defined practices to decrease symptoms of trauma among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Virtual poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado.

Sabado P, Chan L, Mai V, Abea M, Wilcox M, D'Anna L. Exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing as a health equity issue. Virtual poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado.

2020

D'Anna L, Wood J, Owens J, Canjura C, Washington TA, and the PPOWER[2] Team. Contextualizing HIV risk: Exploring the relationship between marijuana and sexual risk behaviors in the context of polysubstance use and mental health among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the United States. Poster presentation at the 23rd International AIDS (virtual) Conference, July 2020.

J. Doxey, LH D'Anna, J. Wood, C. Canjura, J. Owens, TA Washington and the PPOWER Team. Depression, HIV risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at the 23rd International AIDS (virtual) Conference, July 2020.

Owens J, D'Anna L, Canjura C, Washington TA, Wood J, and the PPOWER[2] Team. Engaging Young Black Men (YBM) in conversations around tobacco and marijuana use as an outreach strategy: Lessons learned from the PPOWER2 Project in Long Beach, CA. Poster presentation at the American Public Health (virtual) Annual Meeting, October 2020.

D'Anna L, Owens J, Eckman C**, Canjura C, Washington T, Wood J, and the PPOWER[2] Team. The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco. Accepted for poster presentation: Joining Forces 2020.

D'Anna L, Owens J, Canjura C, Washington T, Wood J, and the PPOWER[2] Team. He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California. Accepted for oral presentation: Joining Forces 2020.

2019

D'Anna LH, Owens J, Eckman C**, Canjura C, Washington TA. The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco. Poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Eckman C**, D'Anna LH, Canjura C, Owens J, Washington TA. The influence of social norms and pressures to use marijuana among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM). Oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

D'Anna LH, Canjura C, Owens J, Washington TA, Wood J. He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California. Poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

D'Anna LH, Canjura C, Owens J, Washington TA, Wood J. Is marijuana a sex drug? Perceptions of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County. Roundtable presentation at

the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Peong V, Sngiem S, Gervacio L, Hopson C, Sen-Matthews A, Soeung S, Nim C, Tham L, Hun M, Phou S, D'Anna LH. Baseline data form the Community Wellness Program, a community-based approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sabado P, Pinedo C, Chan L, Sak S, Mai V, Moua S, Trinidad L*, D'Anna LH. Building youth capacity for tobacco control work. Oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Peong V, Chhoeng S, Sen-Matthews A, Chiang S, Welty I, Sabado P, Chea R, Kem H. Resident empowerment and advocacy as a model to improve access to mental health services and resources among Cambodians in Orange County, California. Oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2018

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Owens J, and Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Cannabis use and increased risks for HIV among young black sexual minority males in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at the 22nd International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; July 2018.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Owens J, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Structural, social, and behavioral facilitators and barriers associated with antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) usage among marginalized young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Owens J, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Stigma and discrimination: Fueling the HIV epidemic among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Owens J, D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Intimate partner violence (IPV) and increased sexual-risk behaviors in a sample of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, Damico T, Fong G, Petit C, and D'Anna LH. A Community-led Effort to Increase Food Access and Improve Economic Development through Urban Agriculture. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, D'Anna LH, Fong G, Petit C, and Ulaszewski B. A Community-led Effort to Increase Open Space for Park-poor Residents in Central Long Beach, CA. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, Rasmussen A, Fong G, Petit C, and D'Anna LH. Green Zones: A Community-led Effort to Reduce Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Long Beach, CA. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Valdez-Dadia A, Kouch K, Sngiem S, Peong V, Gervacio L, Hopson C, Sabado P, and D'Anna LH. Working as a collaborative on a community-defined approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Center for Health Equity Research
Annual Report
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Officially established in April 2013, the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. Previously the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs, CHER has been in existence for approximately 17 years. (With the establishment of CHER, CHCI returned to the direction of the Health Care Administration Department, but all CHCI projects were subsumed under CHER.) During these 17 years, The Center garnered approximately $15 million dollars in research funding with approximately $700,000 going to the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) in indirect funds. A sizable portion of this funding ($4.5 million) was from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project.

The newly constituted CHER was established through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research to serve the CSULB community and provide a resource for the region. Upon Dr. Malotte's retirement as Center director in August 2014, Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Director, took over the role of director and principal investigator on ongoing projects. Dr. Malotte continues to maintain a role on campus as Professor Emeritus in the Health Science Department and supports CHER by serving as a scientific advisor on proposals involving intervention development.

The goals of CHER are reflected in our tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs and randomization, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. In addition to research conducted by unit members, health equity research by affiliated faculty members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research, is supported. Opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills are also offered at CHER through a semester long internship. CHER is also the lead evaluators for a large public health initiative in the Long Beach community, Building Health Communities, Long Beach, as well as the evaluators for two California Gang Reduction, and Intervention Prevention (CalGRIP) Projects conducted by the City of Long Beach Department of Development Services. CHER's working mission statement is, *"To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research."*

The CHER team has been active in seeking and applying to funding opportunities to support new and ongoing research-related activities. However, the extramural funding climate continues to be extremely competitive. During the year under review, CHER staff members participated in the submission of several proposals. In addition to these proposals, the following pages also contain information about our on-going projects.

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) – CSULB

As noted in prior annual reports (for the Center for Health Care Innovation), one of the projects for which Center staff took a lead role, the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project was funded in September, 2009. This over $4.5 million project promised to be an important stimulus to research on health disparities and minority health at CSULB, and there is evidence that this has happened. RIMI was initially a five-year project to end in April 2014, however, the NIMHD approved a second one-year no cost extension to conduct close out activities and prepare a final report as required by the award.

One of the requirements for receipt of this grant was that the President or his/her designee serves as the principal investigator (PI) to insure that the project has administrative support. Since the award was made the PI has been changed three times to reflect changes in leadership. The original PI when the proposal was submitted was Provost Karen Gould. President Alexander took over as PI when Karen Gould left, and Don Para, previously the Provost, replaced Dr. F. King Alexander when he departed. Dr. Jane Close Conoley, our new CSULB President, is now the current PI. Dr. Laura D'Anna, RIMI Assistant Project Director, took over the roles of overall project director and core director for two of the four cores when Dr. Malotte retired in August 2014, and she then assumed directorship of a third core when Dr. Dennis Fisher retired in August of 2015. The summary for the RIMI Project follows.

The CSULB RIMI Project is an attempt to address gaps and challenges to conducting research at CSULB on minority health and health disparities, and training of faculty and students interested in these topics. The focus of its efforts is community and public health approaches to reducing health disparities. The RIMI Project consists of four Cores: the Administrative and Capacity Building Core, the Research Faculty Development Core, the Academic Enrichment Programs for Students Core, and the Shared Resources Core.

The Administrative and Capacity Building Core is responsible for management of the overall activities of the RIMI project, including coordination and integration of the other RIMI cores. The overall mission of the Administrative and Capacity Building Core is to ensure a robust infrastructure for conducting meaningful and competitive minority health and health disparities research. The Research Faculty Development Core is the center of efforts to increase faculty capacity to conduct minority health and health disparities research, and mentor students from health disparities populations to be the next generation of researchers in these areas. The Academic Enrichment Programs for Students Core is designed to support racial and ethnic minority students and others with an interest in health disparities research to become skilled behavioral science researchers whose work will contribute to the body of minority health and health disparities research. The Shared Research Resources Core supports the mission of the RIMI Project by enabling faculty and graduate student researchers to be more efficient and productive in conducting their research, disseminating the results of their work, and preparing proposals for additional funding.

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation
Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L & E) Team for BHCLB. As the L & E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys of BHCLB leadership, selected grantees, and adult and youth residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; work with BHCLB staff and Steering Committee members to analyze and interpret findings; and prepare an annual evaluation report. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participated in cross-site learning and evaluation activities including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- Administration of cross-site data collection tools: CHER staff administered data collection tools that were developed by TCE to be used across all 14 BHC sites. One such tool is the Collaboration Assessment Tool, which was developed to measure how well individuals and organizations collaborating in a group connected with BHC are working together, as assessed by members of the group themselves. The tool is available in three formats: 1) long survey, 2) short survey + focus group, 3) focus group only. The BHCLB Steering Committee completed the assessment during this reporting period and chose the short survey + focus group option. Results of the assessment were shared with the Steering Committee and helped to inform revisions to the group's governance document in preparation for an upcoming election for new members.
- CHER staff assisted in the completion of the Policy Advocacy Tool, which was developed by TCE to document advocacy efforts in all 14 BHC sites. Systems change is a major focus of both the larger BHC initiative and of local BHCLB efforts. As such, the tool allows each site to track campaign work, including level of BHCLB involvement and stage of the campaign.
- Revision of the Resident Power Survey: CHER staff, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, revised the Resident Power Survey, a local data collection tool that was developed in consultation with BHCLB staff, partner organizations, and community residents to measure level of resident engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making at the systems level. Results from the first round of survey administration in 2013 indicated that some sections of the survey were unnecessary and, therefore, they were deleted to shorten survey length and possibly increase response rate. Additionally, CHER staff decided to limit the survey to only residents over the age of 18, as BHCLB-affiliated youth are already involved in a separate and similar study conducted by the University of Southern California. Seventy-seven residents completed surveys when it was first administered in June-November 2013. The target for the second round of administration is 100 residents and to date, 76 surveys have been completed.
- Two abstracts on BHCLB-related work were accepted by American Public Health Association (APHA) and presented at its annual meeting in November 2014. Results from the Resident Power Survey were presented at a roundtable and results from the collaboration assessment of BHCLB's Environmental Health Workgroup were presented as an oral presentation.
- During this reporting period, a Learning and Evaluation (L & E) Committee was re-convened quarterly to help guide evaluation activities. The committee is comprised of organizational representatives who are working on the target areas of BHCLB's Community Action Plan and, therefore, are most familiar with the initiative. As the L & E team, CHER is responsible for setting the agenda for the meeting and facilitating discussion.

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program 6
CHER has been selected to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program (CalGRIP) 6, an ongoing state-funded project to reduce gang activity among at-risk youth living in disadvantaged areas of Long Beach. CalGRIP 6 takes a comprehensive, or wraparound, approach to address the root causes of youth delinquency. At-risk youth are identified and referred to the CalGRIP 6 Program by LA County Probation, Long Beach Police Department, LA County of Department of Child and Family Services, or Long Beach Unified School District. As a CalGRIP 6 participant, youth can enroll in any of the three project services, which include leadership development, jobs training, and mentorship. In addition to providing services for at-risk youth, CalGRIP 6 has partnered with Transforming Life Inc. to provide the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), which offers parenting workshops on effective parenting skills to improve parent/child relationships.

The mixed methods evaluation will occur in three phases, beginning with an assessment of project activities and existing data, and development of data collection instruments. In the second phase, CHER will gather both quantitative and qualitative data through surveys and in-depth interviews with youth participants and partner agencies to determine the project's effect on changing participants' attitude about gang involvement and other delinquent behavior. The third and final phase will consist of data analysis, report-writing, and dissemination of findings to partner agencies. CHER will submit a final evaluation report in February 2016. As of the end of this reporting period the second phase of the project had begun with quantitative data collection (surveys) with CalGRIP youth participants.

Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program 7 (My Sister's Keeper)
In addition to CalGRIP 6, CHER has also been selected as the evaluator for the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program (CalGRIP) 7 grant, My Sister's Keeper. The goal of My Sister's Keeper is to prevent and decrease the number of girls becoming gang-affiliated or gang-victimized (human-trafficked) through mentorship, counseling, and leadership development. This 3-year grant utilizes an evidence-based, U.S. Department of Justice supported anti-gang strategy to serve at-risk girls age 10-24 years in the City of Long Beach. The four components of My Sister's Keeper include city-wide prevention, focused prevention, intervention, and suppression.

CHER will utilize a mixed methods approach to evaluation with staggered data collection activities that will take place during years 1 through 3 of program implementation. Quantitative data collection activities will include pre- and post-surveys, which will assess social support, mental health, self-efficacy, leadership skills, and academic performance. Pre- and post-tests will also be developed to assess knowledge of evidence-based practices among service providers who attend a training on human trafficking. To collect qualitative data, interviews with partner agencies will be conducted at the end of Year 1 to discuss successes and challenges to service delivery. Additionally, CHER staff will interview four gang-affiliated female youth to assess their perception of the services they received through My Sister's Keeper. CHER will submit an evaluation report at the end of each project year. This project was awarded in April 2015.

The Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity Program (BUILD)
CHER's Director, Dr. D'Anna, serves as the Behavioral Health Sciences Research and Training Coordinator for the NIH Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program. The BUILD Program is concerned with providing undergraduate research training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences for underserved populations. Dr. D'Anna assists in the coordination of student research colloquia and in the development of campus-wide systems that enhance research collaborations.

PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE 2014-2015 PERIOD

There were no projects that ended during this reporting period.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

"Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for Exercise for Better Health] (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PAR-14-321: Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (R21/R33), November 2014

The proposed project, "Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for Exercise for Better Health] was to be a collaborative effort between the CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), The Cambodian Family Community Center (TCFCC), and multiple Cambodian serving, community-based organizations in Santa Ana and Long Beach, CA. The proposed study would have conducted formative research to develop and test a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase physical activity (PA) among Cambodian older adults living (45 years of age and older) in two socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, namely Santa Ana and Long Beach. Drawing on Social Cognitive Theory, Transtheoretical Model, and Community-Based Participatory Research principles we proposed to develop a culturally and age-relevant PA individual- and socio-cultural (interpersonal/community)-level intervention based on best practices from the literature, and our study team's extensive experience working with Cambodians. This would be the first time these evidence-based approaches would be packaged into a PA intervention model that is tailored to the needs of older Cambodians. We hypothesized that, by drawing upon the strengths and resiliencies of community members, and by intervening on the problem of low PA on both individual and socio-cultural levels, we would achieve an innovative, low-cost intervention that would be sustainable by the community. The 5-year funding mechanism for this proposal consisted of an initial 2-year formative data collection and pilot testing phase (R21) with Cambodian residents in Santa Ana, followed by a three-year intervention testing phase (R33) with Cambodian residents in Long Beach. The overarching goals of the proposed study were to:

R21 Phase

1. Work with the community to jointly develop a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase PA among Cambodian older adults; and
2. Pilot test the intervention strategies identified in Aim 1 for efficacy and feasibility, among a community sample of Cambodian older adults living in Santa Ana, CA.

R33 Phase

1. Develop a tailored, multi-level PA intervention relevant for the new target population by integrating most promising strategies from the R21-phase, Long Beach formative findings, and Santa Ana intervention results;
2. Evaluate the generalizability and effectiveness of the intervention among a larger, more diverse sample of Cambodian older adults in Long Beach, CA; and
3. Assess the sustainability of the intervention within the community.

Although the proposal was scored during the review process, the score was not in the upper percentile as required for a funding award. Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez was listed as a co-investigator with Drs. Christine Galvan and Ayla Donlin named as physical activity advisors.

Testing Linked to CARE (TLC) among Minority Populations (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PA-13-313: Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15), September 2014

The proposed project, Testing and Linkage to Care (TLC) among Minority Populations is a reiteration of a previously submitted proposal to the California HIV/AIDS Research Program that was not funded (see previous annual report). As with the initial submission this proposed study was to be a collaborative effort between California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), the Comprehensive AIDS Resource and Education (C.A.R.E.) Program and Clinic at St. Mary Medical Center, and The Stigma Project (TSP). The overarching goals of the proposed study were to: increase HIV testing among Black young men (ages 18 to 30) who have sex with men (BLMSM) who are at high risk of being HIV-positive but who are unaware of their status; and link HIV-positive members of this group to medical care. In the formative phase, we proposed to use an initial set of focus groups and key informant interviews to investigate the feasibility and acceptability of the following: 1) Self-administered HIV testing and preferred methods for delivering testing kits to participants; in-person pick-up, delivery by peer health leaders (PHLs), or mail; and 2) The optimal use of pairs of HIV serodiscordant PHLs to deliver social support for regular HIV testing, and to link HIV-positive individuals to medical care. The formative research findings would inform the optimization of a CDC High Impact Prevention (HIP) intervention (ARTAS) to include the use of self-administered HIV-test kits and pairs of HIV serodiscordant PHLs to encourage regular, repeat (every 3 to 6 months) HIV testing (and linkage to care for the few positives who may be identified). The developed TLC intervention would then be pilot tested with BLMSM with randomization to one of three TLC conditions: (I) self-test using HIV home test kit with PHL support; (II) self-test using HIV home test kit with no PHL support; (III) clinic based testing at our collaborating community-based agency. The primary outcome measure for the study was self-reported completion of testing that included initial HIV testing behavior 1-month after baseline (primary) and repeat HIV testing at 4-months post baseline (secondary). Self-testing would also be assessed as to whether it is a more effective approach to increasing uptake in HIV testing among our study participants when compared to the standard clinic-based testing approach, and whether or not uptake in self-testing is increased when PHLs provide individualized support. We would also measure changes in levels of HIV stigma and explore whether this is related to testing behavior and varies with PHL support.
Drs. Kevin Malotte and T. Alex Washington were listed as co-investigators.

Evaluation Component for the Asian American, Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI): Developing Asian American Pacific Islander Students in Higher Education (DASH), Jane Conoley (PI), CSULB application to the U.S. Department of Education, May 2015:

The main goal of the proposed DASH project is to increase access to higher education and improve student success leading to on-time degree attainment by developing innovative learning opportunities and expanding upon program services specifically targeted to the varied learning needs of underserved/underrepresented AAPI students, especially Cambodian students. The DASH project would unite stakeholders to build on the university's culture of student success by empowering AAPI students to take full advantage of learning opportunities at CSULB. DASH addresses five major objectives: middle/high school outreach, academic support, personal and psychological support, leadership development through service learning/community partnerships, and faculty development. Proposed activities such as summer transitional courses, Beach Learning Community, mentoring programs, and freshmen and transfer student workshops (as outlined and discussed in the narrative) will create a community of students, faculty, staff, and community partners that promote AAPI student success. DASH creates a research-informed, collaborative support structure that includes targeted course work designed to integrate culturally relevant topics into the college experience, provide effective academic support services, increase access to personal and psychological support services, provide peer and faculty

mentoring, infuse community service opportunities into the curriculum, and expand faculty/staff development. A comprehensive evaluation component lead by the Center for Health Equity Research would provide continuous feedback for improvement.

Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) (Laura D'Anna, PI) submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in response to the funding announcement entitled, "Minority Serving Institutions: Partnerships with Community-based Organizations" (SP-15-004), May 2015

The proposed project will be conducted in partnership with St. Mary Medical Center, The LGBTQ Center Long Beach, and Behavioral Health Services (BHS), Inc., the second largest integrated substance abuse/mental health treatment provider in Southern California. The project will address an unmet need on the CSULB campus and in the Long Beach community to serve Black young men who have sex with men (YMSM) ages 18 to 24, at risk for substance use and HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) infection. CSULB and BHS will implement its Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources Project (PPOWER) to prevent and reduce substance use and provide community-level interventions, testing and linkage to care to prevent the transmission of HIV/HCV. To accomplish these goals, the specific activities of the project are designed to: 1) outreach to and engage young Black MSM on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 2) recruit young Black MSM and their sex/drug partners (300 total) on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 3) provide motivation, support and hope to young Black MSM through the dissemination of role model stories and prevention materials on the CSULB campus and in the community, as well as through a PPOWER website where participants can connect with each other, and engage through blogs and message boards related to the role model stories; 4) conduct screening for alcohol and drug use among young Black MSM, and provide brief intervention on reduction of substance use; 5) increase access to HIV and HCV testing; and 6) establish a continuum of care on and off campus to ensure linkage and quality care for those testing positive for HIV and/or HCV, at risk for other STIs, additional substance abuse treatment, or other supportive services.

The overall objectives of the PPOWER Project are to:

- Conduct comprehensive needs assessment/community identification (CID) of the young Black MSM at CSULB and the surrounding Long Beach community in the first 6 months of the project.
- Develop a strategic plan for the three-year project period, informed by the needs assessment and CID that will provide strategies and guidance for the project implementation and evaluation.
- Implement a community-level substance use and HIV/HCV prevention intervention, PPOWER, utilizing Health Education and Outreach Specialists and Peer Advocates for delivery to Black YMSM on the CSULB campus and in the Long Beach community.
- Conduct targeted outreach to young Black MSM and their social networks on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach communities through the dissemination of role model stories based on life experiences of the Peer Advocates and key informants.
- Enroll 300 young Black MSM and members of their social networks by the end of the 24 month recruitment period.
- Collect participant data through baseline and follow up assessment surveys to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.

Dr. T. Alex Washington from the School of Social Work is named as a Co-Investigator. This proposal was funded and will commence during the next reporting period (September 2015).

Evaluation Subcontract - Cambodian Survivor Support Project submitted by The Cambodian Family to the Office of Refugee Resettlement in response to the funding announcement "Direct Services for Survivors of Torture" (HHS-2015-ACF-ORR-ZT-0980), June 2015

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was selected to lead the evaluation efforts for a comprehensive Cambodian Survivor Support Project (CSSP) proposal that was submitted for funding to the Office of Refugee Resettlement by The Cambodian Family Community Center (TCFCC) in Santa Ana, California. CSSP will use a community health worker model using Community Health Ambassadors (CHA) and Case Managers to improve physical and mental well-being among torture survivors of the Khmer Rouge. The proposed performance evaluation plan will use a mixed methods approach to evaluate the project using best practices for evaluating community-based participatory work. The proposed evaluation plan will entail the following:

- Project Design and Formative Data Collection - Formative interviews with torture survivors and key informants will be conducted to identify feasible and sustainable methods to deliver and/or enhance the proposed program components.
- Process Evaluation - An online tracking system will be developed to collect process evaluation measures in three domains: Program implementation and enrollment (number of clients screened and enrolled, number of clients served by geographic area, etc.), service delivery (number of clients receiving services offered, level of client participation, etc.), and infrastructure support (number of staff trained, number of community trainings held, etc.) CHER will prepare quarterly reports to provide interim evaluations help inform what adjustments and/or improvements need to be made to service delivery.
- Program Outcome Evaluation - Qualitative and quantitative data will be collected to serve as complementary sources for evaluation. Client knowledge, satisfaction, and program outcomes (i.e. improvements in physical and mental health), will be measured using pre- and post-test questionnaire data at baseline and at 6, 12 and 24 months. Focus groups will be conducted in to obtain feedback from torture survivors and their families about their satisfaction with program components and increase in knowledge in trauma reducing health strategies. The data will be used to improve program activities and quality as needed. Findings from the program will be transmitted both to the scientific community through presentations at conferences and via journal articles, and to interested community members, torture survivors, community-based partner members of our team and their stakeholders.

A funding decision for this proposal is not expected to be announced until the second week of October.

LETTERS OF INTENT

In addition to the proposals listed above, letters of intent were submitted to private foundations requesting core operating support and the funding of pilot research projects. The foundations and their respective funding requests are listed in the table below.

FOUNDATION	PROPOSED PROJECT	DATE SUBMITTED
Dr. Jonathon Fielding	Center operating support	October 2014
California Wellness Foundation	Capacity- and skills-building program for community-based organizations	December 2014
BUILD Health Challenge	Accountable Health Community (AHC), a community collaborative to streamline access to mental health services	January 2015

CHER Website

A CHER website is located at www.csulb.edu/HealthEquity. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar and center-related news articles, staff bios, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and general information on health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the general reader. A resource module, containing data and research support tools is currently under development. The first component or that module, an in-house installation of the on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' was launched in 2015 and has been used in projects which require greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools or special handling of sensitive data. The CHER logo was created by our part-time graphic-designer who also contributed to the website's design and function.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

During the period under review, three undergraduate students from Health Science were involved in Center operations. Esther Minju Lee, Brandon Osborn, and Raiza Parada served as student interns during the spring 2015 semester. As interns, the students served as part-time research assistants, assisting Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, development of data collection instruments, preparation of IRB applications, participant outreach and recruitment, data collection (e.g. surveys), data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables, and general office duties as needed. All three students graduated in May 2015. Esther and Brandon continued working at the Center June and July 2015 as employed part-time research assistants. Esther was accepted into the Master's in Public Health program at CSU Fullerton and is a graduate research assistant on campus. Brandon is currently employed at CHER as a program assistant, and is preparing to apply to the PhD in Health Behavior Research Program at USC. He has stated that his experience at CHER influenced his decision to pursue a career in research and academia.

Dr. D'Anna and CHER staff collaborated with several CSULB faculty and staff members, on projects or in the preparation of proposals and/or papers during the year under review. Please see table below:

FACULTY/STAFF	DEPARTMENT
RIMI Project Collaborators	
Kevin Malotte	Health Science
Dennis Fisher	Psychology
Mara Bird	NLCR Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training
BUILD Collaborators	
Kevin Kelley	College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Kim Vu	Psychology
Chi Ah Chun	Psychology
Guido Urizar	Psychology
Art Zavala	Psychology

Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Proposal Development	
Kevin Malotte	Health Science
T. Alex Washington	School Of Social Work
Dennis Fisher	Psychology
Grace Reynolds	Health Care Administration
Kevin Kelley	College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Dustin Thoman	Psychology
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Christine Galvan	Kinesiology
Ayla Donlin	Kinesiology
Manuscript Development	
Marissa Hansen	School of Social Work
Other Projects	
Niloo Bavarian	Health Science

In addition, CHER staff collaborated with multiple community-based organizations on projects and/or proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Rene Castro	Social Enterprise
Jenny Chheang	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	BHCLB Hub
Proposal Development	
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
John Kirby	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Michael Buitron	St. Mary Medical Center C.A.R.E. Program
Ishmael Morales	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Chris Richey	The Stigma Project
Scott McPherson	The Stigma Project
Kelly Colopy	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Ana Carrichi Lopez	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

C. Accomplishments

This section includes a paper and presentations related to projects that have been prepared, presented or published by CHER staff from July, 2014 to June, 2015. In addition, there were a total of 3 RIMI-supported publications by CSULB faculty who received course release time through the project.

PUBLICATIONS

D'Anna LH, Warner L, Margolis AD, Korosteleva O, O'Donnell L, Rietmeijer CA, Klausner JD, **Malotte CK**, The Safe in the City Study Group. Consistency of condom use during receptive anal intercourse among women and men who have sex with men: Findings from the Safe in the City behavioral study. Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 42(7): 393-399, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS

Peong V, Murtaugh M, Rama S, **Canjura C, Cordola A, Uedoji J, Hoyt D'Anna L**. Involving community stakeholders in reducing health disparities among refugee and immigrant communities. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana; November 2014.

D'Anna L, Padilla S, Chheang J, Castro R, Jhawar M, **Malotte CK** and BHCLB Collaborative. Engaging the community in a learning framework: Highlights from a place-based Building Healthy Communities initiative. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana; November 2014.

Hoyt D'Anna L, Padilla S, Chheang J, Castro R, **Malotte CK**. Evaluating resident power as a driver of place-based social and policy change in California. Roundtable presented at the American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana; November 2014.

WORKSHOPS

Developing NIH Proposals" Faculty Workshop
With support from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), a one-day faculty workshop on "Developing NIH Proposals" focused on health disparities topics, was held on January 14, 2015. Drs. Dennis Fisher, Grace Reynolds, and Kevin Kelley served as facilitators, and presented on topics related to proposal development that included NIH funding mechanisms, development of specific aims, draft timelines, sample size and power calculations. Seventeen faculty members attended the workshop, and based on evaluation responses the majority (71.0%) "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that they felt "better prepared to develop a proposal" after attending the workshop, and 76.5% rated the workshop as "meeting overall expectations".

Categorical Data Analysis 2-Day Faculty Research Institute
Dr. Razia Azen, Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, facilitated a two day institute on categorical data analysis for 20 attendees that included CSULB faculty and staff. The topics covered included association between categorical variables, logistic regression with continuous and categorical predictors, and logistic regression for multi-category outcomes. Based on evaluation responses (n=11) the majority of respondents (90.9%) "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that they had a "better understanding of categorical data" after attending the workshop, and 72.8% were likely to "conduct categorical data analysis in the next 12 months".

Recognizing the value of these institutes for faculty, Simon Kim, AVP for Research and Sponsored Programs committed to supporting CHER staff to coordinate and deliver two of these institutes annually. Dr. D'Anna is working to connect this effort to the larger BUILD initiative.

EVENTS

RIMI Project: 5 Years of Progress towards Achieving Health Equity through Science, Community, and Collaboration. January 30, 2015

Held on January 30th, 2015 in the University Student Union Ballroom, this two-hour event highlighted major accomplishments made through the RIMI Project. Over 70 CSULB faculty, students, and administrators, and representatives from Long Beach community-based organizations attended. Keynote speaker, Dr. Tony Iton, Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at The California Endowment spoke on social justice and place-based community health. Presentations were also given by Dr. Alex Washington, School of Social Work Professor, and Ms. LeighAnna Hidalgo, PhD student in the UCLA Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies, who shared their experiences, and spoke about the positive influence their involvement in RIMI had on their career trajectory. RIMI advisory board members were also recognized at the event.

II. Unit Accounting

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS ACTIVE DURING REPORTING PERIOD

RIMI Admin and Shared Resources Cores
Fund G1146
Project Period 05/01/2014-04/30/2015
Award amount for this project period $538,127
Balance available as of 06/30/15 $255,017

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative-Long Beach
Fund G1848
Project Period 06/15/2014-06/30/2015
Award amount for this project period $140,332
Balance available as of 06/30/15 $5,302

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 6 and 7 Projects Evaluation – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G1827
Project Period 04/22/2015-04/21/2016
Award amount for this project period $65,000
Balance available as of 06/30/2015 $60,487

BUILD
Fund G1767
BUILD provides salary support (50%) to CHER Director, Laura D'Anna.

OTHER EXTERNAL FUNDS

Center for Health Equity Research, Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS028
Funds received during the review period $25,868
Funds expended during the review period $25,346
Balance available as of 07/01/2015 $27,798

GIFT

The California Endowment $1,400
RIMI Project: 5 Years of Progress towards Achieving Health Equity through Science, Community, and Collaboration, January 30, 2015
The California Endowment (TCE) provided a one-time gift of $1,400 to support facility and refreshment costs for the 2-hour event. TCE Senior Vice-President of Healthy Communities, Dr. Tony Iton, was the keynote speaker. In addition to recognizing achievements made through RIMI, the event also highlighted the work being conducted in Long Beach by TCE's Building Healthy Communities, Long Beach initiative.

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space. In addition, we share a conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. During this reporting period, CHER provided interim office space at no cost to BUILD support staff from January 2015-June 2015 while their permanent space was being remodeled.

The Center did not make acquisition of equipment or other tangible assets of a permanent or semi-permanent nature with a value in excess of $5,000 during this reporting period.

Center for Health Equity Research
Annual Report
July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Established in April 2013, the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 18 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. (With the establishment of CHER, CHCI returned to the direction of the Health Care Administration Department, but all CHCI projects were subsumed under CHER.) During these 18 years, The Center garnered approximately $16.5 million dollars in research funding with approximately $700,000 going to the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) in indirect funds. A sizable portion of this funding ($4.5 million) was from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project.

The newly constituted CHER was established through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Upon Dr. Malotte's retirement as Center director in August 2014, Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Director, took over the role of director and principal investigator on ongoing projects in addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center. Dr. Malotte continues to maintain a role on campus as Professor Emeritus in the Health Science Department and supports CHER by serving as a scientific advisor on proposals involving intervention development.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through 1 and 2 semester internships. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach. Currently, CHER serves as the lead evaluators for Building Health Communities, Long Beach, a large public health initiative funded by The California Endowment, as well as the evaluators for two community-based projects conducted by the City of Long Beach.

The CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. During the year under review, CHER staff members participated in the submission of several proposals. In addition to these proposals, the following pages also contain information about our on-going projects.

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) – CSULB

As noted in prior annual reports (for the Center for Health Care Innovation), one of the projects for which Center staff took a lead role is the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project, which was funded in September 2009. This over $4.5 million was an important stimulus to research on health disparities and minority health at CSULB. Initially a five-year project to end in April 2014, CHER received NIMHD approval for a third one-year no cost extension to conduct closeout activities and prepare a final report as required by the award. Thus, RIMI closeout activities will officially end on October 31, 2016.

The CSULB RIMI Project is an attempt to address gaps and challenges to conducting research at CSULB on minority health and health disparities, and training of faculty and students interested in these topics. The focus of its efforts is community and public health approaches to reducing health disparities. The RIMI Project consists of four Cores: the Administrative and Capacity Building Core, the Research Faculty Development Core, the Academic Enrichment Programs for Students Core, and the Shared Resources Core.

One of the requirements for receipt of this grant was that the University President or his/her designee serves as the principal investigator (PI) to insure that the project had administrative support. Since the award was made, there have been three changes to the role of PI to reflect changes in leadership at CSULB. When the proposal was submitted, the original PI was Provost Karen Gould. Dr. F. King Alexander took over as University President and the role of PI when Karen Gould left. Don Para, previously the Provost, replaced Dr. Alexander when he left the university. Dr. Jane Close Conoley is now the current CSULB President and PI of RIMI. Dr. Laura D'Anna, RIMI Assistant Project Director, took over the roles of overall Project Director and Core Director for two of the four cores when Dr. Malotte retired in August 2014, and she then assumed directorship of a third core when Dr. Dennis Fisher retired in August of 2015. A summary of the RIMI Project follows.

The Administrative and Capacity Building Core is responsible for management of the overall activities of the RIMI project, including coordination and integration of the other RIMI cores. The overall mission of the Administrative and Capacity Building Core is to ensure a robust infrastructure for conducting meaningful and competitive minority health and health disparities research. The Research Faculty Development Core is the center of efforts to increase faculty capacity to conduct minority health and health disparities research, and mentor students from disadvantaged communities to be the next generation of researchers in these areas. The Academic Enrichment Programs for Students Core is designed to support racial and ethnic minority students and others with an interest in health disparities research to become skilled behavioral science researchers whose work will contribute to the body of minority health and health disparities research. The Shared Research Resources Core supports the mission of the RIMI Project by enabling faculty and graduate student researchers to be more efficient and productive in conducting their research, disseminating the results of their work, and preparing proposals for additional funding.

RIMI Accomplishments 2009-2016

- 21 Faculty members from 14 departments participated as RIMI Faculty Fellows receiving release time and individual mentoring from experienced R1 researchers.
- RIMI Faculty Fellows reported RIMI support as integral to gaining tenure.
- RIMI Sub Project principal investigators secured $1 million in subsequent funding. Funding included:
    - TIM Project (NIH R21, Alex Washington, PI)
    - Trauma Recovery Center (Bita Ghafoori, PI)
- 20 graduate students (Health Scholars) from 11 departments participated in the Student Core RIMI Health Disparities Health Scholar Program.
- RIMI Health Scholars presented at 16 conferences.
    - RIMI Health Scholar, Brittney Mull, received 1st place for her poster presentation at a national health disparities conference.
- 6 RIMI Health Scholars entered doctoral programs and an additional Health Scholar is in medical school.
- 25 Peer-reviewed publications have been completed by RIMI –supported faculty and RIMI staff.

RIMI Faculty Fellows

Faculty	Area of Research	Department
Subproject Principal Investigators		
Alex Washington	*Men's Health: HIV Prevention*	Social Work
Bita Ghafoori	*Mental Health: Trauma*	Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling
Jeffrey Davis	*Adolescent Health: Risk Behaviors*	Sociology
Grace Reynolds	*Women's Health: HIV Risk Behavior*	Health Care Administration
Release Time Faculty Fellows		
Leakhena Nou	*Mental Health*	Sociology
Javier Lopez-Zetina	*Substance Use/Abuse and Risk Behavior*	Health Science
Clarissa Rojas	*Mental Health: Latina Women and Violence*	Chicano and Latino Studies
Janaki Santhiveeran	*Adolescent Health: Substance Use Risk*	Social Work
Guido Urizar	*Women's Health: Pregnancy and Stress*	Psychology
Joe Brocato	*Substance Abuse Treatment*	Social Work
Amy Cabrera Rasmussen	*Health Policy: Infant Mortality*	Political Science
Connie Estrada-Ireland	*Substance Abuse Treatment*	Criminal Justice
Jacqueline Lee	*Adolescent Health/Diabetes*	Family and Consumer Sciences
Jacqueline Mills	*Post Disaster Recovery*	Geography
Bianca Wilson	*Women's Health: Sexual Risk Behavior*	Psychology

Faculty	Area of Research	Department
Art Zavala	*Adolescent Health: Substance Use/Abuse Using Animal Models*	Psychology
Lina Kawar	*Women's Health: Breast Cancer*	Nursing
Carlos Piar	*Ethical Conduct in Research*	Religious Studies
Erlyana Erlyana	*Health Care Utilization*	Health Care Administration
Heather Rae-Espinoza	*Children's Health in Military Families*	Human Development
Catherine Cummins	*Sexual Health*	Nursing

RIMI Health Scholars

Name	Major	Ethnicity	Research Interests
Cohort 1 - 2010			
Kelly Cross	Health Science	Anglo	Physical activity and minority and underserved populations
Gabriel Robles*	Social Work	Mexican	Mental health, HIV/AIDS Immigrant and LGBT populations
Karla Rodriguez*	Marriage and Family Therapy	Mexican	Mental health disparities, Minority populations
Nina Smallwood	Psychology	Anglo	Minority health Obesity, health psychology
Cohort 2 - 2011			
Cindy De La Cruz*	Health Science	Salvadoran/ Puerto Rican	Minority health, chronic disease prevention/education, health care access
Brian Frederick	Criminal Justice	Anglo Italian	Adolescent health, LGBT and Incarcerated populations
Leigh Anna Hidalgo	Applied Anthropology	Salvadoran/Anglo	Minority health, socio-economic disparities
Beatriz Sosa-Prado	Health Science	Mexican	Latino health, health care access, Health education/promotion
Cohort 3 - 2012			
Kyla Adams	Health Science	Middle Eastern/Anglo	Multicultural health, health disparities, women's health, health policy and reform
Monica Aguilar*	Health Science	Belizean	Latino health, child and maternal health, mental health
Alma Cotero	Applied Anthropology	Mexican	Latino health, HIV prevention, LGBT population
Brittney Mull*	Health Science	African-American	Health disparities in dermatology, CBPR in underserved populations, nutrition & hypertension in African American communities
David Perez*	Applied Statistics	Mexican	Biostatistics, health disparities

Name	Major	Ethnicity	Research Interests
Cohort 4 - 2013			
Amber Cordola*	Health Science	Caucasian	Minority health, mental health, quality of care
Ivette Gutierrez	Political Science	Guatemalan/ Mexican	Health disparities in nutrition, food security, health policy
Madelyn Hong*	Marriage and Family Therapy	Caucasian	Mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, underserved communities
Jenny Sok	Public Administration	Cambodian	Minority health disparities, multi-cultural health promotion, tobacco use prevention, emergency response and preparedness
Cohort 5 - 2014			
Nenette Caceres	Gerontology	Latina	Alzheimer's disease, dementia, cognition, neuroscience
Erika Gonzalez	Sociology	Latina	Obesity, health disparities and the built environment, health literacy and race in the health care system
Joe Udeoji*	Health Science	African-American	Health disparities and built environment, HIV, and international health

** RIMI Health Scholar who completed their one-year research assistantship at CHER.*

HEALTH DISPARTIES RESEARCH SEMINARS

Presenter Seminar Topic	Number of Participants		
	Faculty	Students	Staff/ Other
2010			
Dr. Hector Balcazar, Dept. of Health Science, University of Texas at El Paso *On the new Health care era: What is the role of prevention for heart disease and risk factors- The community health worker model as a promising evidence-based practice in Hispanics*	10	47	11
Dr. Laura Bogart, Dept. of Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital *HIV conspiracy beliefs as barriers to HIV prevention and treatment*	8	96	2
Dr. Richard Jessor, Dept. of Psychology, University of Colorado at Boulder *Protective factors in adolescent risk behavior, health behavior, and development: theory and findings from the People's Republic of China and the U.S.*	12	70	4
Dr. Bita Ghafoori, Advance Studies In Education and Counseling, CSULB *Ethnic and racial disparities in posttraumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and depression in a diverse urban community sample*	3	21	2
Dr. Elizabeth Klonoff, Dept. of Psychology, San Diego State University *Can I have a pack of Marlboros? Observations on 15 years of youth access to tobacco research*	3	25	4

Presenter Seminar Topic	Number of Participants		
	Faculty	Students	Staff/ Other
2011			
Dr. Felipe Castro, Dept. of Psychology, University of Texas at El Paso *Cultural Factors in Drug Abuse Prevention with Latino Populations*	10	24	2
Dr. Dennis Fortenberry, Dept. of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, Indiana University *Minority Adolescents and Sexual Risk Behavior*	3	20	3
Dr. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, Preventive Medicine and Sociology, Keck School of Medicine University of Southern California *The Role of Culture in Eliminating Health Disparities at the Community Level*	4	77	4
2012			
Dr. Betty Ferrell, City of Hope *Palliative Care for Quality of Life in Lung Cancer*	6	18	2
Dr. Roshan Bastani, Fielding School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles *Intervention Research to Promote Health Equity: Examples, Recent Developments and Future Directions*	6	40	1
Dr. Nina Harawa, College of Medicine, Charles Drew University *Understanding Female Partners of Bisexual Men: Implications for HIV/STI Risk in Women of Color*	8	26	3
2013			
Dr. Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Fielding School of Public Health and Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles *How is Culture Operationalized for Practice and Research*?	3	30	5
Dr. April D. Thames, Psychiatry and Bio-behavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles *Ethnic/Racial Disparities in HIV/AIDS: Impact on Neurocognitive and Functional Outcomes*	8	23	3
Dr. Grace Reynolds, Health Care Administration, Associate Director, Center for Behavioral Research and Services, California State University, Long Beach *Two Approaches to Understanding HIV Risk in Minority Women*	1	79	5
2014			
Dr. Sally Steven, Executive Director and Distinguished Outreach Professor, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, Department of Gender and Women's Studies University of Arizona *Intergenerational Trauma: Family Loss Experiences of Substance-Using Native American, Latina, and Caucasian Mothers Living in Southwestern United States*	28	5	4

RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILIDNG MULTI-DAY INSTITUTES

Topic Facilitator	Number of Participants		
	Faculty	Students	Staff/ Other
2012			
Social Networks and Health and Analyzing Network Data: An Introduction with UCINET Dr. Thomas W. Valente *Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California*	7	7	1
MacKinnon's Magical Methods for Mediational Modeling Dr. David P. MacKinnon *Psychology Department, Arizona State University*	10	4	1
2013			
An Introduction to Modeling Longitudinal Data Dr. Robert Weiss *Fielding School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles*	8	4	1
An Introduction to Diary Method (Including an Introduction to M-Plus) Dr. Jean-Philippe Laurenceau *Department of Psychology, University of Delaware*	8	2	1
2014			
Generalized Linear Mixed Models Dr. Walther Stroup *Department of Statistics, University of Nebraska, Lincoln*	10	9	4
Latent Class Modeling and Analysis Dr. Bethany C. Bray *The Methodology Center, Pennsylvania State University*	8	2	1
2015			
Faculty Workshop for Developing NIH Proposals Focused on Health Disparities Topics* Dr. Dennis Fisher, Dr. Grace Reynolds, and Dr. Kevin Kelley California State University, Long Beach	15	0	2
Categorical Data Analysis Dr. Razia Azen *Educational Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*	17	5	4

**Co-sponsored by the CSULB Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.*

OTHER WORKSHOPS

Chocolate Cake Seminar Series on Statistical Applications
Olga Korosteleva (CSULB Math and Statistics) and Math Department Graduate Students

- Get Empowered by Power Analysis!
- Surviving Survival Analysis

- Non-poisonous Poisson Regression at Your Fingertips
- Be an Explorer with Exploratory Data Analysis
- Multinomial Logistic Regression Models, Your Turn!
- Binary Logistic and Probit Models at Work
- What are One-way and Two-Way Analyses of Variance?
- Having Fun with Linear Regression Models
- Binary and Multinomial Logistic Regressions at Work

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation
Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L & E) Team for BHCLB. As the L & E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys of BHCLB leadership, selected grantees, and adult and youth residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; work with BHCLB staff and Steering Committee members to analyze and interpret findings; and prepare an annual evaluation report. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participated in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- Administration of cross-site data collection tools: CHER staff administered data collection tools that were developed by TCE to be used across all 14 BHC sites. One such tool is the Collaboration Assessment Tool, which was developed to measure how well individuals and organizations collaborating in a group connected with BHC are working together, as assessed by members of the group themselves. The tool is available in three formats: 1) long survey, 2) short survey + focus group, 3) focus group only. The BHCLB Environmental Health Workgroup completed the assessment during this reporting period and chose the long survey option. Results of the assessment were shared with the Environmental Health Workgroup during a facilitated debrief on June 16, 2016 and helped to inform the group's work moving forward as it prepares to launch a campaign to address environmental pollution in Central/West Long Beach. CHER staff assisted in the completion and submission of the Policy Advocacy Tool on January 31, 2016. The tool was developed by TCE to document advocacy efforts annually in all 14 BHC sites. Systems change is a major focus of both the larger BHC initiative and of local BHCLB efforts, and the tool allows each site to track campaign work, including level of BHCLB involvement and stage of the campaign.
  CHER staff, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, and with input from community partners and residents, developed the Resident Power Survey to measure level of engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making. The survey was administered in 2013 and 77 surveys were completed by residents involved with BHCLB, either directly as volunteers or indirectly through a partner organization. Following the first wave of data collection, the Resident Power Survey was revised to shorten survey length by removing questions that did not yield useful data. Additionally, CHER staff decided to limit the survey to only residents over the age of 18, as BHCLB-affiliated youth are already involved in a separate and similar study conducted by the University of Southern California. The second wave of data collection took place between July and November 2015 with

significant changes to the method of data collection to increase response rate. Due to challenges with getting residents to complete the survey online during the first wave of data collection, CHER's Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation and member of the BHCLB L & E team, Dr. Parichart Sabado, attended BHCLB partner meetings to administer the survey in group setting in 2015. While online survey completion minimized data entry, a key lesson learned from 2013 was the preference of residents to take surveys in a group setting, particularly among monolingual residents, who felt more comfortable completing the survey with their peers. Administering the survey during a partner meeting and at a location that was familiar to residents reduced their fear and mistrust of researchers. Changes to the survey itself and to the method of data collection led to a higher number of completed surveys than originally anticipated. Overall, a total of 211 surveys were completed in 2015, far surpassing the goal of 100. Data analysis is currently underway and once completed, results will be shared back with BHCLB partners and residents who were involved with data collection, as well as with the larger BHCLB collaborative to help inform resident engagement. Additionally, given the spotlight on place-based work as a means to affect community-level health outcomes within the field of public health, CHER's work related to measuring resident power has been featured at the past three American Public Health Association Annual Meetings. An abstract on residents' perception of influence on government decision-making -was accepted by American Public Health Association (APHA) and will be presented at its annual meeting in November 2017 in Denver, Colorado as an oral presentation. During this reporting period, 14 key stakeholder interviews were conducted with community leaders to learn about their perspective of BHCLB's impact on its focus area (i.e., Central/West Long Beach). Findings from the interviews will allow BHCLB to refine its strategies in order to reach the target changes listed in its community action plan.

Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities (SABHC)

Due to CHER's involvement with Building Healthy Communities Long Beach and TCE's satisfaction with the Center's performance as the L & E team, it has been invited to carry out learning and evaluation activities for Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities (SABHC). Because of the Center's location and to ensure that the evaluation of SABHC includes local context and community voice, CHER is working with a consultant, Dr. Jacqueline Tran, who can attend partner meetings and events and to administer data collection tools that have been developed by TCE. Soon after Dr. Tran began working with SABHC, it was apparent that partner organizations needed assistance with assessing the impact of their work. As such, Dr. Tran was asked to work with SABHC workgroups (Equity 4 All, Restorative Justice in Neighborhoods, Restorative Justice in Schools, and Health 4 All) to identify indicators that will help to assess each group's impact in their respective target areas. CHER staff meets with Dr. Tran regularly for updates and to provide input and guidance on evaluation activities. These meetings also include the TCE Program Manager for SABHC, Sandy Chiang, and the TCE Program Associate, Juan Reynoso.

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment

Also due to its involvement with BHCLB, CHER was invited to conduct a process evaluation of a collaborative effort to develop a new message on the importance of investing in youth of color. This project is funded by The California Endowment and involves five Southern California BHC sites that include Boyle Heights, City Heights-San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, South Los Angeles, and Long Beach. The purpose of this project is to reframe the dominant message portrayed in the mainstream media that depicts youth of color as perpetrators of violence. The new message will focus on de-criminalizing youth of color in order to shift resources from investing in policing and the criminal justice system to education and employment opportunities. Process evaluation activities include attendance at project-related meetings and events to document participation interaction and quantitative (i.e., surveys) and qualitative (i.e., interviews) data collection from members of the collaborative.

Developing and Communicating Neighborhood Knowledge: Application to Counteracting Gentrification and Displacement
CHER has been invited by Dr. Paul Ong at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs to participate in the development of an evaluation plan to assess organizational progress toward addressing gentrification and displacement in five BHC sites in Southern California. CHER was invited to participate in this project due to its role as the Learning & Evaluation team for BHCLB and its work with BHCLB community partners to track gentrification and displacement in Long Beach. Through in-person and telephone meetings, CHER will provide guidance and expertise on issues surrounding gentrification and displacement at the local level to help inform the development of a broader evaluation plan that will assess efforts toward addressing gentrification and displacement across all five BHC sites. CHER staff will also meet community partners involved with anti-gentrification and anti-displacement efforts to ensure that their voices are included in the project.

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 6 Project
CHER was selected to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 6 Project, a state-funded project to reduce gang activity among at-risk youth in disadvantaged areas of Long Beach. CalGRIP 6 employed a comprehensive, or wraparound, approach to address the root causes of youth delinquency. At-risk youth were identified and referred to the CalGRIP 6 Project by LA County Probation, Long Beach Police Department, LA County of Department of Child and Family Services, or Long Beach Unified School District. As a CalGRIP 6 participant, youth could enroll in any of the three project services, which included leadership development, jobs training, and mentorship. In addition to providing services for at-risk youth, CalGRIP 6 partnered with Transforming Life Inc. to provide the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), which offered parenting workshops on effective parenting skills to improve parent/child relationships.

The mixed methods evaluation occurred in three phases beginning with an assessment of project activities and existing data, and development of data collection instruments. In the second phase, CHER gathered both quantitative and qualitative data through surveys and in-depth interviews with youth participants and partner agencies to determine the project's effect on changing participants' attitude about gang involvement and other delinquent behavior. The third and final phase consisted of data analysis, report-writing, and dissemination of findings to partner agencies. CHER submitted a final evaluation report in April 2016.

Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project - *My Sister's Keeper*
In addition to CalGRIP 6, CHER has also been selected as the evaluator for the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project or *My Sister's Keeper*. The goal of *My Sister's Keeper* is to prevent and decrease the number of girls becoming gang-affiliated or gang-victimized (e.g., human-trafficked) through mentorship, counseling, and leadership development. This 3-year grant utilizes an evidence-based, U.S. Department of Justice supported anti-gang strategy to serve at-risk girls age 10-24 years in the City of Long Beach. The four components of *My Sister's Keeper* include city-wide prevention, focused prevention, intervention, and suppression.

CHER utilizes a mixed methods approach to evaluation with staggered data collection activities that will take place during years 1 through 3 of project implementation. Quantitative data collection activities will include pre- and post-surveys, which assess social support, mental health, self-efficacy, leadership skills, and academic performance among members of the Female Leadership Academy at middle and high schools in Long Beach. To collect qualitative data, CHER staff conducted interviews with partner agencies in Year 1 to learn about successes and challenges to service delivery. Interviews with human

trafficking survivors will be conducted in Year 2 to learn about service utilization, including barriers and ways to improve existing services. CHER will submit an evaluation report at the end of each project year.

YESS - Youth Exploitation Safety Symposium

The Youth Exploitation Safety Symposium (YESS) was an event organized by the Human Trafficking Task Force, of which the CalGRIP 7 Project is a member, to increase city-wide awareness of human trafficking in Long Beach. Approximately 250 students, parents, and social service providers attended YESS on February 20, 2016 at Long Beach City College. A total of 14 workshops were held to increase the community's awareness of human trafficking and ways to prevent youth exploitation. These workshops included Cyber Safety, Healthy Relationships: It Starts with You, and How Pornography is Shaping an Entire Generation, among others. As part of the evaluation of CalGRIP 7, CHER staff attended the event and distributed evaluation forms to assess satisfaction with the workshops and of the event overall. A total of 181 evaluation forms were completed and the majority of attendees indicated high satisfaction. Among workshop attendees, between 84.6% and 100% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "The workshop improved my understanding of the topic that was presented." Between 71.5% and 100% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "The workshop was effective in helping me understand ways to improve the safety and well-being of the community" and with the statement "I am satisfied with the information presented by the speaker(s)." Almost 94% of YESS attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the symposium met their expectations and 95.8% agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend the symposium to others.

All In Campaign

CHER serves as the evaluation team for the All In Campaign, a pilot project to address chronic truancy and chronic absenteeism at four schools in the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD). The campaign is a collaborative effort between the City of Long Beach Department of Development Services and LBUSD and included community outreach to increase awareness of the importance of regular school attendance, parent workshops, and on-campus activities to help students and parents make school attendance a priority. The campaign is currently implemented at Addams Elementary, Hamilton Middle School, Franklin Middle School, and Jefferson Middle School. Evaluation activities include pre- and post-tests for parent workshop attendees, student surveys for students who meet with school staff and/or social workers due to school attendance, and interviews with key stakeholders in the campaign, including school staff, Long Beach Police Department, the City Prosecutor, social workers, community partners, parents, and students. The project grant for this campaign will end in December 2016 and the final evaluation report is due in January 2017.

Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) (Laura D'Anna, PI) submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in response to the funding announcement entitled, "Minority Serving Institutions: Partnerships with Community-based Organizations" (SP-15-004)

The Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources Project (PPOWER) project is conducted in partnership with St. Mary Medical Center, The LGBTQ Center Long Beach, and Behavioral Health Services (BHS), Inc., the second largest integrated substance abuse/mental health treatment provider in Southern California. The project will address an unmet need on the CSULB campus and in the Long Beach community to serve Black young men who have sex with men (YMSM) ages 18 to 24, at risk for substance use and HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) infection. Through PPOWER, CSULB and BHS aim to prevent and reduce substance use and provide community-level interventions, testing and linkage to care to prevent the transmission of HIV/HCV. To accomplish these goals, the specific activities of the project are designed to: 1) outreach to and engage young Black MSM on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 2) recruit young Black MSM and their sex/drug partners (300 total) on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 3) provide motivation, support

and hope to young Black MSM through the dissemination of role model stories and prevention materials on the CSULB campus and in the community, as well as through a PPOWER website where participants can connect with each other, and engage through blogs and message boards related to the role model stories; 4) conduct screening for alcohol and drug use among young Black MSM, and provide brief intervention on reduction of substance use; 5) increase access to HIV and HCV testing; and 6) establish a continuum of care on and off campus to ensure linkage and quality care for those testing positive for HIV and/or HCV, at risk for other STIs, additional substance abuse treatment, or other supportive services. Dr. T. Alex Washington from the School of Social Work is as a Co-Investigator with Dr. Kevin Malotte, Professor Emeritus from Health Science and former CHER Director, serving as our Intervention Specialist.

The PPOWER Project is expected to launch the intervention testing phase of the project in early October having completed formative data collection activities. The following is a summary of activities that were completed during the period for this report.

- Upon notification of funding, CHER staff began developing the necessary CSULB IRB protocols to be able to conduct recruitment for, and engage in, the formative data collection activities necessary for completing the needs assessment and strategic planning process as proposed in CHER's application to SAMHSA. The IRB protocol was approved on November 9, 2015.
- A PPOWER Community Advisory Group was created and is comprised of the PPOWER key staff (Project Director, Co-Director, Coordinator, Intervention Specialist, and Evaluation and Data Manager), community-based organizations that deliver HIV/HCV testing and substance abuse treatment services within the surrounding Long Beach community, and the CSULB Student Health, Multicultural, and LGBT Resource Centers on campus. The Community Advisory Group has convened three times during this reporting period in October 2015, March and May 2016.
- A PPOWER Leadership Team was established which includes PPOWER staff, and campus and community partners. The Leadership Team meets bi-monthly to discuss strategies, project updates and activities.
- Formative focus groups and interviews were conducted members of the target population to gather information about how best to reach young men with HIV/HCV testing and substance use reduction messages. A focus group was held on campus with 9 young MSM of mixed races and ethnicities, including Black young men. Two focus groups were held in the community with a total of 11 young Black men who receive services from the lead community-based partner, Behavioral Health Services. Additionally, two key informant interviews were conducted with CSULB students to date.
- Key informant interviews were conducted with seven members of the Community Advisory Group.
- Three in-depth interviews were conducted with previous focus group and interview participants who agreed to provide additional detailed information about their HIV/HCV testing and substance use behavior. Eight role model stories have been developed from these interviews.
- All focus groups and interviews were recorded, transcribed and analyzed using a Grounded Theory approach. Findings from this formative data were submitted in an abstract that was subsequently accepted as a poster presentation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National STD Prevention Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in September 2016.
- Jaelen Owens, a Family Life Education undergraduate student, was hired in March 2016 to serve as the Health Educator/Outreach Specialist for the campus component of the project. Additionally, a Health Educator/Outreach Specialist was hired by the lead community-based partner (BHS, Inc.) in January 2016.
- One of the original developers of the individual-level intervention that PPOWER will use to reduce risk for substance use (BASICS), provided a 2-day training for PPOWER staff and community partners to become certified to deliver the one-on-one, brief two-session intervention,

followed by a 1-day train-the-trainer session. One of the training participants was a staff member from the CSULB Student Health Resource Center.

- Work was begun on the BASICS adaptation for PPOWER. A draft protocol was presented to PPOWER staff and community collaborators and was revised based on their feedback.

The Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity Program (BUILD)

During the reporting period, CHER's Director, Dr. D'Anna, served as the Behavioral Health Sciences Research and Training Coordinator for the NIH Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program. The BUILD Program provides undergraduate research training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences for underserved populations. As the former Behavioral Health Sciences Research and Training Coordinator, Dr. D'Anna assisted in the coordination of student research colloquia and in the development of campus-wide systems that enhance research collaborations. CHER's involvement in BUILD will continue in the coming year as CHER's Data Manager will continue to serve as a member of the BUILD Team providing expertise to create a database tool that will allow incoming students to link with research mentors.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Funded Proposals

Cambodian Wellness Project (Evaluation Subcontract for the Cambodian Association of America), submitted to the California Department of Public Health in response to the California Reducing Disparities Project (Phase 2), Asian Pacific Islander Implementation Pilot Project, November 2015

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research was invited to lead the evaluation efforts for a Cambodian Wellness Project (CWP), a mental health prevention and intervention project proposed by The Cambodian Association of America (CAA) under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Phase 2 Asian Pacific Islander Implementation Pilot Project funded by the California Department of Public Health. The CWP is a community-centered and strength-based Prevention and Early Intervention Community Defined Evidence Project (CCSB-PEI CDEP) that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and interventions centered on shifting cultural norms pertaining to mental illness for the purpose of preventing and improving mental health among Cambodians. The project will consist of programming at five sites in the greater Long Beach and Santa Ana areas, and will include: 1) PEI community outreach and engagement services; 2) PEI educational workshops with a focus on mental wellness promotion, suicide prevention, and healthy living skills practices; 3) case management/navigation, and engagement/referral services for health and mental health treatment services; and, 4) peer and family social support groups. The support groups will harness the power of cultural and religious practices of importance to the Cambodian community such as meditation, prayer, and other Buddhist rituals strongly associated with the healing process. Specific topics will include spirituality and wellness; recreation and physical activities; and, arts, crafts, music and dance therapy.

CHER will employ a mixed methods approach to assess the effectiveness of the CWP in promoting mental health and alleviating symptoms of existing mental illness among project participants. Evaluation activities include both quantitative and qualitative data collection during each year of the project. Initial evaluation activities will include finalizing data collection tools, conducting pilot tests to ensure comprehension of survey items, and applying for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to carry out the evaluation of the CWP. During the project implementation phase the CHER evaluation team will use a quasi-experimental design to administer pre- and post-tests to a subset of participants enrolled

in the CWP. A total of 450 participants will complete a baseline survey (75 participants in Years 1 and 4 and 150 participants in Years 2 and 3), as well as complete follow up assessments at 3-months, 6-months and 12-months. Throughout the duration of the project process evaluation measures will collected to inform the CAA project team on its implementation of the CWP. Data will be collected on the number and demographics of participants who are engaged in: 1) PEI educational workshops, 2) PEI case management/navigation/engagement and referral services, and 3) peer/family/social support groups. Process monitoring data will assist the project team in its review of the number of participants served, the services delivered, and the resources used for service delivery. All data will be entered into a project database, which will be managed by CHER. Results from evaluation activities will be used to inform service delivery and assess project impact, including, but not limited to, reduced mental health stigma, increased knowledge of mental illness, increased access to and utilization of mental health services, and improved physical and mental health. Updates to the evaluation plan will be submitted by the end of each grant year and will incorporate learning and insights from the previous year.

Notification was received from the California Department of Public Health that this proposal was funded and to begin in January 2017.

CHER Institute (Laura D'Anna – Principal Investigator), submitted to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PAR-14-170: Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT)

The goal of the proposed Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Developing a well-trained workforce interested in, and prepared for, conducting health equity research is an important national priority. The CHER Institute will feature (1) the CHER Institute Training Program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience for early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing a NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held 4-6 times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. The CHER Institute Training Program will be held once per year for 15 faculty members who are interested in conducting health equity research targeting minority populations. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. will be given priority, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars will be administered to MSI campuses and affiliated networks.
The specific aims of the CHER Institute are to:

- Specific Aim 1: Increase the number of early career faculty members (with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institution Faculty) who are better prepared to become NIH principal investigators in the field of community-based health equity research.
- Specific Aim 2: Increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants.

UNFUNDED PROPOSALS

"Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for Exercise for Better Health] (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PAR-14-321: Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity

(R21/R33), July 2015. This was a resubmission of the proposal which was first submitted in November 2014.

The proposed project, "Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for *Exercise for Better Health*] was to be a collaborative effort between the CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), The Cambodian Family Community Center (TCFCC), California State University, Fullerton Center for Successful Aging and multiple Cambodian serving, community-based organizations in Santa Ana and Long Beach, CA. The proposed study would have conducted formative research to develop and test a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase physical activity (PA) among Cambodian older adults living (45 years of age and older) in two socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, namely Santa Ana and Long Beach.

Drawing on Social Cognitive Theory, Transtheoretical Model, and Community-Based Participatory Research principles, we proposed to develop a culturally and age-relevant PA individual- and socio-cultural (interpersonal/community)-level intervention based on best practices from the literature, and our study team's extensive experience working with Cambodians. This would be the first time these evidence-based approaches would be packaged into a PA intervention model that is tailored to the needs of older Cambodians. We hypothesized that, by drawing upon the strengths and resiliencies of community members, and by intervening on the problem of low PA on both individual and socio-cultural levels, we would achieve an innovative, low-cost intervention that would be sustainable by the community. The 5-year funding mechanism for this proposal consisted of an initial 2-year formative data collection and pilot testing phase (R21) with Cambodian residents in Santa Ana, followed by a three-year intervention testing phase (R33) with Cambodian residents in Long Beach. The overarching goals of the study were to:

R21 Phase

1. Work with the community to jointly develop a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase PA among Cambodian older adults; and
2. Pilot test the intervention strategies identified in Aim 1 for efficacy and feasibility, among a community sample of Cambodian older adults living in Santa Ana, CA.

R33 Phase

1. Develop a tailored, multi-level PA intervention relevant for the new target population by integrating most promising strategies from the R21-phase, Long Beach formative findings, and Santa Ana intervention results;
2. Evaluate the generalizability and effectiveness of the intervention among a larger, more diverse sample of Cambodian older adults in Long Beach, CA; and
3. Assess the sustainability of the intervention within the community.

As with the original submission this proposal was scored during the review process; however, the score was not in the upper percentile as required for a funding award. Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez, from the Department of Health Science, was listed as a co-investigator. Dr. Barbara Ainsworth, Professor at Arizona University, and Dr. Debra Rose, Director of the CSUF Center for Successful Aging, were listed as a consultant and subcontract, respectively, based on their expertise in the development and implementation of physical activity interventions for older adults. This proposal is currently in its second revision to be submitted as a "new" submission in October 2016.

City of Long Beach Promise Zone Application, Data and Evaluation Team: Submitted to the Promise Zone Initiative, February 2016

CHER is a member of a cross-disciplinary team from CSULB that was included as the data and evaluation team by City of Long Beach in their application for national Promise Zone designation under President Obama's Promise Zone Initiative. The initiative aims to help revitalize high-poverty

communities by 1) increasing economic activity/ promoting and creating jobs, 2) improving educational opportunities, 3) reducing serious and violent crime, 4) improving health outcomes, and 5) improving housing. Through the Promise Zone designation, communities work directly with federal, state and local agencies to give local leaders proven tools to improve the quality of life in highly vulnerable neighborhoods. The data and evaluation team would be responsible for leading data sharing, management, analysis, and reporting processes to support continuous improvement and outcome evaluation efforts. Other members of the cross-disciplinary team at CSULB include the Center for Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness (CEEE); the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA); the School of Criminology Criminal Justice and Emergency Management (CCJEM); and the School of Social Work. Representatives from each unit would serve on an evaluation advisory committee to coordinate evaluation activities. The CSULB team would perform the following three main functions to ensure rigorous and consistent collection, analysis, and use of data across multiple programmatic levels.

1. Work with the city and partners to finalize key indicators/common measures related to each Promise Zone (PZ) goal area (Educational Opportunities Improvement, Reduction in Crime, Improvement in Health, and Increased Economic Activity/Job Creation), and track and revisit these indicators on an ongoing basis to ensure robust assessment of impact.
2. The CSULB team would serve as the main point of contact for Promise Zone partners who wish to engage CSULB for program-specific evaluations. The CSULB team's role may include working with partners to design and conduct these evaluations or connecting partners with others with more appropriate expertise.
3. Related to the above roles, the CSULB team would employ both content and methodological experts to help Promise Zone leaders and partners build evaluation and data use capacity. This support would include topics such as how to track data for use in this and other evaluations, use of spatial analysis and mapping tools, or interpreting data for program improvement.

Evaluation Component for the Asian American, Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI): Developing Asian American Pacific Islander Students in Higher Education (DASH), Jane Conoley (PI), CSULB application to the U.S. Department of Education, April 2016

The proposed Developing AAPI Students in Higher Education (DASH) program would have united stakeholders in AAPI education to build in the university's culture of student success by empowering AAPI students to take full advantage of learning opportunities at CSULB. The project was designed to create a community of students, faculty, and staff that promotes student success, especially for high-need AAPI students. DASH proposed to create a research-informed, collaborative support structure that includes targeted course work designed to integrate students into the college experience, academic support services, personal and psychological support services, peer and faculty/staff mentoring, community service opportunities, and organizational capacity-building through faculty and staff development. Proposed evaluation activities were to be conducted between CHER and the Center for Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness (CEEE), and included an annual survey of academic support participants, a survey of participants in specific program component, focus groups of participants, review of existing data, review of program-related documents, and an interview with DASH Project Director.

Santa Ana Youth Achievement Program (SAYAP) Evaluation Subcontract, Proposal submitted by The Cambodian Family Community Center to the Office of Minority Health in response to funding announcement MP-CPI-16-002 entitled "Partnerships Active in Communities to Address Childhood Trauma (PAC-ACT)", April 2016

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research was selected to lead the evaluation efforts for the Santa Ana Youth Achievement Program (SAYAP) that was submitted for funding to the Office of Minority

Health (OMH) by The Cambodian Family Community Center (TCFCC) in Santa Ana, California. SAYAP was intended to test the effectiveness of a community-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate intervention program in reducing unhealthy, risk-taking behaviors associated with childhood trauma among Latino and Cambodian youth ages 10-13 years living in Santa Ana. SAYAP expected to result in: (1) reduction in high risk behaviors due to childhood trauma, (2) strengthening of protective/resiliency factors, (3) development of sustainable basic life skills, needed to deal with the demands of everyday life, and (4) development of skills and behaviors that lead to healthier and positive lifestyle choices. The five-year project proposed five integrated activities and wrap-around services: (1) Academic Institute seeks to improve school achievement; (2) Leadership Institute promotes self-empowerment through developing sustainable basic life skills; (3) Health Institute promotes healthy behaviors; (4) Career Institute aims to increase knowledge of education and work opportunities while promoting good decision making through internship/volunteer opportunities; (5) Mentorship Institute enhances youth program with a mentoring component; (6) Wrap-Around Services aims to increase parent and youth access to resources, and effective coordination of services among providers.
The proposed evaluation plan used a mixed methods approach to evaluate the project and was developed in accordance with the performance measures described in the OMH Community Partnerships Active in Communities to Address Childhood Trauma (PAC-ACT) funding opportunity announcement, and in keeping with best practices for evaluating community-based participatory work.

The proposed evaluation plan entailed the following:

- Initial Evaluation Activities: Initial activities included finalizing data collection tools, conducting pilot tests to ensure comprehension of survey items, and IRB approval.
- Program Outcome Evaluation: Qualitative and quantitative data collected would serve as complementary sources for evaluation. Baseline assessments and follow-up surveys would be administered with SAYAP youth participants and with members of a comparison group. Academic performance measures would be collected on each SAYAP participant and comparison group member as well. In-depth interviews with five SAYAP participants would be conducted each year of the program.
- Implementation Evaluation: An implementation evaluation plan included initial, midpoint, and final assessments of individual and community activities. A tracking system will be developed to collect process evaluation measures such as program enrollment (number of youth enrolled), and service delivery (number of youth receiving services offered, level of participation, etc.). The CHER Evaluation Team would meet monthly to review and compile program data, and share these data at meetings with TCFCC staff, and partner agencies to discuss successes and challenges and assist the partnership in determining if adjustments to participant recruitment and/or service delivery are needed.

CHER Website

A CHER website is located at www.csulb.edu/HealthEquity. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar and center-related news articles, staff bios, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and general information on health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the general reader. A resource module, containing data and research support tools is currently under development. The first component or that module, an in-house installation of the on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey', was launched in 2015 and has been used in projects which require greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools or special handling of sensitive data. The CHER logo was created by our part-time graphic-designer who also contributed to the website's design and function.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

During the period under review, three undergraduate students from Health Care Administration were involved in Center operations, as well as a graduate student and an undergraduate student from Health Science. Yestie Salazar, Cristina Limon and Annie Nak, from HCA, and Melissa Shimizu and Jenny Kim served as student interns during the 2015-2016 academic year. As interns, the students served as part-time research assistants, assisting Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, development of data collection instruments, preparation of IRB applications, participant outreach and recruitment, data collection (e.g. surveys), data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports, and general office duties as needed. All five students graduated in May 2016. Brandon Osborn, a spring 2015student intern, was hired as a Program Assistant upon his graduation in May 2015 (Health Science) and worked part-time at CHER during this reporting period assisting CHER staff with evaluation activities as well as serving as a support person for the student interns. In May 2016, Brandon was accepted into the UC Irvine joint MPH/DrPH program. Three new students from Health Science began a three-month summer internship in June 2016. Jorge Navarro and Asha Moore are undergraduate students in their senior year with an emphasis in Community Health Education, and Stephanie Sumstine is a graduate student in her last year of the MPH program.

COLLABORATIONS

Dr. D'Anna and CHER staff collaborated with several CSULB faculty and staff members, on projects or in the preparation of proposals and/or papers during the year under review. Please see table below:

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
RIMI Project Collaborators	
Dennis Fisher	Psychology
Mara Bird	NLCR Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training
BUILD Collaborators	
Kevin Kelley	Formerly with the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and now at Chico State
Paul Buonara	Chemistry and Biochemistry
Kim Vu	Psychology
Chi Ah Chun	Psychology
Guido Urizar	Psychology
Art Zavala	Psychology
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
PPOWER Project Collaborators	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
C. Kevin Malotte	Health Science
Jon Higgins	Office of Multicultural Affairs
Brandon Gamble	Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling
Heidi Girling	Student Health Services
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services
Alejandro Muro	LGBT Resource Center
Proposal Development	
C. Kevin Malotte	Health Science
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Dennis Fisher	Psychology
Grace Reynolds	Health Care Administration
Kevin Kelley	College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Dustin Thoman	Psychology
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Don Haviland	Educational Leadership
Avery Olson	Educational Leadership
Manuscript Development	
Marissa Hansen	School of Social Work
Other Projects	
Niloo Bavarian	Health Science

The table below lists CSULB faculty and faculty from other academic institutions who have agreed to participate as Faculty Mentors for the CHER Institute/IPERT project that was recently awarded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

IPERT Institute Faculty	**Institution**
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, Ph.D., MPH Director, Center for Health Equity in the Americas Co-Director, Global Health Track	University of Southern California
Roshan Bastani, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management Co-Director, Center to Eliminate Health Disparities	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, Dr.PH Dean and Professor, School of Public Health	Jackson State University, Mississippi
Dennis Fortenberry, M.D., M.S. Professor of Pediatrics	Indiana University School of Medicine

IPERT Institute Faculty	Institution
Chief, Section of Adolescent Medicine	
Matthew Mutchler, Ph.D. Director and Professor, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Fernando Wagner, D.Sc., MPH Professor and Director, Prevention Sciences Research Center	Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland
C. Kevin Malotte Professor Emeritus of Health Science	California State University, Long Beach
Laura D'Anna Assistant Professor, Health Science	California State University, Long Beach
Thomas Alex Washington Professor, School of Social Work	California State University, Long Beach

In addition, CHER staff collaborated with multiple community-based organizations on projects and/or proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Rene Castro	Social Enterprise
Jenny Chheang	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	BHCLB Hub
PPOWER Collaborators	
John Kirby	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Morales	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Michael Buitron	St. Mary Medical Center C.A.R.E. Program
Kerry Brown	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Proposal Development	
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Tracy Colunga	City of Long Beach Development Services, Neighborhood Service Bureau
Kelly Colopy	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Ana Carrichi Lopez	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

C. Accomplishments

This section includes a paper and presentations related to projects that have been prepared, presented or published by CHER staff from July, 2015 to June, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

D'Anna LH, Warner L, Margolis AD, Korosteleva O, O'Donnell L, Rietmeijer CA, Klausner JD, **Malotte CK**, The Safe in the City Study Group. Consistency of condom use during receptive anal intercourse among women and men who have sex with men: Findings from the Safe in the City behavioral study. Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 42(7): 393-399, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS

D'Anna LH, Washington TA, **Canjura C**, Higgins J, Glenn W and Malotte CK. Barriers to Hepatitis C from the Perspective of Young Black MSM. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 144th APHA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado; November 2016.

D'Anna LH, Sabado P, Wood J, Chheang J, and Petit C. Residents' Perceptions of their Influence in Guiding a Large-scale Place-based Collaborative. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 144th APHA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado; November 2016.

D'Anna LH, Washington TA, **Canjura C**, Higgins J, Glenn W and Malotte CK. Still Stigma After All These Years. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 2016 STD Prevention Conference, Atlanta, Georgia; September 2016.

D'Anna LH, Fisher DG, Bird M, **Canjura C**, and Malotte CK. Developing Health Equity Researchers in a Teaching-Focused Academic Institution. Poster presentation at the 143rd APHA Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois; November 2015.

D'Anna L, Fisher DG, Reynolds GL, Hosmer D, and Hardan-Khalil K. Failure to Get into Drug Treatment. Poster presentation at The College on Problems of Drug Dependence 2015 Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona; June 2015.

WORKSHOPS

With support from the CSULB Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) and the CSULB Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) program, CHER led efforts to provide research-related capacity building workshops for faculty. The workshops were well-attended, with several requiring a waitlist due to high interest. The workshops conducted during this reporting period are listed in the table below.

WORKSHOP NAME	DATE	FACILITATOR(S)	NO. OF ATTENDEES
Using NVIVO for Qualitative Research Workshop	6/8/16	**Don Haviland** CSULB Educational Leadership **Jonathan O'Brian** CSULB Educational Leadership	23
Faculty, Graduate Students and Staff Participants ▪ Participants included faculty from the following departments: o Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling o Anthropology			

<table>
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Center for Latino Community Health
Communication Studies
Family Consumer Sciences
Health Care Administration
Health Science
Human Development
International Studies
Journalism and Mass Communication
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Psychology
Recreation and Leisure Studies
Social Work
Sociology

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<tr><td>Sample Size and Power Calculations</td><td>6/14 – 6/15</td><td>Martin L. Lee, PhD
Adjunct Professor Biostatistics, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.</td><td>17</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Faculty, Graduate Students and Staff Participants

Participants included faculty from the following departments:

Anthropology
Family Consumer Sciences
Health Science
History
Linguistics
Mathematics and Statistics
Nursing
Psychology
Sociology

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II. Unit Accounting

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS ACTIVE DURING REPORTING PERIOD

RIMI Admin and Shared Resources Cores - NIH
Fund G1146
Project Period 05/01/2014-10/31/2016 (Third no-cost extension, original end date was 04/30/2015)
Award amount for this project period $560,899
Balance available as of 06/30/16 $62,844

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources (PPOWER) Project - SAMHSA
Fund G1871
Project Period 09/30/2015-09/29/2016
Award amount for this project period $299,998
Balance available as of 06/30/16 $168,591

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative-Long Beach
Fund G1848
Project Period 07/01/2015-06/30/2016
Award amount for this project period $110,064
Balance available as of 06/30/16 $86

Santa Ana Building Health Communities (SABHC) Evaluation – The California Endowment via Charitable Ventures of Orange County
Fund G1924
Project Period 05/01/2016-12/31/2016
Award amount for this project period $39,998
Balance available as of 06/30/16 $39,998

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation – The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G1929
Project Period 05/01/2016-02/28/2018
Award amount for this project period $68,240
Balance available as of 06/30/16 $68,240

Long Beach Truancy Prevention Project: "All In" Campaign Evaluation – City of Long Beach
Fund G1935
Project Period 03/01/2016-12/31/2016
Award amount for this project period $37,402
Balance available as of 06/30/16 $34,173

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project Evaluation – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G1827
Project Period 04/22/2015-04/21/2016 YR1
04/22/2016-04/21/2017 YR2
Award amount for this project period $60,487
Balance available as of 06/30/2016 $19,011

BUILD
Fund G1767
BUILD provided salary support (50%) to CHER Director, Laura D'Anna during this reporting period.

OTHER FUNDS

Center for Health Equity Research, Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$33,664
Funds expended during the review period	$39,548
Balance available as of 06/30/2016	$19,822

Laura D'Anna Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS269

Funds received during the review period	$17,108
Funds expended during the review period	$0
Balance available as of 06/30/2016	$21,818

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space. In addition, we share a conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet.
The Center did not make acquisition of equipment or other tangible assets of a permanent or semi-permanent nature with a value in excess of $5,000 during this reporting period.

Center for Health Equity Research
Annual Report
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Established in April 2013, the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 18 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. (With the establishment of CHER, CHCI returned to the direction of the Health Care Administration Department, but all CHCI projects were subsumed under CHER.) During these 19 years, The Center garnered approximately $16.5 million dollars in research funding with approximately $700,000 going to the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) in indirect funds. A sizable portion of this funding ($4.5 million) was from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project.

The newly constituted CHER was established through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Upon Dr. Malotte's retirement as Center director in August 2014, Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Director, took over the role of director and principal investigator on ongoing projects in addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center. Dr. Malotte continues to maintain a role on campus as Professor Emeritus in the Health Science Department and supports CHER by serving as a scientific advisor on proposals involving intervention development.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach. Currently, CHER serves as the lead evaluators for Building Health Communities, Long Beach, a large public health initiative funded by The California Endowment, as well as the evaluators for two community-based projects conducted by the City of Long Beach and a collaborative lead by the Cambodian Association of America.

The CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. During the year under review, CHER staff members participated in the submission of several proposals. In addition to these proposals, the following pages also contain information about our on-going projects.

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

PROJECTS

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project (January 2012 - June 2020)

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L & E) Team for BHCLB. As the L & E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys with adult and youth residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; work with BHCLB staff and Steering Committee members to analyze and interpret findings; and prepare an annual evaluation report. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participated in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- Administration of cross-site data collection tools: CHER staff administered data collection tools that were developed by TCE to be used across all 14 BHC sites. One such tool is the Collaboration Assessment Tool, which was developed to measure how well individuals and organizations collaborating in a group connected with BHC are working together, as assessed by members of the group themselves. The tool is available in three formats: 1) long survey, 2) short survey + focus group, 3) focus group only. The BHCLB Youth Organizing Workgroup completed the assessment during this reporting period and chose the long survey option. In September 2016, TCE changed its evaluation framework to focus less on process measures and more on outcome measures. All cross-site tools have been discontinued and a set of standardized indicators have been introduced (North Star Goals & Indicators). CHER staff met with the new Chief Learning Officer at TCE on October 19, 2016 to discuss these new changes to the BHC evaluation and to present local evaluation activities.
- CHER staff attended an L & E convening at TCE on December 15, 2016 to discuss the new evaluation framework, learn from other L & E teams at other BHC sites, and share local evaluation activities for BHCLB. Additionally, CHER's Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation, Dr. Parichart Sabado participated in a planning group that met via phone once a month to develop the agenda for the L & E convening. Dr. Sabado also served as the liaison between the planning group and other L & E teams by asking for input on drafts of the agenda to ensure that the convening includes opportunities for learning from one another.
- CHER staff, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, and with input from community partners and residents, developed the Resident Power Survey to measure level of engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making, which were identified as the three elements of resident power by key stakeholders (e.g.,

BHCLB leaders, partner organizations, and residents). The survey was administered in 2013 and 77 surveys were completed by residents involved with BHCLB, either directly as volunteers or indirectly through a partner organization. Following the first wave of data collection, the Resident Power Survey was revised to shorten survey length by removing questions that did not yield useful data. Additionally, CHER staff decided to limit the survey to only residents over the age of 18, as BHCLB-affiliated youth are already involved in a separate and similar study conducted by the University of Southern California. The second wave of data collection took place between July and November 2015 with significant changes to the method of data collection, which resulted in a total of 211 completed surveys. Findings from the Resident Power Survey were shared at a TCE grantee meeting in May 2016 and feedback from grantees led to additional data analyses on data from the second wave of data collection that were performed during the reporting period. Additional data analyses included, but were not limited to, looking at between-group differences in residents' perception of BHCLB's recognition of the importance of resident involvement, residents' perception of their ability to influence decision-making, changes in leadership skills as a result of BHCLB involvement, and BHCLB's impact on individual level factors, such as improved mental health and emotional health, increased ability to find employment, and increased ability to access information and services. Lastly, CHER staff compared data from the first and second wave of data collection to assess changes in the three elements of resident power (i.e., Engagement, Leadership, and Influence) by key characteristics such as race/ethnicity, gender, and age. Findings were presented as an oral presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Denver, Colorado on November 1, 2016. This presentation follows a previous presentation on findings from the first wave of data collection at a roundtable at APHA in November 2014. CHER staff has drafted a manuscript on findings from the additional data analyses during this reporting period and will submit it for publication in a scientific journal once complete. Lastly, CHER staff revised the Resident Power Survey during this reporting period to include additional measures to assess resident power in order to better align its efforts with TCE's focus on people power, as included in the North Star Goals & Indicators.

- During the previous reporting period, 14 key stakeholder interviews were conducted with community leaders to learn about their perspective of BHCLB's impact on its focus area (i.e., Central/West Long Beach) and of any barriers they have encountered when working with BHCLB. Key stakeholders were also asked to share suggestions for improvement and to identify other issues that the initiative should address to improve community health. During this reporting period, CHER staff analyzed the transcripts and identified some key themes that have been shared with BHCLB leaders. Findings from the interviews will allow BHCLB to refine its strategies in order to reach the target changes listed in its community action plan. Findings may also be shared with the larger BHCLB collaborative of approximately 50 community partners, but the format in which data will be shared has yet to be determined. Options include a two-page handout, a presentation at a TCE grantee meeting, or an article on BHCLB's online newsletter.
- In collaboration with the BHCLB Hub Manager, Program Manager, and members of the L & E Committee, CHER staff identified a set of indicators to track the initiative's progress towards making changes in each of the target areas of the initiative's Community Action Plan (CAP). These indicators were ratified by key partner organizations working to improve each of the target areas (e.g., environmental health, quality housing, food access, etc.) and by each BHCLB workgroup. CHER staff is using secondary data to track these indicators and as such, to be included as an indicator, the measure must be repeated over time and the data must be accessible and specific to the BHCLB target area (i.e., Central/West Long Beach). Data for these indicators will be compiled at three points in time, 2009 (baseline), 2015 (midpoint), and 2021 (post-BHCLB). During this reporting period, CHER staff is working with interns to compile data for the midpoint of the 10-year initiative.

- Also during this reporting period, CHER staff is working on a report of local evaluation activities for BHCLB. The purpose of this report is for it to serve as a repository of findings from the local evaluation of BHCLB, as they are currently saved in separate files.

Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities (SABHC) Evaluation Project (May 2016 – April 2017)

Due to CHER's involvement with Building Healthy Communities Long Beach and TCE's satisfaction with the Center's performance as the Learning and Evaluation (L & E) team, was invited to carry out learning and evaluation activities for Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities (SABHC). Because of the Center's location and to ensure that the evaluation of SABHC included local context and community voice, CHER initially worked with a consultant, Dr. Jacqueline Tran, who could attend partner meetings and events and administer data collection tools developed by TCE. Dr. Tran eventually took over the L & E work for SABHC with support from CHER. CHER BHCLB staff provided an orientation, mentoring and guidance on L & E activities, and participated in regular meetings to ensure a successful transition.

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project (May 2016 – February 2018)

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was awarded a subcontract by The California Endowment (TCE) to conduct a process evaluation of the development and implementation of a "narrative change strategy" to promote youth investment in five Building Healthy Communities (BHC) sites across Southern California. TCE contracted with a consulting firm, JHC Consulting, Inc. to implement a narrative change strategy initiative with the goal of increasing social and political investment in youth development and related policy change in participating BHC sites: Long Beach, Santa Ana, Boyle Heights, South Los Angeles, and San Diego. A leadership group comprised of representatives from each site is working collaboratively with JCH Consulting, Inc. to develop a shared message and related products (e.g., media campaign and print materials) that will be used in all five BHC communities. CHER has conducted various evaluation activities for the Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment initiative during this reporting period. In addition to attending monthly steering committee meetings and conducting ethnographic observation and data collection, CHER administered three process evaluation surveys. One survey was delivered to steering committee members in September- December 2016. The second survey was administered following a two-day strategy session with local partners and steering committee members at the Community Coalition in South Los Angeles, California on September 29-30, 2016. Finally, a third process evaluation survey was administered to assess local site partners' evaluation of the Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment process to date. This survey was administered via a web-based survey tool among the 40 local site partners from April – May 2017 with a 72% response rate. A report was prepared presenting findings from the process evaluation from local partners as well as a short review of findings from the steering committee evaluation administered earlier in the process and reported on previously. The findings were shared with local partners and the steering committee to help guide and improve cross-regional communication and activities as they develop their campaign plan and strategies.

Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project - *My Sister's Keeper* Evaluation Project (January 2015 - December 2017)

CHER was selected as the evaluator for the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project or My Sister's Keeper due to its work on CalGRIP 6, as reported last year. The goal of My Sister's Keeper is to prevent and decrease the number of girls becoming gang-affiliated or gang-victimized (e.g., human-trafficked) through mentorship, counseling, and leadership development. This 3-year grant utilizes an evidence-based, U.S. Department of Justice supported anti-gang strategy to serve at-risk girls age 10-24 years in the City of Long Beach. The four components of My Sister's Keeper include city-wide prevention, focused prevention, intervention, and suppression.

CHER utilizes a mixed methods approach to evaluation with staggered data collection activities that will take place during years 1 through 3 of project implementation. Quantitative data collection activities include pre- and post-surveys, which assess social support, mental health, self-efficacy, leadership skills, and academic performance among members of the Female Leadership Academy at middle and high schools in Long Beach. To collect qualitative data, CHER staff conducted interviews with partner agencies in Year 1 (January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015) to learn about successes and challenges to service delivery. Interviews with service providers were conducted in Year 2 (January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016) to learn about service delivery, including barriers to retention and ways to improve existing services. During this reporting period, CHER compiled data from the evaluation of Year 2 and submitted the annual evaluation report in March 2017. For the evaluation of Year 3, CHER staff developed an evaluation form to assess satisfaction of a community workshop on Human Trafficking for hotel staff at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach. CHER staff attended two workshops on May 17, 2017 to administer the evaluation. A workshop was held in English in the morning with a total of 41 hotel staff in attendance and another was held in Spanish in the afternoon with 30 hotel staff in attendance. The evaluation of Year 3 also included interviews with two human trafficking survivors who were invited to participate in the evaluation at a graduation ceremony hosted by a CalGRIP 7 partner agency. The purpose of the interviews was to learn about barriers to service utilization, suggestions for improvement, and how CalGRIP 7 and the services it provides through its partner agencies have affected their lives, if at all. Findings from the workshop evaluation, interviews with human trafficking survivors, and upcoming data collection activities will be included in the final evaluation report of CalGRIP 7, which will include all three years.

"All In" Truancy Prevention Campaign Evaluation Project (October 2015 – September 2017)

CHER serves as the evaluation team for the *All In Campaign*, a 2-year pilot project to address chronic truancy and chronic absenteeism at four schools in the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD). Pilot schools include Addams Elementary, Franklin Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, and Washington Middle School. The campaign is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and is a collaborative effort between the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services and LBUSD. Campaign activities include: 1) student meetings with a Social Worker/Program Specialist to identify barriers to school attendance and resources needed, 2) family meetings with the City Prosecutor's office to mitigate criminal prosecution, 3) community engagement through a decal program for local businesses and parent education workshops to increase awareness of the importance of regular school attendance, 4) truancy sweeps to return students back to school and home visits to provide resources for families, 5) development of school specific strategic plans to track attendance and behavioral improvements, and 6) implementation of on-campus activities to help students and parents make school attendance a priority.

Evaluation activities included a) process measures in Year 1, to document program implementation and inform the development of similar campaigns, and b) outcome measures in Year 2 to assess changes in school attendance and chronic absenteeism. Campaign activities commenced January 2016 and CHER evaluation activities began March 2016. During Year 1, in-depth interviews with community stakeholders (i.e., school staff, Long Beach Police Department, the City Prosecutor, social workers, community partners, and engaged parents) and site visits to local businesses in each school neighborhood was conducted to assess project buy-in. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) data was also reviewed to identify any changes in school attendance and chronic absenteeism rates. Findings revealed that parents were concerned about their child's education, but financial challenges made it difficult to make school attendance a priority. Interviews with school staff found that the campaign enhanced existing attendance-promoting activities and increased the schools' focus on improving attendance, while community stakeholder interviews revealed that sustainability of program activities was a major concern. Results from ADA data suggested that campaign implementation may have contributed to small improvements in

school attendance at each school. Efforts to a) "brand" the campaign, b) engage key local businesses in providing discounted services, and c) improve targeted interventions to support families with chronic attendance issues was recommended by the CHER evaluation team. Based on Year 1 results, the CHER evaluation team submitted an abstract to the American Public Health Association (APHA) in February 2017. The abstract was accepted in June 2017 for a poster presentation at the annual APHA meeting, which will be held in November 2017.

In Year 2, post-workshop evaluations were collected from parent workshop attendees, in-depth interviews were conducted with parents and students, and surveys were collected from engaged parents and students to learn about their attitudes toward regular attendance and about their knowledge of and experience with the campaign activities. Two parent workshops were conducted between April and May 2017, four in-depth interviews (two parents and two students) were conducted and four surveys (two parents and two students) were collected between May and June 2017. Additional Year 2 evaluation activities involve in-depth interviews with school staff to learn about the success and challenges of developing and implementing the strategic plan at each school. The project grant for this campaign ended September 2017.The final evaluation report for Year 1 was submitted in January 2017 and the final evaluation report for Year 2 was due September 2017.

Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) Project (October 2015 – September 2018)

The Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources Project (PPOWER) Project is funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Association (SAMSHA) and is a collaborative effort in partnership with St. Mary Medical Center CARE Program, The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (The Center), and Behavioral Health Services (BHS), Inc., the second largest integrated substance abuse/mental health treatment provider in Southern California. The project addresses an unmet need on the CSULB campus and in the Long Beach community to serve Black young men who have sex with men (YMSM) ages 18 to 24, at risk for substance use and HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) infection. Through PPOWER, CHER and its community partners aim to prevent and reduce substance use, specifically alcohol and marijuana use, and provide community-level interventions, testing and linkage to care to prevent the transmission of HIV/HCV. To accomplish these goals, the specific activities of the project are designed to: 1) outreach to and engage young Black MSM on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 2) recruit young Black MSM and their sex/drug partners (300 total) on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 3) provide motivation, support and hope to young Black MSM through the dissemination of role model stories and prevention materials on the CSULB campus and in the community, as well as through a PPOWER website where participants can connect with each other, and engage through blogs and message boards related to the role model stories; 4) conduct screening for alcohol and drug use among young Black MSM, and provide brief intervention on reduction of substance use; 5) increase access to HIV and HCV testing; and 6) establish a continuum of care on and off campus to ensure linkage and quality care for those testing positive for HIV and/or HCV, at risk for other STIs, additional substance abuse treatment, or other supportive services. Center Director, Laura D'Anna is the Principal Investigator and Dr. T. Alex Washington from the School of Social Work is as a Co-Investigator with Dr. Kevin Malotte, Professor Emeritus from Health Science and former CHER Director, serving as our Intervention Specialist.

The PPOWER Project completed its formative data collection activities during year one of the project which ended September 2016 and launched the intervention testing phase of the project the subsequent month in early October. The community- and individual-level interventions are implemented by Health Education/Outreach Specialists (HEOS) and volunteer Peer Advocates (PA) assist the HEOS with outreach and recruitment through the dissemination of role model stories. Due to their extensive community–based work in substance abuse and HIV prevention, CHER has subcontracted with BHS and The Center to conduct recruitment, enrollment and data collection activities in the community with

oversight from CHER staff. All on-campus recruitment and intervention activities are conducted by CHER staff. The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services mobile testing unit and The Center serve as HIV testing referral sites, with The Center also offering HCV testing to study participants. A staff member from the St. Mary Medical Center CARE Program provides training and technical support to the PPOWER Project staff.

The following is a summary of activities that were completed during the period for this report.

- The protocol and materials for the community-level intervention were adapted from Community PROMISE based on findings from the formative data collection phase (i.e. focus groups and individual interviews). This included developing content for the role model stories that addressed HIV testing barriers such as perceived stigma and discrimination reported by members of the target population during focus group discussions and individual interviews.
- Data collection instruments for testing the intervention were finalized. PPOWER participants are asked to complete three assessments as part of their participation in the project: 1) a baseline assessment at enrollment, 2) a post-intervention (exit) assessment after the completion of intervention activities (approximately 30-45 days after enrollment), and 3) a 3-month follow up assessment approximately 90 days after completion of the post-intervention assessment. Additional measures were incorporated into the SAMHSA data collection tool provided to grantees.
- The adaptation of BASICS for PPOWER was finalized. An intervention protocol and materials were prepared by our Intervention Specialist, Dr. Kevin Malotte. The new intervention was named Alcohol and Cannabis Community Engaged Screening Support (ACCESS) to reflect the inclusion of marijuana as a drug of focus. From our formative work it was found marijuana was a common drug used, and potentially, abused by members of the target population. The adapted intervention maintains the core components of BASICS which are client-centered, motivational interviewing, two brief counseling sessions, and the identification of a behavior change goal.
- PPOWER staff, including all three HEOS and the project coordinator, participated in multiple trainings led by Dr. Malotte to learn the ACCESS protocol and practice counseling sessions. These trainings were also an opportunity for staff to pilot the intervention and make recommendations for changes.
- All intervention testing assessments were programmed into a web-based survey app for completion on a data enabled computer tablet. HEOS were trained on the use of the tablets to administer the assessments with participants in the field. The tablets are also used to record their outreach and enrollment activities. Paper versions of all assessments are available in the event of a technical issue with a tablet or if a participant prefers not to complete the assessment on the tablet.
- An IRB application was submitted for the intervention testing phase of the project which included a detailed description of outreach, enrollment and intervention activities, and all materials developed for the project. The intervention testing protocol was approved on August 19, 2016.
- PPOWER HEOS participated in trainings on outreach, recruitment, consent process, intervention activities and data collection.
- In addition to the role model stories, additional promotional materials for PPOWER were designed. This included flyers for distribution and posting at campus and community locations, a large PPOWER banner for display at events, and t-shirts with the PPOWER logo for outreach staff. Extensive work also went into the design and printing of an outreach packet in the format of mini folder with pockets for condoms, a role model story, and inserts with information about the project and resources for HIV and HCV testing.
- A website for the PPOWER project was created. This was a collaborative effort between our part-time graphic designer and IT/data manager. The website has a modern, urban which was selected by a group of members from the target population. The website incorporates the PPOWER logo throughout and includes web versions of the role model stories, information about the project,

news items relevant to Black men's health, resources on HIV/HCV testing, substance use treatment as well as other health-related services, and a contact submission page where interested individuals can provide an email or phone number to be contacted by PPOWER staff.

- Three volunteer Peer Advocates (PAs) in the community and one Peer Advocate on campus were engaged and participated in trainings to learn about the goals and activities for the project, their role as peers, and outreach strategies and processes. The PAs have worked in conjunction with the respective Health Education/Outreach Specialist at their site to provide support in the dissemination of role model stories and assist with project related events.
- On October 1, 2016 the PPOWER Project was officially launched, with HEOS beginning their recruitment and outreach on campus and the community via tabling activities at events. The campus HEOS has participated in Week of Welcome, Sextival, World AIDS Day, National Condom Day, and has attended various student events and meetings on campus. The community HEOS conduct their outreach at similar events as well as through street outreach at parks, coffee shops, bus stops, shopping centers, and other areas where members of the target population are known to congregate. A large event in which all outreach staff participated was the 2-day Long Beach Pride held May 2017. For Pride CHER procured a booth rental for PPOWER staff to table.
- HEOS have led enrollment and intervention activities for the project and have administered via computer tablets the three assessments (baseline, exit and follow up) with PPOWER participants. Data collection requires the HEOS to contact individual participants and making arrangements to meet in person to administer the assessment. With support from the project coordinator and IT/Data Manager, the HEOS track and record participant data collection completion.
- Throughout the testing phase, PPOWER project coordinator has held bimonthly outreach staff meetings with the HEOS to discuss outreach and enrollment successes and challenges, upcoming outreach activities and provide updates on the project.
- The PPOWER Leadership Team, consisting of PPOWER staff, and campus and community partners established a standing meeting (the third Wednesday of each month) and met to discuss strategies, project updates and activities.
- Quarterly reports on project activities, data collection, staffing, success and challenges were submitted to our funder, SAMHSA, via their reporting portal SPARS.
- Findings from the formative phase of the project were presented in a scientific poster for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National STD Prevention Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in September 2016.

As of the end of this reporting period, 100 participants had been enrolled in the PPOWER Project. Recruitment and enrollment is expected to end in May 2018 during the final year of the project which ends September 29, 2018.

Cambodian Wellness Project Evaluation (January 2017 – April 2022)

CHER was invited to lead the evaluation efforts for the Community Wellness Project (CWP), a mental health prevention and intervention project proposed by The Cambodian Association of America (CAA) under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Phase 2 Asian Pacific Islander Implementation Pilot Project. It was funded in January 2017 by the California Department of Public Health. The CWP is a community-centered and strength-based Prevention and Early Intervention Community Defined Evidence-Based Program (CCSB-PEI CDEP) that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and interventions, which is centered on shifting cultural norms pertaining to mental illness in an effort to prevent mental illness and improve mental health among Cambodians.

CAA will lead the Cambodian Advocacy Collaborative (CAC), which includes four non-profit agencies in the greater Long Beach and Santa Ana areas: CAA, Families in Good Health (FiGH) and United Cambodian Community (UCC) in Long Beach, and The Cambodian Family (TCF) in Santa Ana. Leaders

from the Khmer Parents Association (KPA) in Long Beach will work with the CAC to serve as consultants for the CWP. The project will consist of the following program activities at these four sites: 1) PEI community outreach and engagement services; 2) PEI educational workshops with a focus on mental wellness promotion, suicide prevention, and healthy living skills practices; 3) case management, navigation and engagement/referral services for health and mental health treatment services; and 4) peer and family social support groups. The support groups will harness the power of cultural and religious practices of importance to the Cambodian community such as water blessings, meditation, prayer, and other Buddhist rituals strongly associated with the healing process. Specific topics for these activities will include: spirituality and wellness; recreation and physical activities; and, arts, crafts, music and dance therapy.

The CHER evaluation team will employ a mixed methods approach to assess the effectiveness of the CWP in promoting mental wellness and alleviating symptoms of existing mental illness among project participants. Evaluation activities include both quantitative (i.e., pre- and post-surveys) and qualitative (i.e., in-depth interviews) data collection during Years 1-3 of the 5-year project. Initial evaluation activities will include finalizing data collection tools, conducting pilot tests to ensure comprehension of survey items, and applying for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to carry out the evaluation of the CWP. During the project implementation phase the CHER evaluation team will use a quasi-experimental design to administer pre- and post-tests to a subset of participants enrolled in the CWP. A total of 400 participants will complete a baseline survey (100 participants in Year 1, and 150 participants in Years 2 and 3), as well as complete follow up assessments at 3-months and 9-months. Throughout the duration of the project process evaluation measures will be collected to inform the CAC about its implementation of the CWP. Data will be collected on the number and demographics of participants who are engaged in: 1) educational workshops, 2) case management, navigation, engagement and referral services, and 3) peer/family/social support groups. Process monitoring data will assist the project team in its review of the number of participants served, the services delivered, and the resources used for service delivery. All data will be entered into a project database by CHER interns and managed by the CHER evaluation team. Results from evaluation activities will be used to inform service delivery and assess project impact, including, but not limited to, reduced mental health stigma, increased knowledge of mental illness, increased access to and utilization of mental health services, and improved physical and mental health. Updates to the evaluation plan will be submitted by the end of each grant year and will incorporate learning and insights from the previous year.

CHER Institute - Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (September 2016 – August 2021)

The goal of the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the CHER Institute features (1) the CHER Institute training program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience for up to 15 early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing a NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held 4-6 times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. are given priority for participation in the CHER Institute training program, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars is focused on MSI campuses and affiliated networks.

As listed in the proposal to the NIGMS the specific aims of the CHER Institute are to:

- Increase the number of early career faculty members (with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institution Faculty) who are better prepared to become NIH principal investigators in the field of community-based health equity research.
- Increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants.

Awarded in September 2016, CHER held its inaugural CHER Institute training program on June 18 – 24, 2017. Preparation for the CHER Institute began shortly after the grant was awarded and included the following activities:

- Research faculty members at other institutions who had agreed to serve as CHER Institute Faculty Mentors were notified of the award and renewed their commitment to participate in the project. See table 5 in section B. for a list of Institute Faculty Mentors and their affiliations.
- Drs. Laura D'Anna and Alex Washington, CHER Institute Co-Directors, with assistance from Institute Faculty Mentor, Dr. Kevin Malotte, developed an application for CHER Institute participants. Drs. D'Anna and Washington, also participate in the Institute as Faculty Mentors. The application with instructions and information about the training program was made available via our Center website. An application review process and notification system was also developed. Applicants were initially asked to submit their materials by January 30, 2017; however, the deadline was extended to March 31, 2017 to allow more potential applicants time to apply.
- A CHER Institute logo was created and used on all program materials. An email introducing the project and inviting early career faculty to apply to the CHER Institute was sent to administrators and department chairs at all campuses in the CSU system as well as other minority institutions across the United States. CHER Institute Faculty Mentors also shared the email within their institutions.
- The CHER Institute Leadership Team developed a training program and schedule that included topics relevant to proposal preparation and submission to the National Institutes of Health. The program was designed to focus on the development of a NIH specific aims by individual participants with guidance and mentorship by an assigned Institute Faculty Mentor. The cohort of no more than 15 faculty participants would be split into groups of 2-3 to work with an Institute Faculty Mentor whose work is relevant to their research areas of interest. Blocks of time were incorporated into the training schedule to allow for group activities and one on one mentoring. Individual presentations and materials were developed by CHER Institute Mentors.
- The training program consisted of five full days, Monday through Friday, with a half day of programming on Saturday, the final day of the Institute. Daily activities included a plenary session, a networking lunch break, "science chat", seminars, and time at the end of the day for individual and group assignments. Presentations for the plenary sessions, science chats and seminars included the following topics: Overview of NIH and NIH Institutes, Components of a NIH Application and Review Process, Selection of a NIH Institute, Writing a Compelling Significance Section, Challenges Encountered when Writing Specific Aims, Tips for Writing the Approach Section, Training Responsible Conduct of Research/Ethics in Research, Engaging the Community in Research, and Engaging the Community in Research. The final day of the program included a demonstration of a mock NIH review led by a panel of Faculty Mentors. An optional welcome dinner was scheduled for the Sunday before the training as well as a culminating dinner on Friday, June 23rd. Both dinners were well attended and served as an opportunity to network.

Out of 18 applications received, 14 early career faculty members were accepted into the CHER Institute as Faculty Fellows with three faculty members from CSULB (See table below for their names and affiliation).

Table 2: CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

CHER Institute Faculty Fellow	**Institution**
Monica Allen	San Jose State University
Sheldon Applewhite	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Niloo Bavarian	CSULB
Nora Charles	University of Southern Mississippi
Linda Darrell	Morgan State University
Veronica Dawson	California State University, Stanislaus
Yarneccia Dyson	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Virginia Gray	CSULB
Kimberly Huyser	University of New Mexico
Amber Johnson	CSULB
Alana LeBron	UC Irvine
Rosemarie "Lillie" Macias	The University of New Haven
Alfonso Mercado	University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
William Tsai	CSU San Marcos

The CHER Institute was held at the Karl Anatol Center on campus for the entire 6-day program. An online evaluation of the CHER Institute was conducted during and immediately after that week of institute activities. Participants were asked to provide evaluative information each night regarding specific activities and presentations from the same day. On the final day of the institute participants were asked several questions about their overall experience and the value of their institute participation to their individual career and research goals. Results from the 13 participants who responded to the overall evaluation items are summarized in the table below.

Table 2: CHER Institute Evaluation Summary

N=13 except where noted	% *Agree* or *Agree Strongly*
1. The CHER Institute provided a valuable learning experience.	100%
2. The institute setting was comfortable and conducive for learning. (n=12)	91.7%
3. The institute schedule was comfortable and conducive for learning.	100%
4. The evaluation process was reasonable.	92.9%
5. I plan to recommend this institute to faculty at my institution.	100%
6. I am more knowledgeable about the NIH grant process compared to when I arrived.	100%
7. I feel more confident in my ability to construct specific aims for a NIH grant proposal as a result of my participation. (n=12)	100%
8. It is likely that I will submit a grant proposal within the next year using the specific aims I developed here.	100%
9. I received new ideas about how to pursue and enhance my research endeavors.	100%
10. I feel better equipped to request support from my institution to pursue my research interests.	92.3%

N=13 except where noted	% *Agree* or *Agree Strongly*
11. I am confident that I will be able to accomplish the goals I set for myself within my professional development plan.(n=12)	100%
12. The guidance I received from my faculty mentor met my expectations.	100%
13. I am better prepared to provide constructive feedback to peers in my home institution about their research products.	100%
14. It is likely that I will collaborate with other attendees on future research endeavors.	84.6%
15. I have made lasting connections in the field of health equity research.	100%
16. I will be a more productive researcher as a result of attending the CHER Institute.	100%
17. Overall, the CHER Institute met my expectations.	100%
18. I intend to participate in CHER Institute webinars when relevant for my research interests.	100%

Comments from participants were generally positive and also offered recommendations for enhancements and improvements which CHER intends to incorporate wherever possible in future CHER Institute sessions. Among other ideas, recommendations included requests for more time to write, reflect, and rest between and during sessions, more attention to other sections of the NIH grant, particularly the Research Approach section, and assistance in seeking collaborators/mentors. Participants were enthusiastic in their expressions of support of the CHER Institute:

"Faculty in residence mentors have been fabulous and very giving of their time, insights and selves - thank you for pulling together such a wonderful mentorship team!"

"I highly value this experience and appreciate the time invested my so many in creating and implementing it!"

The 2018 CHER Institute is currently scheduled for June 4-9, 2018, and the first series of webinars will be held during the Fall 2017 semester on the following dates: October 10, Dr. Matt Mutchler (CSUDH) will present on "Tips for Writing a NIH Proposal Aiming to Use Qualitative Methods", and November 30, Dr. Roshan Bastani (UCLA) will present on "Components of a NIH Application and Review Process". The webinars will be recorded and made available on the CHER website for viewing.

Optimizing Collective Impact: Innovations in University and Community Partnerships – Addressing Health Disparities Roundtable Brief (March – October 2017)

In April 2017, the CSULB College of Health and Human Services hosted a community town hall discussion on campus, "Optimizing Collective Impact: Innovations in University and Community Partnerships", as the impetus to an initiative to foment intellectual partnerships among CHHS faculty and community-based organizations in Long Beach. The town hall consisted of 24 roundtable discussions with 8-10 faculty and community representatives per table, each focused on one of the four areas of interest; homelessness, health disparities, aging, and clinical care and prevention. CHER Director, Dr. Laura D'Anna, served as a member of the planning committee and participated in the development of the roundtable facilitation questions specific to health disparities. In addition, Dr. D'Anna served as the lead facilitator for the health disparities roundtable discussions at the town hall and was invited to analyze and synthesize the discussions into a peer-review brief. With assistance from members of the CHER team, a 21-page brief/report was prepared that included key findings from the discussions, as well as Long Beach

specific health data and local efforts to address health disparities affecting the community. The brief will be reviewed and used by a task force consisting of faculty and community partners to determine next steps for the project.

The Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity Program (BUILD)

The NIH Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program at CSULB provides undergraduate research training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences for underserved populations. During this reporting period, CHER's Data Manager served as a member of the BUILD Team providing expertise to create a database tool that allows incoming students to link with research mentors. In support of CHER's goal to improve the quality of health equity research and cooperate in other University institutions, CHER designed and hosted, on its website and MySQL data server, a search tool to assist BUILD students in searching for and selecting a mentor from among the BUILD faculty. The tool leveraged CHER's existing Drupal installation and technical skills to construct a database, display module, and management interface that could be used by BUILD staff and individual faculty members to populate and update pertinent information regarding individual mentors, their research interests, and activities. After the tool's development period and launch, CHER continues to provide hosting and occasional technical assistance to BUILD staff.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

<u>Unfunded Proposals</u>

"Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for "Exercise for Better Health'] (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PAR-14-321: Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (R21/R33), October 2016. This was deemed as a new submission, after initial submission in November 2014 and a resubmission in July 2015.

The proposed project, "Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for *Exercise for Better Health*] was to be a collaborative effort between the CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), The Cambodian Family (TCF), California State University, Fullerton's Center for Successful Aging and multiple Cambodian serving, community-based organizations in Santa Ana and Long Beach, CA. The proposed study would have conducted formative research to develop and test a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase physical activity (PA) among Cambodian older adults (45 years of age and older) living in two socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, namely Santa Ana and Long Beach.

Drawing on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) principles and the Group-Mediated Cognitive Behavioral (GMCB) framework, we proposed to develop a culturally-tailored and age-relevant PA program that incorporates individual- and socio-cultural (interpersonal/community)-level intervention activities, which are based on best practices from the literature and our study team's extensive experience working with Cambodians. This would be the first time these evidence-based approaches would be packaged into a PA intervention model that is tailored to the needs of older Cambodians. We hypothesized that, by drawing upon the strengths and resiliencies of community members, and by intervening on the problem of low PA on both individual and socio-cultural levels, we would achieve an innovative, low-cost intervention that would be sustainable by the community. The 5-year funding mechanism for this proposal consisted of an initial 2-year formative data collection and pilot testing phase (R21) with Cambodian residents in Santa Ana, followed by a three-year intervention testing phase (R33) with Cambodian residents in Long Beach. The overarching goals of the study were to:

R21 Phase

1. Work with the community to jointly develop a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase PA among Cambodian older adults; and
2. Pilot test the intervention strategies identified in Aim 1 for efficacy and feasibility, among a community sample of Cambodian older adults living in Santa Ana, CA.

R33 Phase

1. Adapt the PA intervention for older Cambodian adults in Long Beach, CA by integrating most promising strategies based on the Santa Ana pilot intervention results and Long Beach formative findings;
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention among a larger, more diverse sample of Cambodian older adults in Long Beach, CA; and
3. Assess intervention sustainability among participants and within the community organizations in an effort to identify promising methods to promote PA within other vulnerable immigrant populations.

As with the original submission and resubmissions, this proposal was scored during the review process; however, the score was not in the upper percentile as required for a funded award. Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez, from the Department of Health Science, was listed as a co-investigator, and Dr. Debra Rose, Director of the CSUF Center for Successful Aging, was listed as a consultant and subcontract based on her expertise in the development and implementation of physical activity interventions for older adults. We plan to revise and resubmit the proposal in March 2018.

"CSULB Research Center in Minority Institution: Community Engagement Core" (Laura D'Anna, Core PI) included in proposal submission (Alex Washington, PI) to National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities in response to funding announcement RFA-MD-17-003: *Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)* U54, March 2017

CHER was invited to serve as the lead for the Community Engagement Core (CE Core) of a larger application to the Nation Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities in response to their funding announcement "Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)". As one of five cores (others cores included Administrative Core, Research Infrastructure Core, Investigator Development Core, and Recruitment Core), the goal of the CE Core was to develop a sustainable community-based research support network which would focus on: 1) creating an innovative, community-based research support network comprised of key health-related organizations in the greater Long Beach, California area; 2) providing training and mentoring on community-engagement research strategies to CSULB faculty interested in conducting health disparities research; 3) linking faculty to partners within the research support network to achieve optimal patient and resident engagement; and 4) disseminating research results to involved community partners and the broader scientific community. The proposed CE Core would have complemented other research training offerings available through CHER including the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)-funded CHER Institute (see ongoing projects); an in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience coupled with ongoing web-based research training experiences for interested faculty across the U.S.

The **specific aims** of the Community Engagement Core were to:
Specific Aim 1: Create a sustainable, Community-Based Research Support Network (CBRSN) and facilitate forums within which to promote understanding of community health concerns within greater Long Beach, California.
Specific Aim 2: Provide training and mentoring for CSULB faculty on community engagement techniques, and link investigators to partners within the community-based research support network to

facilitate recruitment, retention and engagement of patients and residents in their health disparities research.
Specific Aim 3: In collaboration with the Administrative and Research Infrastructure Cores, assist CSULB investigators in generating peer-reviewed, scientific presentations and publications to disseminate their research findings, and ensure these findings are shared with the research support network, participants and broader community.
Specific Aim 4: Participate in the overall evaluation of the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) grant which will be coordinated by the Administrative Core.

The RCMI proposal submission was a collaborative effort between faculty members across multiple departments that included Biological Sciences, Computer Engineering and Computer Science, Health Care Administration, Health Science, Kinesiology, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Psychology, and the School of Social Work, and two research centers at CSULB, CHER and the Center for Behavioral Research and Services. The application also included support for three faculty research projects. Unfortunately, due to a budgetary technical issue the proposal submission was determined ineligible for review. However, the funding announcement for the RCMI was reissued and the application will be resubmitted with revisions in December 2017.

"Orange County Healthy Changes Partnership (OCHCP) Evaluation" (Laura D'Anna, PI for Subcontract) included in a proposal submission by The Cambodian Family (Vattana Peong, PI) to the Office of Minority Health in response to Funding Opportunity MP-CPI-17-001: *Partnerships to Achieve Health Equity*, March 2017.

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was asked to serve as the evaluator for the proposed Orange County Healthy Changes Partnership (OCHCP), a program to address risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease (CVD) among Cambodians, submitted to the Office of Minority Health by The Cambodian Family (TCF), a non-profit community –based organization serving Cambodian and Latino residents in Santa Ana, CA. Through an integrated partnership of health and social service providers, and with The Cambodian Family serving as the lead agency, program participants would have received tailored case management, Self-Management Educational Workshops, Peer-led Physical Activity, and emotional and behavioral support. Program activities were designed to build participant capacity over time to self-manage multiple chronic conditions through behavior change and increased access to health and social services.

In collaboration with project partners, CHER proposed the following evaluation activities to assess the effectiveness of the program:

- Baseline and follow-up assessments at 3, 6, 9, and 12 months to assess physical activity, mental health, and clinical outcome measures
- Focus group interviews to examine how culturally appropriate educational workshops and skill-building activities, tailored case management, and Community Health Associate support contribute to improved disease management
- Document review of participant case records and case management notes to assess access to and utilization of health and social services
- Development of a reminder protocol to track data collection activities

In addition, the CHER evaluation team planned to meet with TCF and program staff once a month to share lessons learned and to discuss challenges with recruitment and/or referrals, program implementation, and participant retention. In addition, the CHER evaluation team proposed to meet monthly to review and compile program data to assist TCF in determining if adjustments to participant recruitment and/or program activities were needed.

"Specialized Center Of Excellence For Sexual Health Equity" (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities(NIMHD) in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement MD17-005: *NIMHD Specialized Centers of Excellence*, May 2017.

Building upon our 5-year Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project which was designed to promote health equity research through the development of a research infrastructure across the CSULB campus, CHER submitted an application to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to establish a Specialized Center of Excellence for Sexual Health Equity at CSULB. The RIMI Project, funded by the NIMHD, resulted in enhanced research capacity among faculty and graduate students as evidenced by the number of scientific presentations and manuscripts produced, and the number students entering doctoral programs after their participation in RIMI. CHER was also recently awarded the Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) grant by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to create the CHER Institute involving early career faculty members from Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) across the country who are interested in conducting health equity research targeting minority populations. Given its geographic placement, a diverse student body, long track record of developing evidence-based HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention interventions, strong collaborative history with community-based organizations and its faculty research expertise and interests in sexual health, CSULB is uniquely positioned to make noteworthy contributions to the national efforts to reduce and eliminate sexual health-related disparities.

The NIMHD Specialized Center of Excellence (COE) funding mechanism would have allowed us to leverage these investments and accomplishments. The focus of our proposed Specialized COE was community and public health approaches to understanding and reducing HIV and other sexual health disparities. The specific aims of this overall application were to:

1. Create a *Specialized COE for Sexual Health Equity* that will promote and be the CSULB hub for interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary minority sexual health and health disparities research and training efforts.
2. Develop a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee composed of scientists and administrators who will provide strategic direction to the project.
3. Create a Community Advisory Board that will insure that community-based participatory research principles are upheld, and that research findings are broadly disseminated.
4. Conduct innovative behavioral, translational research resulting in culturally appropriate, multi-leveled interventions designed to reduce risks for HIV/STI and to promote sexual health equity among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-designated health disparity populations.
5. Provide funding for early career faculty to conduct pilot research projects and develop a robust career research plan.
6. Provide mentorship and research training experiences based on best practices to increase faculty research in sexual health equity topics.
7. Engage community members and organizations in solving relevant sexual health equity issues distinct to their respective communities by building and enhancing partnerships through community-based participatory research (CBPR) principles.
8. Increase the number of faculty, students and community members who are engaged in sexual health equity research conducted by the CSULB *Specialized COE for Sexual Health Equity*.

The submission was unscored during the review process. The funding mechanism was a one-time application and currently does not allow for resubmissions. At this time we are unaware of any plans by the NIMHD to reissue the funding announcement however we plan to resubmit if the opportunity arises.

CHER Website

A CHER website is located at www.csulb.edu/HealthEquity. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar and center-related news articles, staff bios, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and general information on health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the general reader. Some data and research support tools are also available, including an in-house installation of the on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' which has been used in projects requiring greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools or special handling of sensitive data. The CHER Institute web pages and application management tools were added into the website in 2017 and video display capabilities are being enhanced.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

During the period under review, five undergraduate and two graduate students, all from the Health Science department, worked at CHER as interns and paid part-time staff (see Table 3). As interns, the students served as research assistants, assisting Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports and general office duties as needed. Our two MPH student interns gained full-time research positions after their spring graduation based on their work experience at CHER. Stephanie Sumstine is a research associate with the UCLA Semel Institute's Global Center for Children and Families, and Sheena Cruz is a clinical research coordinator with the VA Long Beach Healthcare System.

Table 3: CHER Health Science Student Interns

STUDENT INTERNS
Graduate Students*
Sheena Cruz
Stephanie Sumstine
Undergraduate Students
Jasmine Barnum
Eric May
Kenya McCloyn
Asha Moore
Jorge Navarro

*Graduate student interns were hired as part-time research assistants after the completion of their internship.

COLLABORATIONS

Dr. D'Anna and CHER staff collaborated with several CSULB faculty and staff members, on projects or in the preparation of proposals and/or papers during the year under review (Please see Table 2).

Table 4: CSULB Faculty/Staff Collaborators

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
PPOWER Project Collaborators	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
C. Kevin Malotte	Health Science
Jon Higgins	Office of Multicultural Affairs
Brandon Gamble	Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling
Heidi Girling	Student Health Services
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
Proposal Development	
C. Kevin Malotte	Health Science
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Dennis Fisher	Psychology
Grace Reynolds	Health Care Administration
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Manuscript Development	
Marissa Hansen	School of Social Work

The table below lists CSULB faculty and faculty from other academic institutions who are serving as *Faculty Mentors* for the CHER Institute/IPERT Project funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Table 5: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	**Institution**
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, Ph.D., MPH Director, Center for Health Equity in the Americas Co-Director, Global Health Track	University of Southern California
Roshan Bastani, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management Co-Director, Center to Eliminate Health Disparities	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, Dr.PH Dean and Professor, School of Public Health	Jackson State University, Mississippi
Dennis Fortenberry, M.D., M.S. Professor of Pediatrics Chief, Section of Adolescent Medicine	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew Mutchler, Ph.D. Director and Professor, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Fernando Wagner, D.Sc., MPH Professor and Director, Prevention Sciences Research Center	Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland
C. Kevin Malotte Professor Emeritus of Health Science	California State University, Long Beach
Laura D'Anna Assistant Professor, Health Science	California State University, Long Beach
Thomas Alex Washington Professor, School of Social Work	California State University, Long Beach

In addition, CHER staff collaborated with multiple community-based organizations on projects and/or proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

Table 6: Community Based Collaborators

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Jenny Chheang	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	BHCLB Hub
PPOWER Project Collaborators	
Kerry Deeney	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Morales	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Michael Buitron	St. Mary Medical Center C.A.R.E. Program
Kerry Brown	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Cambodian Wellness Project Collaborators	
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
Proposal Development	
Kelly Colopy	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Porter Gilberg	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Ismael Salamanca	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Miguel Gutierrez	Long Beach and South LA County APLA Health
Cheryl Barritt	Los Angeles County Commission on HIV
Marc McMillan	Getting to Zero Long Beach
Lindsey Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Steve Colman	Century Villages at Cabrillo
Elisa Nicholas	The Children's Clinic
Drew Gagner	St. Mary Medical Center Foundation
James Sauzo	Building Healthy Communities, Long Beach
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Alexander R. Rossel	Families Together of Orange County

Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
Amy Buch	Orange County Health Care Agency

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHHS Population Data Initiative
CHER Director, Dr. Laura D'Anna, participated in a collaborative effort led by CHHS Dean, Dr. Monica Lounsbery, to develop a shared health-related data repository. Involved in the effort are all major hospitals located in Long Beach, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, and the CSULB department of Engineering.

CHHS Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute
Early career faculty members in the College of Health and Human Services were invited to apply to participate in the inaugural CHER Institute held June 2017. Three faculty members submitted an application and were accepted into the program; Niloo Bavarian and Amber Johnson from Health Science department, and Virginia Gray from Family and Consumer Sciences.

C. Accomplishments

This section includes manuscripts and abstracts related to CHER projects that were prepared and submitted by CHER staff from July 2016 to June 2017 and accepted for publication or presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

D'Anna LH, Peong V, **Sabado P, Valdez-Dadia A**, Hansen MC, **Canjura C, Hong M**. Barriers to physical and mental health: Understanding the intersecting needs of Cambodian and Latino residents in urban communities. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. In press.

Talwar A, Garcia JGN, Tsai H, Moreno M, Lahm T, Zamanian RT, et al. Health Disparities in Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: A Blueprint for Action. An Official American Thoracic Society Statement. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine 2017; 196(8):e32-e47.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sabado P, Fong G, and **D'Anna L**. Engaging the Community in Campaign Development to Improve the Built Environment. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 145th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2017.

Sumstine S, D'Anna LH, Choi JH, Chheang J, and Eldred S. *Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment: An Innovative Process for Mobilizing a Regional Approach*. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 145th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2017.

Valdez-Dadia A, Sabado P, Simon E, Gomeztrejo J, Boatwright C, **and D'Anna L.** *All In Campaign: A Community-Based Approach to Improving School Attendance*. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 145th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2017.

II. Unit Accounting

ONGOING PROJECTS

CHER Institute – Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT)
National Institute of General Medical Services
Fund G1992
Project Period: 09/20/16 – 08/31/17
Award amount $385,069
Balance as of 06/30/17 $209,835

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources (PPOWER) Project YR2
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Fund G1871
Project Period: 09/30/16 – 09/29/17
Award amount $299,896
Balance as of 06/30/17 $205,196

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G1955
Project Period: 07/01/16 – 12/31/17 (No cost extension from 6/30/17)
Award amount $110,064
Balance as of 06/30/17 $4,483

Cambodian Wellness Project – Evaluation YR 1
California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity via Cambodian Assoc. of America
Fund G2039
Project Period: 05/01/17 – 04/30/18
Award amount $45,600
Balance as of 06/30/17 $45,600

Long Beach Truancy Prevention Project: "All In" Campaign Evaluation Project
City of Long Beach
Fund G1935
Project Period: 03/01/16 – 09/30/17 (End date extended from 12/31/16 with additional $20,000 awarded)
Award amount $57,500 ($37,500 initial award)
Balance as of 06/30/17 $8,348

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G1929
Project Period: 05/01/16 – 02/28/18
Award amount $68,240
Balance as of 06/30/17 $31,866

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project Evaluation YR 2 – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G1827
Project Period: 04/22/16 – 07/31/18 YR2 (No cost extension from 04/21/17)
Award amount $60,487
Balance available as of 06/30/17 $40,139

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project Evaluation YR 3 – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G2033
Project Period: 01/01/17 – 12/31/17

Award amount	$30,000
Balance as of 06/30/17	$30,000

RESEARCH STIMULATION ACCOUNTS

Center for Health Equity Research
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$6,195
Funds expended during the review period	$3,336
Balance as of 06/30/2017	$22,217

Laura D'Anna (PI)
Fund RS269

Funds received during the review period	$6,149
Funds expended during the review period	$0
Balance as of 06/30/2017	$27,966

COMPLETED FUNDING

RIMI Admin and Shared Resources Cores – National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Fund G1146
Project Period: 05/01/14 – 10/31/16 (Third no-cost extension, original end date was 04/30/15)

Award amount	$560,899
Final Balance	$4,437

Santa Ana Building Health Communities (SABHC) Evaluation – The California Endowment via Charitable Ventures of Orange County
Fund G1924
Project Period: 05/01/2016-12/31/2016

Award amount	$39,998
Final Balance	$0

BUILD – National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Fund G1767
Project Period: 07/01/2016 – 06/30/17
BUILD provided salary support (15%) to CHER IT/Data Manager, Jeff Wood, during this reporting period.

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space. In addition, we share a conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. The Center did not make acquisition of equipment or other tangible assets of a permanent or semi-permanent nature with a value in excess of $5,000 during this reporting period.

Center for Health Equity Research
Annual Report
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 19 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. During these 19 years, the Center garnered approximately $18 million dollars in research funding with approximately $700,000 going to the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) in indirect funds. A sizable portion of this funding ($4.5 million) was from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project.

The newly constituted CHER was established through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Upon Dr. Malotte's retirement as Center director in August 2014, Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Director, took over the role of director and principal investigator on ongoing projects in addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships and student research assistant positions. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach. Currently, CHER serves as the lead evaluators for Building Health Communities, Long Beach, a large public health initiative funded by The California Endowment, as well as the evaluators for a community-based project conducted by St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health and a collaborative lead by the Cambodian Association of America.

The CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. During the year under review, CHER staff members participated in the submission of several proposals. In addition to these proposals, the following pages also contain information about our on-going projects.

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

PROJECTS

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project (January 2012 - June 2020)

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L & E) Team for BHCLB. As the L & E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys with adult and youth residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; work with BHCLB staff and Steering Committee members to analyze and interpret findings; and prepare an annual evaluation report. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participated in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- CHER staff attended an L & E convening in Oakland on November 7, 2017 to discuss the new TCE evaluation framework, learn from L & E teams at other BHC sites, and share local evaluation activities for BHCLB. On November 29, 2017, representatives from LPC Consulting Inc. conducted a site visit at the BHCLB office, where they met with BHCLB Hub Manager, TCE Program Manager, and CHER staff to learn about local evaluation activities and how much of these activities align with the new TCE evaluation framework for the BHC initiative. Following the site visit, CHER staff was tasked with completing a matrix of local evaluation activities and identifying technical assistance needs.

- CHER staff, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, and with input from community partners and residents, developed the Resident Power Survey to measure level of engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making, which were identified as the three elements of resident power by key stakeholders (e.g., BHCLB leaders, partner organizations, and residents). The survey was administered in 2013 and 77 surveys were completed by residents involved with BHCLB, either directly as volunteers or indirectly through a partner organization. Following the first wave of data collection, the Resident Power Survey was revised to shorten survey length by removing questions that did not yield useful data. Additionally, CHER staff decided to limit the survey to only residents over the age of 18, as BHCLB-affiliated youth are already involved in a separate and similar study conducted by the University of Southern California. The second wave of data collection took place between July and November 2015 with significant changes to the method of data collection, which resulted in a total of 211 completed surveys. In July 2017, CHER staff worked collaboratively with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager to revise the Resident Power Survey to

align local evaluation activities with the new TCE evaluation framework. More specifically, changes were made to better align the survey with TCE's focus on people power, as included in the North Star Goals & Indicators. These changes include two new survey items that assess narrative change and a separate section for residents who may not identify as being directly involved with BHCLB. For these residents, a skip pattern directed individuals to 12 new survey items that do not ask about their perspective on resident involvement in BHCLB specifically, but rather of resident involvement in work to improve the community. The final survey was granted IRB approval in April 2018 and is currently being administered in a third wave of data collection (July to November 2018).

- CHER staff is finalizing a manuscript on findings from the first two waves of the Resident Power Survey and have identified a potential peer-reviewed journal to which the manuscript will be submitted. It is anticipated that the manuscript will be submitted in December 2018.

- CHER staff completed a report of local evaluation activities for BHCLB. The purpose of this report is for it to serve as a repository of findings from the local evaluation of BHCLB, as they are currently saved in separate files. During this reporting period, CHER staff met with the BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager to discuss strategies to disseminate findings from the local evaluation. The target audience and a format in which to present the data are yet to be identified.

- During the previous reporting period, CHER staff assisted BHCLB's Environmental Health Workgroup with data collection to help inform its work on the Green Zones campaign. Workshops in North, Central, and West Long Beach were held between January and October 2016, during which residents were asked to identify issues in their community. Over 450 individual comments were collected and synthesized by CHER staff. Results from the analysis showed that the top four concerns were: 1) Environmental Health, 2) Open Space, 3) Transportation/Infrastructure, and 4) Food Access. These findings were presented as a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting in November 2017 titled ***Engaging the Community in Campaign Development to Improve the Built Environment***. To further delve into the specific issue within each of these four categories, CHER staff examined comments within each category to identify the most common issues on which the Green Zones campaign should focus. During this reporting period, CHER staff used the commonly-identified issues in each of the four categories to develop a community survey. The survey was administered during the summer of 2017 to 227 residents in North, Central, and West Long Beach. The top three issues in each category are shown below:

    - Environmental Health: Air Pollution, Littering, and Excessive Noise
    - Open Space: Limited Community Gardens, Dirty and Unsafe parks, and Lack of Open Space
    - Transportation/Infrastructure: Limited parking, Unsafe alleyways, Dirty Streets
    - Food Access: Limited Farmers Markets, Limited Grocery Stores with Heathier Food Options, and Limited Access to Fruits & Vegetables

  An abstract on the findings from the community survey (***Green Zones: A Community-led Effort to Reduce Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Long Beach, CA***) has been accepted as a poster presentation at APHA in November 2018.

- In addition to the aforementioned poster, two additional posters related to BHCLB work will be presented at APHA. ***A Community-led Effort to Increase Open Space for Park-poor Residents in Central Long Beach*** describes the construction of Gumbiner Park in Central Long Beach. This

community-led effort transformed a dangerous intersection into a safe, open space that provides residents with access to amenities, programming, and the arts, and also improves pedestrian connectivity between multiple neighborhoods. ***A Community-led Effort to Increase Food Access and Improve Economic Development through Urban Agriculture*** is an example of an innovative use of vacant lots to increase access to healthy foods while reducing neighborhood blight. This collaborative effort between local farmers, community-based organizations, and community residents resulted in the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones program that provides tax breaks to property owners who agree to transform their vacant lots into urban farms for at least 5 years.

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project (The *I Am Possible!* Campaign) (May 2016 – October 2018)

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was awarded a subcontract by The California Endowment (TCE) to conduct a process evaluation of the development and implementation of a "narrative change strategy" campaign to promote youth investment in five Building Healthy Communities (BHC) sites across Southern California. TCE contracted with a consulting firm, JHC Consulting, Inc. to implement a narrative change strategy initiative with the goal of increasing social and political investment in youth development and related policy change in participating BHC sites: Long Beach, Santa Ana, Boyle Heights, South Los Angeles, and San Diego. A leadership group comprised of representatives from each site worked collaboratively with JCH Consulting, Inc. and Rally to develop a shared message and related products (e.g., media campaign and print materials) that were made available to all five BHC communities. CHER has conducted final evaluation activities for the Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment initiative during this reporting period. Campaign deliverables ('collateral") and tool kits were developed by Rally, an issue-driven communications firm, in collaboration with project leadership and community leaders and youth, and youth ambassadors were trained by Rally to tell their individual stories and to engage in advocacy activities to encourage additional local and county budgetary investments in youth development during this reporting period. CHER developed and administered an electronic survey to gather information from the youth ambassadors about their experiences related to telling their stories and participating in trainings to build skills and capacity for advocacy and civic engagement. Findings were summarized in a report and shared with TCE and project leaders. Finally, steering committee members were invited to participate in an individual phone interview to share how the campaign collateral tools were being used in each of their respective five sites. CHER completed these interviews during the current reporting period.

Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) Project (October 2015 – March 2019)

The Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources Project (PPOWER) Project is funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Association (SAMSHA) and is a collaborative effort in partnership with St. Mary Medical Center CARE Program, The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (The Center), and Behavioral Health Services (BHS), Inc., the second largest integrated substance abuse/mental health treatment provider in Southern California. The project addresses an unmet need on the CSULB campus and in the Long Beach community to serve Black young men who have sex with men (YMSM) ages 18 to 24, at risk for substance use and HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) infection. Through PPOWER, CHER and its community partners prevent and reduce substance use, specifically alcohol and marijuana use, and provide community-level interventions, testing and linkage to care to prevent the transmission of HIV/HCV. The specific activities of the project included: 1) outreach to and engage

young Black MSM on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 2) recruit young Black MSM and their sex/drug partners (300 total) on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 3) provide motivation, support and hope to young Black MSM through the dissemination of role model stories and prevention materials on the CSULB campus and in the community, as well as through a PPOWER website where participants can connect with each other, and engage through blogs and message boards related to the role model stories; 4) conduct screening for alcohol and drug use among young Black MSM, and provide brief intervention on reduction of substance use; 5) increase access to HIV and HCV testing; and 6) establish a continuum of care on and off campus to ensure linkage and quality care for those testing positive for HIV and/or HCV, at risk for other STIs, additional substance abuse treatment, or other supportive services. Center Director, Laura D'Anna is the Principal Investigator and Dr. T. Alex Washington from the School of Social Work is as a Co-Investigator. Dr. Kevin Malotte, Professor Emeritus from Health Science and former CHER Director, served as our Intervention Specialist until his retirement from the University in May 2018.

The PPOWER Project completed its formative data collection activities during year one of the project which ended September 2016 and launched the intervention testing phase of the project the subsequent month in early October to begin year two of the project. During this reporting period, the third and final year of the project, activities were focused on reaching its enrollment goal of 300 young Black MSM and their partners, and completing all intervention and data collection activities with participants. The community- and individual-level interventions are implemented by Health Education/Outreach Specialists (HEOS) and volunteer Peer Advocates (PA) assist the HEOS with outreach and recruitment through the dissemination of role model stories. Due to their extensive community–based work in substance abuse and HIV prevention, CHER subcontracted with BHS and The Center to conduct recruitment, enrollment and data collection activities in the community with oversight from CHER staff. All on-campus recruitment and intervention activities are conducted by CHER staff. The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services mobile testing unit and The Center serve as HIV testing referral sites.

The following is a summary of activities that were completed during the period for this report.

- PPOWER HEOS with support from the PAs conducted outreach and recruitment activities on the CSULB campus and the Long Beach community. The campus HEOS participated in Week of Welcome, Sextival, World AIDS Day, National Condom Day, and attended various student events and meetings on campus. The community HEOS conduct their outreach at similar events as well as through street outreach at parks, coffee shops, bus stops, shopping centers, and other areas where members of the target population are known to congregate. A large event in which all outreach staff participated was the 2-day Long Beach Pride held May 2018. For Pride, CHER shared a booth with our community partner The Center to conduct outreach to potential participants at the event. The PAs have worked in conjunction with the respective Health Education/Outreach Specialist at their site to provide support in the dissemination of role model stories and assist with project related events.
- New role model stories were developed with a focus on increasing knowledge about hepatitis C infection, prevention and testing, as well as uptake of PrEP and PEP for HIV prevention. Previous role model story content addressed HIV testing barriers such as perceived stigma and discrimination reported by members of the target population during our formative phase of the project.
- In addition to the role model stories, additional promotional materials for PPOWER were designed. This included flyers for distribution and posting at campus and community locations, and buttons with the PPOWER logo to be used as giveaways for potential participants.
- HEOS have led enrollment and intervention activities for the project and have administered via computer tablets the three assessments (baseline, exit and follow up) with PPOWER participants. Data collection requires the HEOS to contact individual participants and making arrangements to

meet in person to administer the assessment. With support from the project coordinator and IT/Data Manager, the HEOS track and record participant data collection completion.

- PPOWER participants are asked to complete three assessments as part of their participation in the project: 1) a baseline assessment at enrollment, 2) a post-intervention (exit) assessment after the completion of intervention activities (approximately 30-45 days after enrollment), and 3) a 3-month follow up assessment approximately 90 days after completion of the post-intervention assessment. Additional measures were incorporated into the SAMHSA data collection tool provided to grantees.
- A renewal IRB application was submitted for the intervention testing phase of the project which included a detailed description of outreach, enrollment and intervention activities, and all materials developed for the project. The intervention testing protocol was renewed for one year on June 21, 2017 with an expiration date of June 21, 2018. A subsequent renewal application was submitted June 6, 2018 and approved through June 10, 2019.
- Throughout the testing phase, PPOWER project coordinator has held monthly outreach staff meetings with the HEOS to discuss outreach and enrollment successes and challenges, upcoming outreach activities and provide updates on the project.
- The PPOWER Leadership Team, consisting of PPOWER staff, and campus and community partners established a standing meeting (the third Wednesday of each month) and met to discuss strategies, project updates and activities.
- Quarterly reports on project activities, data collection, staffing, success and challenges were submitted to our funder, SAMHSA, via their reporting portal SPARS.
- Dr. Washington and Jaelen Owens, our campus HEOS, attended and presented a project update at the SAMHSA Minority AIDS Initiatives (MIA) grantee meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, December 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight project accomplishments, preliminary data, effective strategies, and lessons learned with SAMHSA project officers, administration, and other MIA grantees.
- Preliminary findings from the project were used to develop at total of seven abstracts, three and four respectively, for submission to the International AIDS Conference and American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, of which four were accepted for presentation (see Section C. for more information).

Participant recruitment and enrollment ended in early June 2018. A total of 305 participants were enrolled in the PPOWER Project. All data collection activities are expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. A comprehensive final report will be submitted to the funder in 2019.

Cambodian Wellness Project Evaluation (January 2017 – April 2022)

The Cambodian Wellness Program (CWP) is one of 35 projects under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) funded by the California Department of Public Health. It is the first program of its kind that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and intervention activities centered on shifting cultural norms about mental illness. The CWP is a collaborative of five Cambodian-serving organizations that are jointly implementing program activities to promote mental wellness among Cambodians. The organizations include Cambodian Association of America (CAA), Families in Good Health (FiGH), Khmer Parent Association (KPA), The Cambodian Family (TCF), and United Cambodian Community (UCC).

CAA, FiGH, TCF, and UCC work collaboratively to implement project activities, while KPA assists with outreach and recruitment only. The CWP is a multi-component program that consists of: 1) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) community outreach and engagement; 2) PEI educational workshops with a focus on mental and physical wellness; 3) case management, navigation, and referral to health and social

services; and 4) spiritual and recreational activities. Spiritual activities will harness the power of cultural and religious practices of importance to the Cambodian community such as water blessings, meditation, prayer, and other Buddhist rituals strongly associated with the healing process. Recreational activities include: field trips, in-house activities (e.g., potluck), and arts, crafts, music and dance therapy.

As the local evaluation team for the CWP, CHER assists with data collection for the statewide evaluation, while also conducting local evaluation activities to generate data to add to the body of research on mental health among Cambodians. The CWP evaluation follows a mixed methods, quasi-experimental design to assess program effectiveness in promoting mental wellness among program participants. Evaluation activities include both quantitative (i.e., pre- and post-surveys) and qualitative (i.e., in-depth interviews) data collection during Years 2-4 of the 5-year project, with Year 1 serving as a pilot phase for program services only (i.e., no data collection). During this reporting period, the CHER evaluation team worked closely with the CWP Project Team to develop data collection instruments, paying particular attention to measures that better assess mental health in the Cambodian community. For example, instead of using scales that have been validated in other communities to assess mental health status, the CHER evaluation team included measures of sleep quality and social connectedness on the survey, as these two domains have been identified by CWP partners as better indicators of mental health in the Cambodian community.

During this reporting period, a pilot test of the survey was conducted to ensure comprehension of survey items. Results from the pilot test led to revisions of the survey to reformat specific sections to improve clarity. While the local survey was being developed, the statewide evaluation team, Loyola Marymount University, was also developing its data collection instruments and submitting an application to the state IRB. Due to the delay in approval by the state IRB, data collection was on-hold for a period of one year. However, during this time, and as mentioned above, CWP partner agencies provided program services the first cohort of CWP participants during the pilot phase. This provided an opportunity for partner agencies to identify areas for which they needed technical assistance. As a result, trainings were conducted during the first year while the project team waited for the state IRB to approve the statewide evaluation. Topics for the training included Mental Health First Aid, Elder Abuse, and Workshop Facilitation. In addition, the CHER evaluation team conducted two 3-hour training sessions on data collection and data storage in preparation, as Community Health Workers (CHWs) at each partner agency will assist with data collection.

A total of 400 CWP participants will complete a baseline survey and follow-up assessments at 3, 6, and 9 months. Throughout the duration of the project, process evaluation measures will be collected to inform the CWP Project Team about the implementation of the CWP. Data will be collected on the number and demographics of participants who are engaged in: 1) educational workshops, 2) case management, navigation, engagement and referral services, and 3) peer/family/social support groups. Process monitoring data will assist the project team in its review of the number of participants served, the services delivered, and the resources used for service delivery. All data will be entered into a project database by CHWs and managed by the CHER evaluation team. Results from evaluation activities will be used to inform service delivery and assess project impact, including, but not limited to, reduced mental health stigma, increased knowledge of mental illness, increased access to and utilization of mental health services, and improved physical and mental health. Updates to the evaluation plan will be submitted by the end of each grant year and will incorporate learning and insights from the previous year.

Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (May 2018-April 2023)

CHER was selected to lead local evaluation efforts for the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities funded by the California Department of Public Health California

Tobacco Control Program. The API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities has identified three objectives for its tobacco control work: 1) By April 2023, Alhambra and Rosemead will adopt and implement a policy designating all outdoor dining areas, including patios and balconies, as smoke-free; 2) By April 2023, Gardena and San Gabriel will adopt and implement a policy designating 100% of individual units (including balconies and patios) in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes (with two or more attached units) and areas at least 30 feet from doors, windows, patios, and balconies, as smoke-free; and 3) Convene an API Youth Coalition of approximately 10-15 youth members between the ages of 14-19 years to engage in tobacco control work, including, but not limited to, increasing community awareness of tobacco use, policy advocacy, and data collection. As the local evaluation team, CHER staff is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and data collection instruments, and overseeing evaluation activities for the Network. During this reporting period, CHER staff developed data collection instruments and is currently preparing the IRB application. Once IRB approval is granted, CHER staff will conduct data collection training for project staff and members of the API Youth Coalition.

CHER Institute - Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (September 2016 – August 2021)

The goal of the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the CHER Institute features (1) the CHER Institute training program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience for up to 15 early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing a NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held 4-6 times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. are given priority for participation in the CHER Institute training program, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars is focused on MSI campuses and affiliated networks.

As listed in the proposal to the NIGMS the specific aims of the CHER Institute are to:

- Increase the number of early career faculty members (with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institution Faculty) who are better prepared to become NIH principal investigators in the field of community-based health equity research.
- Increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants.

<u>CHER Institute Training Program</u>

Awarded in September 2016, CHER held its inaugural CHER Institute training program from June 18 – 24, 2017. Immediately upon completion of the inaugural program, preparations began for the second CHER Institute held during this reporting period on June 4-9, 2018, and included the following activities:

- Implemented process and system for recruiting eligible early career faculty to participate in the CHER Institute.
    - Updated the CHER Institute website page housed within the broader Center for Health Equity Research website which includes application process and materials.

    - Disseminated multiple invitations to apply to all CSU campuses, CSULB leadership and faculty, and CHER Institute faculty mentors and their home institutions.
    - Reviewed all applications and made acceptance and rejection notifications.
    - Obtained enrollment commitments from accepted applicants.
- Refined educational and training program and activities based on staff debriefings and evaluation findings from the inaugural CHER Institute held June 2017.
    - Implemented changes to Institute programming. The most significant changes included: 1) increase time for faculty fellows to consult with mentors and work on specific aims; 2) schedule time for faculty fellows to network with other faculty mentors in addition to their assign mentor; 3) add a panel presentation on community-based participatory research practices that includes both field staff and a community partner; and 4) engage new presenter for the responsible conduct of research component.
    - Multiple meetings were held between CHER Leadership Team members to finalize content for the 6-day training program and schedule that included topics relevant to proposal preparation and submission to the NIH. The program was designed to focus on the development of a NIH specific aims by individual participants with guidance and mentorship by an assigned Institute Faculty Mentor. The cohort of no more than 15 faculty participants would be split into groups of 2-3 to work with an Institute Faculty Mentor whose work is relevant to their research areas of interest. Blocks of time were incorporated into the training schedule to allow for group activities and one on one mentoring.
- Delivered second annual, six day CHER Institute training program on June 4-9, 2018. Out of 16 applications received, 14 early career faculty members were accepted into the CHER Institute as Faculty Fellows with three faculty members from CSULB (See Table 1 below).
    - Coordinated all travel and logistics for CHER Institute participants and faculty mentors. All participants were housed at the Seal Beach Ayres Hotel.
    - Coordinated the development of presentations and materials with the Institute Faculty Mentors.
    - The CHER Institute training program consisted of five full days, Monday through Friday, with a half day of programming on Saturday, the final day of the Institute. Daily activities included a plenary session, a networking lunch break, "science chat", seminars, and time at the end of the day for individual and group assignments. Presentations for the plenary sessions, science chats and seminars included the following topics: Overview of NIH and NIH Institutes, Components of a NIH Application and Review Process, Selection of a NIH Institute, Writing a Compelling Significance Section, Challenges Encountered when Writing Specific Aims, Tips for Writing the Approach Section, Training Responsible Conduct of Research/Ethics in Research, Engaging the Community in Research, and Engaging the Community in Research. The final day of the program included the presentation of certificates of recognition for the Faculty Fellows. An optional welcome dinner was scheduled for the Sunday before the training as well as a culminating dinner on Friday, June 8th. Both dinners were well attended and served as an opportunity to network.
    - As a testament of the value this program brings to CSULB and as a representation of their ongoing support for CHER's work, President Conoley, CHHS Dean Lounsbery, and Dr. Simon Kim welcomed and addressed the Institute participants.
    - Institute faculty mentors met individually with participants each day to help formulate their overall research focus and questions, and to provide guidance on the specific aims. They also assisted participants in creating a 3-year research career development plan.

Table 1: CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

CHER Institute Faculty Fellow	**Institution**
Salim Al-Ani	CSULB
Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha	Tufts University School of Medicine
Terrrell Brown	Florida A&M University
Santiba Campbell	Bennett College
Sabrina Cherry	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Jennifer Erausquin	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Fiona Gorman	CSULB
Jennifer Hartle	San Jose State University
Jammie Hopkins	Morehouse School of Medicine
Mariah Kornbluh	California State University, Chico
Erica Payton	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Erlanger Turner	University of Houston Downtown
Kellie Walters	CSULB
Chunyan Yang	University of California, Santa Barbara

The CHER Institute was held at the Karl Anatol Center on campus for the entire 6-day program. An online evaluation of the CHER Institute was conducted during and immediately after the full week of Institute activities. Participants were asked to provide evaluative information each night regarding specific activities and presentations from the same day. On the final day of the Institute participants were asked several questions about their overall experience and the value of their participation to their individual career and research goals. Results from the 12 participants who responded to the overall evaluation items are summarized in the table below.

Table 2: CHER Institute Evaluation Summary

N=12 except where noted	% *Agree* or *Agree Strongly*
1. The CHER Institute provided a valuable learning experience.	100%
2. The Institute setting was comfortable and conducive for learning. (n=12)	91.7%
3. The Institute schedule was comfortable and conducive for learning.	83.3%
4. The evaluation process was reasonable.	100%
5. I plan to recommend this Institute to faculty at my institution.	100%
6. I am more knowledgeable about the NIH grant process compared to when I arrived.	100%
7. I feel more confident in my ability to construct specific aims for a NIH grant proposal as a result of my participation.	100%
8. It is likely that I will submit a grant proposal within the next year using the specific aims I developed here.	83.3%
9. I received new ideas about how to pursue and enhance my research endeavors.	91.6%
10. I feel better equipped to request support from my institution to pursue my research interests.	100%

N=12 except where noted	% *Agree* or *Agree Strongly*
11. I am confident that I will be able to accomplish the goals I set for myself within my professional development plan.	100%
12. The guidance I received from my faculty mentor met my expectations.	83.3%
13. I am better prepared to provide constructive feedback to peers in my home institution about their research products.	91.6%
14. It is likely that I will collaborate with other attendees on future research endeavors.	83.4%
15. I have made lasting connections in the field of health equity research.	91.6%
16. I will be a more productive researcher as a result of attending the CHER Institute.	100%
17. Overall, the CHER Institute met my expectations.	100%
18. I intend to participate in CHER Institute webinars when relevant for my research interests.	100%

Comments from participants were generally positive. Aspects of the Institute found to be most helpful included the faculty mentoring, constructing the components of the NIH grant application, particularly the session on writing a compelling significance section, the session on integrating theory into a grant application and a newly-added plenary session about constructing a NIH proposal. The diversity of research experiences of the selected faculty mentors who delivered engaging presentations were highly appreciated. Likewise, the Science Chat or small group discussions and case studies created discussion-friendly format filled with opportunities for networking, processing the sessions, and sharing of ideas and information. Participants also offered recommendations for enhancements and improvements which CHER intends to incorporate wherever possible in future CHER Institute sessions. Among other ideas, recommendations included requests for more individual feedback and time to process feedback, additional opportunities to network with Faculty Mentors, additional time on developing cultural competency for working with communities, and a session on developing manuscripts. Some topics of interest for future activities and webinars include advice on putting together a grant timeline, handling conflict with research collaborators, mixed methods, how to deal with burnout, and strategies for sustaining mentoring relationships. Participants were enthusiastic in their expressions of support of the CHER Institute:

"I received hands-on practice on writing up specific aims and the faculty's sharing of experiences (both successful and not successful ones) are very helpful to me; I greatly appreciate the opportunity to connect with fellow and faculty from various disciplines and institutes; their perspective and research approach promote my innovative thinking about my own research agenda."

"Thank you so much for providing us such a valuable learning and networking experience. It definitely benefits my research agenda and professional growth a lot. I left the CHER with some exciting ideas to move forward my research agenda."

"This was the most valuable experience I have had since graduate school towards planning and executing my research path. I feel energized and re-focused and am so grateful to have had this opportunity."

The 2019 CHER Institute is currently scheduled for June 3-8, 2019.

CHER Institute Webinars

In addition to the CHER Institute training program, four webinars for early career faculty were held during the 2017-2018 academic year (see Table 3 for webinar information). Topics for the CHER Institute webinars focused on 1) health equity research topics and 2) emerging research methodologies for faculty with the goal of enhancing early career scientists' knowledge on methods and analyses for conducting community-based, social and health behavior research to enhance health equity among racial and ethnic minority populations. Preparation for the delivery of the webinars included the following activities:

- Developed a schedule of research topics and presenters in consultation with members of the CHER Institute Leadership team and Institute Faculty Mentors.
- Promoted webinars via the CHER website, list serves, and individual emails, and postcard mailings to administrators at minority serving institutions who can direct the information to their faculty and staff.
- Created and coordinated a web-based registration portal for webinar participants located on the CHER website.
- Coordinated all logistics and provided technical support in preparation for and during the delivery of the webinar. This included ensuring adequacy and testing of equipment and software required for the webinar, and communicating with participants with webinar instructions and addressing technical difficulties.

Together, there were a total of 74 registrants for the 4 webinars, and 48 individual logins. In some cases, individuals shared a screen to participate, thus it is difficult to pinpoint the exact number of participants. Two of the webinars made use of presentations from the inaugural CHER Institute, which were video and audio recorded. The edited version of the presentation was made available to participants in advance, and the presenter was available live on the webinar to provide additional content and to answer questions. The remaining two webinars covered topics that were not previously available during the Institute. Webinar recordings will be made part of our repository on the CHER website.

Table 3. 2017-2018 Webinar Topics and Presenters

Date	**Webinar Topic**	**Presenter**
2017 FALL SEMESTER		
Oct. 11, 2017	*Writing an NIH Proposal Using Qualitative Methods*	**Matthew Mutchler, PhD, MA** Professor, Dept. of Sociology, California State University, Dominguez Hills; Director, Urban Community Research Center
Nov. 30, 2017	*Components of a NIH Application and Review Process*	**Roshan Bastani, PhD** Professor, Health Policy and Management; Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity; Director, Center for Prevention Research, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; Director, Disparities and Community Engagement; Associate Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Research, UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
2018 SPRING SEMESTER		
March 21, 2018	*Quantitative Research Methods -- Innovation: The Population, Approach, or Both*	**Ricky Bluthenthal, PhD** Professor (Clinical Scholar), Dept. of Preventive Medicine and the Institute for Prevention Research at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

April 24, 2018	*Developing Effective Culturally Relevant Interventions*	**Nina Harawa, PhD, MPH** Professor, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; Associate Professor in Residence, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

The 2018-2019 webinar series for the Fall 2018 semester will be held on the following dates: October 11th, Dr. Hugh Klein (Kensington Research Institute) will present on "Recommendations for Incorporating Internet-based Data Collection for Sensitive Topics with Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations", and November 29th, Dr. Bradley Conner (Colorado State University) will present on "When and Why to Consider the R03 Funding Mechanism". The webinars will be recorded and made available on the CHER website for viewing.

Annual CHER Institute Follow Up Survey

A link to a 38 item web-based survey was emailed to the 14 early career faculty who participated in our inaugural CHER Institute held June 26-July 1, 2017. A total of 11 faculty fellows responded to the survey. At one year following completion of the CHER Institute Training Program, the faculty fellows stated that the Institute has helped them become more productive researchers in terms of effectively and efficiently writing grants and designing projects. As grant writing is gaining more attention in the retention, tenure, and promotion process, the faculty fellows believed that involvement in the Institute improved their ability in securing funding and provided the validation of their research interests and their ability to pursue a viable research project. The follow up survey will be conducted annually for three years with each subsequent cohort of CHER Institute participants to assess the overall impact of their participation in the training program, and measure progress towards their career and research development goals

Optimizing Collective Impact: Innovations in University and Community Partnerships – Addressing Health Disparities Roundtable Brief (March – October 2017)

In April 2017, the CSULB College of Health and Human Services hosted a community town hall discussion on campus, "Optimizing Collective Impact: Innovations in University and Community Partnerships", as the impetus to an initiative to foment intellectual partnerships among CHHS faculty and community-based organizations in Long Beach. The town hall consisted of 24 roundtable discussions with 8-10 faculty and community representatives per table, each focused on one of the four areas of interest; homelessness, health disparities, aging, and clinical care and prevention. CHER Director, Dr. Laura D'Anna, served as a member of the planning committee and participated in the development of the roundtable facilitation questions specific to health disparities. In addition, Dr. D'Anna served as the lead facilitator for the health disparities roundtable discussions at the town hall and was invited to analyze and synthesize the discussions into a peer-review brief. With assistance from members of the CHER team, a 21-page brief/report was prepared that included key findings from the discussions, as well as Long Beach specific health data and local efforts to address health disparities affecting the community. Dean Lounsbery asked Dr. D'Anna to lead the Health Disparities Task Force consisting of faculty and community partners to determine next steps for the project. The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for November 2, 2018.

PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project - *My Sister's Keeper* Evaluation Project (January 2015 - December 2017)

CHER was selected as the evaluator for the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project or My Sister's Keeper due to its work on CalGRIP 6, as reported last year. The goal of My Sister's Keeper was to prevent and decrease the number of girls becoming gang-affiliated or gang-victimized (e.g., human-trafficked) through mentorship, counseling, and leadership development. This 3-year grant utilized an evidence-based, U.S. Department of Justice supported anti-gang strategy to serve at-risk girls age 10-24 years in the City of Long Beach. The four components of My Sister's Keeper included city-wide prevention, focused prevention, intervention, and suppression.

CHER utilized a mixed methods approach to evaluation with staggered data collection activities that took place during years 1 through 3 of project implementation. Quantitative data collection activities included pre- and post-surveys, which assessed social support, mental health, self-efficacy, leadership skills, and academic performance among members of the Female Leadership Academy at middle and high schools in Long Beach. To collect qualitative data, CHER staff conducted interviews with partner agencies in Year 1 (January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015) to learn about successes and challenges to service delivery. Interviews with service providers were conducted in Year 2 (January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016) to learn about service delivery, including barriers to retention and ways to improve existing services. For the evaluation of Year 3 (2017), CHER staff administered satisfaction surveys with 71 attendees at two community workshops on Human Trafficking for hotel staff at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach. The evaluation of Year 3 also included interviews with two human trafficking survivors to learn about barriers to service utilization, suggestions for improvement, and how CalGRIP 7 and the services it provided through its partner agencies have affected their lives. Findings from the workshop evaluation, interviews with human trafficking survivors, and other data collection activities were part of the final evaluation report of CalGRIP 7 submitted in March 2018, and included evaluation findings for all three years of the project.

"All In" Truancy Prevention Campaign Evaluation Project (October 2015 – September 2017)

CHER served as the evaluation team for the *All In Campaign*, a 2-year pilot project to address chronic truancy and chronic absenteeism at four schools in the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD). Pilot schools include Addams Elementary, Franklin Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, and Washington Middle School. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, the campaign was a collaborative effort between the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services and LBUSD. Campaign activities included: 1) student meetings with a Social Worker/Program Specialist to identify barriers to school attendance and resources needed, 2) family meetings with the City Prosecutor's office to mitigate criminal prosecution, 3) community engagement through a decal program for local businesses and parent education workshops to increase awareness of the importance of regular school attendance, 4) truancy sweeps to return students back to school and home visits to provide resources for families, 5) development of school specific strategic plans to track attendance and behavioral improvements, and 6) implementation of on-campus activities to help students and parents make school attendance a priority.

Evaluation activities included a) process measures in Year 1, to document program implementation and inform the development of similar campaigns, and b) outcome measures in Year 2 to assess changes in school attendance and chronic absenteeism. Campaign activities commenced January 2016 and CHER evaluation activities began March 2016. During Year 1, in-depth interviews with community stakeholders (i.e., school staff, Long Beach Police Department, the City Prosecutor, social workers, community

partners, and engaged parents) and site visits to local businesses in each school neighborhood was conducted to assess project buy-in. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) data was also reviewed to identify any changes in school attendance and chronic absenteeism rates. Findings revealed that parents were concerned about their child's education, but financial challenges made it difficult to make school attendance a priority. Interviews with school staff found that the campaign enhanced existing attendance-promoting activities and increased the schools' focus on improving attendance, while community stakeholder interviews revealed that sustainability of program activities was a major concern. Results from ADA data suggested that campaign implementation may have contributed to small improvements in school attendance at each school. Efforts to a) "brand" the campaign, b) engage key local businesses in providing discounted services, and c) improve targeted interventions to support families with chronic attendance issues was recommended by the CHER evaluation team.

In Year 2, post-workshop evaluations were collected from parent workshop attendees, in-depth interviews were conducted with parents and students, and surveys were collected from engaged parents and students to learn about their attitudes toward regular attendance and about their knowledge of and experience with the campaign activities. Additional Year 2 evaluation activities involves in-depth interviews with school staff to learn about the success and challenges of developing and implementing the strategic plan at each school. A final evaluation report was submitted for the project in September 2017 when the grant for this campaign ended.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Funded Proposals

"Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM" (Laura D'Anna, PI) submitted to the Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) of the University of California President's Office in response to High Impact Research Program funding mechanism. Our first proposal submission in October 2017 was scored highly, but not funded. A resubmission of the same proposal was submitted in March 2018 and was selected for funding with a start date of July 1, 2018. Below is a summary of the proposed three-year study.

To address the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program's tobacco-related health disparities research priority, the proposed study will draw upon established community-based partnerships and preliminary data from our previous PPOWER Project to develop and test a tobacco/nicotine and cannabis intervention tailored to young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) who report infrequent smoking of tobacco or marijuana, any vaping of tobacco/nicotine (or non-nicotine products), and any cannabis use, including edibles, or any combinations of these (henceforth referred to as "tobacco/nicotine and cannabis-related products"). We aim to intervene with both primary and secondary prevention approaches. The primary prevention approaches will be designed to avoid initiation of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use for YBMSM who report never having used any of the above substances. The secondary prevention approaches will be designed to prevent early or infrequent users from transitioning to frequent users. Our preliminary data show that YBMSM ages 18-24 experiment and engage in a range of substance use behaviors that vary with social relationships and situations. This points to the importance of identifying opportunities for developing holistic intervention approaches that take into account the context within which YBMSM initiate and continue using substances.

The study will involve two phases focused on the proposed specific aims as described below:
Phase I – Formative Data Collection, Intervention Development, and Feasibility Pilot
(AIM 1) To conduct formative work with YBMSM (n=30) to explore the patterns of initiation, experimentation and transition from infrequent to frequent tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use, and to

further examine links between use of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis-related products and higher risk sexual behaviors;
(AIM 2) To use preliminary data and formative data to develop individual- and community-level intervention approaches on avoiding and reducing use of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis;
(AIM 3) Conduct a feasibility pilot of recruitment strategies and intervention components among YBMSM (n=10); and
Phase II – Intervention Testing
(AIM 4) To use a quasi-experimental design to test the efficacy of the multi-level intervention among 220 YBMSM (Intervention group = 110; Control group = 110).

Our primary hypothesis is that a tailored, peer-based intervention will result in deferred initiation and reduction of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use among YBMSM in the intervention group in comparison to the control group. Our secondary hypothesis is that a decrease in substance use will be associated with reduced sexual health risk behaviors.

Unfunded Proposals

"PPOWER^2: PrEP Intervention Study for Black Men who have Sex with Men" (Laura D'Anna, PI) submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PA-18-281: *Strengthening the HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Care Continuum through Behavioral, Social, and Implementation Science (R01 Clinical Trial Option),* submitted May 2018

In this application, CHER proposed to develop and pilot test a peer led, evidence-based intervention to increase Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)/Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) uptake and adherence and regular HIV/STI screening among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the greater Long Beach area. Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and represent 26% of all new HIV cases in the United States. In Los Angeles County, BMSM account for only 1% of the population yet they represent 18% of MSM HIV infections. PrEP has shown high efficacy in protecting MSM from HIV infection in large clinical trials and community demonstration projects. However, despite its effectiveness, PrEP uptake remains low among BMSM and even lower among YBMSM compared to their white and Latino counterparts due to stigma related to PrEP use and skepticism regarding its efficacy. To address the NIH's research priority, we proposed to draw upon an established community-based partnership network and preliminary data from an ongoing research project (PPOWER), to develop and test an intervention to increase PrEP/PEP uptake and adherence and regular HIV/STI screening among YBMSM. The proposed study consisted of three phases: 1) formative research to explore barriers to PrEP uptake; 2) intervention development and feasibility pilot; and 3) intervention implementation and testing of intervention effectiveness.

This proposed study leveraged preliminary data from our PPOWER Project, and included PPOWER community partners as collaborators, serving as recruitment and intervention delivery sites. Our community partners, in particular St. Mary Medical Center CARE Program, made a commitment to provide linkage to PrEP services and other service referrals for study participants. As in all of our proposal applications, support for our community partners was included in the budget to assist them with costs associated with the use of their services and facilities.

"Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for "Exercise for Better Health'] (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PAR-14-321: Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (R21/R33), March 2018. This application was a resubmission of a new application submitted October 2016.

The proposed project, "Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for *Exercise for Better Health*] was to be a collaborative effort between the CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), The Cambodian Family (TCF), California State University, Fullerton's Center for Successful Aging and multiple Cambodian serving, community-based organizations in Santa Ana and Long Beach, CA. The proposed study would have conducted formative research to develop and test a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase physical activity (PA) among Cambodian older adults (50 years of age and older) living in two socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, namely Santa Ana and Long Beach.

Drawing on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) principles and the Group-Mediated Cognitive Behavioral (GMCB) framework, we proposed to develop a culturally-tailored and age-relevant PA program that incorporates individual- and socio-cultural (interpersonal/community)-level intervention activities, which are based on best practices from the literature and our study team's extensive experience working with Cambodians. This would be the first time these evidence-based approaches would be packaged into a PA intervention model that is tailored to the needs of older Cambodians. We hypothesized that, by drawing upon the strengths and resiliencies of community members, and by intervening on the problem of low PA on both individual and socio-cultural levels, we would achieve an innovative, low-cost intervention that would be sustainable by the community. The 5-year funding mechanism for this proposal consisted of an initial 2-year formative data collection and pilot testing phase (R21) with Cambodian residents in Santa Ana, followed by a three-year intervention testing phase (R33) with Cambodian residents in Long Beach.

Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez, from the Department of Health Science, was listed as a co-investigator, and Dr. Debra Rose, Director of the CSUF Center for Successful Aging, was listed as a consultant and subcontract based on her expertise in the development and implementation of physical activity interventions for older adults. The Cambodian Family, a non-profit, organization in Santa Ana, California was also included as a subcontract based on their 30 years plus experience providing social and wellness services to Cambodian families. This proposal was submitted in March 2018 and was voluntarily withdrawn in order to respond to new clinical trial requirements and a technical issue that occurred during the submission process. We plan to resubmit the proposal November 2018.

"CSULB Research Center in Minority Institution: Community Engagement Core" (Laura D'Anna, Core PI) included in proposal submission (Alex Washington, PI) to National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities in response to funding announcement RFA-MD-17-00: *Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)* U54, December 2017

CHER was invited to serve as the lead for the Community Engagement Core (CE Core) of a larger application to the Nation Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities in response to their funding announcement "Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)". As one of five cores (others cores included Administrative Core, Research Infrastructure Core, Investigator Development Core, and Recruitment Core), the goal of the CE Core was to develop a sustainable community-based research support network which would focus on: 1) creating an innovative, community-based research support network comprised of key health-related organizations in the greater Long Beach, California area; 2) providing training and mentoring on community-engagement research strategies to CSULB faculty interested in conducting health disparities research; 3) linking faculty to partners within the research

support network to achieve optimal patient and resident engagement; and 4) disseminating research results to involved community partners and the broader scientific community. The proposed CE Core would have complemented other research training offerings available through CHER including the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)-funded CHER Institute (see ongoing projects); an in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience coupled with ongoing web-based research training experiences for interested faculty across the U.S.

The RCMI proposal submission was a collaborative effort between faculty members across multiple departments that included Biological Sciences, Computer Engineering and Computer Science, Health Care Administration, Health Science, Kinesiology, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Psychology, and the School of Social Work, and two research centers at CSULB, CHER and the Center for Behavioral Research and Services. The application also included support for three faculty research projects. This application was a resubmission of a proposal submitted in March 2017 that was determined to be ineligible for review based on a budgetary technical issue.

CHER Website

A CHER website is located at www.csulb.edu/HealthEquity. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar, center-related news articles, staff bios and links to their publications, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and other information about health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the public. Some data and research support tools are also available, including a MySQL database server and in-house installation of the open-source on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' used in projects requiring greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools. The software allows CHER to provide special handling of sensitive data, complex question presentation and data validation, and data entry collaboration with community partners. Beginning in 2016, CHER has provided assistance to the NIH Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program at CSULB by designing and hosting the faculty mentor directory of the CSULB BUILD Institute web pages, a search tool to assist BUILD students in searching for and selecting a mentor from among the BUILD faculty.

During the current reporting period, efforts have been made to update the CHER website with current news, achievements and project descriptions.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

During the period under review, five undergraduate and four graduate students, all from the Health Science department, worked at CHER as volunteer student interns and paid part-time staff (see Table 4). As interns, the students served as research assistants, assisting Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports and general office duties as needed. Juventino "Tino" Rivera, one of our spring 2018 undergraduate interns and a first-generation college student, was accepted into the Masters in Nursing Program at the University of San Francisco. In addition, MarkJason Cabudol, an anthropology graduate from San Diego State University seeking public health research experience, volunteered as a part-time research assistant conducting qualitative analysis and drafting a manuscript outline for the PPOWER Project, and left this role in order to pursue a new career at University of Washington's School of Medicine.

Table 4: CHER Health Science Student Interns

STUDENT INTERNS
Graduate Students
Lyka Eunice Fortaleza Trinidad*
Brittney Levenson
Aditi Parey
Ahana Singh
Undergraduate Students
Bridget Burnham
Aiza Chinsio
Dallin Geiser
Juventino Rivera Carlos
Samantha Serrano

*Student intern was hired as a part-time research assistant after the completion of internship.

COLLABORATIONS

Dr. D'Anna and CHER staff collaborated with several CSULB faculty and staff members, on projects or in the preparation of proposals and/or manuscripts during the year under review (Please see Table 5).

Table 5: CSULB Faculty/Staff Collaborators

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
PPOWER Project Collaborators	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Heidi Girling	Student Health Services
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
Proposal Development	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Dennis Fisher	Psychology
Grace Reynolds	Health Care Administration
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Manuscript Development	
Marissa Hansen	School of Social Work

The table below lists CSULB faculty and faculty from other academic institutions who are serving as *Faculty Mentors* for the CHER Institute/IPERT Project funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Table 6: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	**Institution**
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, Ph.D., MPH Director, Center for Health Equity in the Americas Co-Director, Global Health Track Associate Dean for Community Initiatives	University of Southern California
Roshan Bastani, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity Director, UCLA Center for Prevention Research Director, Disparities and Community Engagement	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, Dr.PH Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs	Bennett College
Dennis Fortenberry, M.D., M.S. Professor of Pediatrics Professor of Medicine Division Chief, Section of Adolescent Medicine Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew Mutchler, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Social Work Director, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Nina Harawa, Ph.D. Professor (Charles Drew) Associate Professor in Residence (UCLA)	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles
Fernando Wagner, D.Sc., MPH Professor, School of Social Work	University of Maryland, Baltimore,

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	Institution
Laura D'Anna Assistant Professor, Health Science	California State University, Long Beach
Thomas Alex Washington Professor, School of Social Work	California State University, Long Beach

In addition, CHER staff collaborated with multiple community-based organizations on projects and/or proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

Table 7: Community Based Collaborators

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Gisele Fong	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	BHCLB Hub
PPOWER Project Collaborators	
Kerry Deeney	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Morales	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Michael Buitron	St. Mary Medical Center C.A.R.E. Program
Kerry Brown	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Cambodian Wellness Project Collaborators	
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
California Tobacco Control Program	
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Scott Chan	API (Asian Pacific Islander) Forward Movement
Rod Lew	APPEAL (Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership)
Proposal Development	
Kelly Colopy	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Porter Gilberg	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Ismael Salamanca	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Marc McMillan	Getting to Zero Long Beach
Lindsey Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health

Steve Colman	Century Villages at Cabrillo
Elisa Nicholas	The Children's Clinic
Drew Gagner	St. Mary Medical Center Foundation
James Sauzo	Building Healthy Communities, Long Beach
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Alexander R. Rossel	Families Together of Orange County
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
Amy Buch	Orange County Health Care Agency

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHHS Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute
Early career faculty members in the College of Health and Human Services were invited to apply to participate in the 2nd annual CHER Institute held June 2018. Three faculty members submitted an application and were accepted into the program; Salim Al-Anin (Speech-Language Pathology), Fiona Gorman (Health Science), and Kellie Walters (Kinesiology).

C. Accomplishments

This section includes manuscripts and abstracts related to CHER projects that were prepared and submitted by CHER staff from July 2017 to June 2018 and accepted for publication or presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

D'Anna LH, Fisher D, **Trinidad EU**, **Canjura C**, and **Wood J**. Building health equity one institution at a time: The Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions Project. Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education and Action. Under review.

D'Anna LH, Hansen M, **Mull B, Canjura C, Lee E, Sumstine S**. Social discrimination and health care: A multidimensional framework of experiences among a low-income multiethnic sample. Social Work in Public Health 2018; 33(3): 187-201.

D'Anna LH, Peong V, **Sabado P, Valdez-Dadia A**, Hansen MC, **Canjura C, Hong M**. Barriers to physical and mental health: Understanding the intersecting needs of Cambodian and Latino residents in urban communities. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health 2018; 20(5): 1243-1260.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2018

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Owens J, and Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Cannabis use and increased risks for HIV among young black sexual minority males in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at the 22nd International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; July 2018.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, **Owens J**, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Structural, social and behavioral facilitators and barriers associated with antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) usage among marginalized young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, **Owens J**, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Stigma and discrimination: Fueling the HIV epidemic among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Owens J, D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Intimate partner violence (IPV) and increased sexual-risk behaviors in a sample of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, Damico T, Fong G, Petit C, and **D'Anna LH**. A Community-led Effort to Increase Food Access and Improve Economic Development through Urban Agriculture. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, **D'Anna LH**, Fong G, Petit C, and Ulaszewski B. A Community-led Effort to Increase Open Space for Park-poor Residents in Central Long Beach, CA. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, Rasmussen A, Fong G, Petit C, and **D'Anna LH**. Green Zones: A Community-led Effort to Reduce Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Long Beach, CA. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Valdez-Dadia A, Kouch K, Sngiem S, Peong V, Gervacio L, Hopson C, **Sabado P**, and **D'Anna LH.** Working as a collaborative on a community-defined approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

2017

Sabado P, Fong G, and **D'Anna LH**. Engaging the Community in Campaign Development to Improve the Built Environment. Poster presentation at the 145th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2017.

Sumstine S, D'Anna LH, Choi JH, Chheang J, and Eldred S. *Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment: An Innovative Process for Mobilizing a Regional Approach*. Poster presentation at the 145th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2017.

Valdez-Dadia A, Sabado P, Simon E, Gomeztrejo J, Boatwright C, **and D'Anna LH.** *All In Campaign: A Community-Based Approach to Improving School Attendance*. Poster presentation at the 145th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2017.

II. Unit Accounting

ONGOING PROJECTS

CHER Institute – Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) YR2
National Institute of General Medical Services
Fund G1992
Project Period: 09/01/17 – 08/31/18

Award amount	$385,069
Balance as of 06/30/18	$116,744

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources (PPOWER) Project YR3
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Fund G1871
Project Period: 09/30/17 – 09/29/18

Award amount	$299,723
Balance as of 06/30/18	$71,201

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G2075
Project Period: 07/01/17 – 12/31/18 (No cost extension, initial end date 6/30/18)

Award amount	$75,000
Balance as of 06/30/18	$4,245

Cambodian Wellness Project – Evaluation YR 1
California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity via Cambodian Assoc. of America
Fund G2039
Project Period: 05/01/17 – 06/30/18

Award amount	$45,600
Balance as of 06/30/18	$303

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G1929
Project Period: 05/01/16 – 10/31/18 (No cost extension, initial end date 02/28/18)

Award amount	$68,240
Balance as of 06/30/18	$18,017

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project Evaluation YR 2 – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G1827
Project Period: 04/22/16 – 07/31/18 YR2 (No cost extension, initial end date 04/21/17)

Award amount	$60,487
Balance available as of 06/30/18	$207

NEW AWARD

PPOWER2: Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM
Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) – Univ. of California Office of the President
Project Period: 07/01/18 – 06/30/19

Award amount	$368,738

RESEARCH STIMULATION ACCOUNTS

Center for Health Equity Research
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$7,351
Funds expended during the review period	$5,780
Balance as of 06/30/2018	$23,789

Laura D'Anna (PI)
Fund RS269

Funds received during the review period	$5,351
Funds expended during the review period	$0
Balance as of 06/30/2018	$33,318

COMPLETED FUNDING

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G1955
Project Period: 07/01/16 – 12/31/17 (End date extended from 6/30/17)

Award amount	$110,064
Balance as of 06/30/18	$0

Long Beach Truancy Prevention Project: "All In" Campaign Evaluation Project
City of Long Beach
Fund G1935
Project Period: 03/01/16 – 12/31/17 (End date extended from 09/30/17)

Award amount	$57,500
Balance as of 06/30/18	$0

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project Evaluation YR 3 – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G2033
Project Period: 01/01/17 – 12/31/17

Award amount	$30,000
Balance as of 06/30/18	$0

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED ADD NEW DESKTOPS AND AV EQUIPMENT

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space. In addition, we share a conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. With research stimulation support from Dr. Kevin Malotte, former Center Director, eight new computer work stations were purchased to replace existing desktop computers that were past or close to reaching the end of their life span. The new computers will allow the Center to continue its research, evaluation and training efforts without disruption due to outdated or expired equipment. One of the new computers has advanced audio-visual capabilities that will allow the Center to edit, archive, and distribute video recordings and webinars developed as part of CHER Institute programming. Apart from the desktop computers, the Center did not make acquisition of equipment or other tangible assets of a permanent or semi-permanent nature with a value in excess of $5,000 during this reporting period.

Center for Health Equity Research
California State University, Long Beach

Annual Report
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 20 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. During these 20 years, the Center garnered approximately $19.5 million dollars in research funding with approximately $750,000 going to the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) in indirect funds. A sizable portion of this funding ($4.5 million) was from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project, and more recently from three new federal awards totaling $3.1 million dollars.

CHER was renamed and reconstituted in April 2014 through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Professor in the department of Health Science, is Center Director. In addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center, Dr. D'Anna also serves as the principal investigator on ongoing projects, and provides direction and oversight for all Center activities.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships and student research assistant positions. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach and the Greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Currently, CHER serves as the lead evaluators for Building Health Communities, Long Beach, a large public health initiative funded by The California Endowment, as well as the evaluators for a community-based project conducted by St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health and a collaborative lead by the Cambodian Association of America.

The CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. The following pages contain information on these efforts as well as an overview of our current projects.

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

PROJECTS

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project (January 2012 - June 2020)

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L & E) Team for BHCLB. As the L & E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys with adult and youth residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; work with BHCLB staff and Steering Committee members to analyze and interpret findings; and prepare an annual evaluation report. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participated in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- CHER Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation, Dr. Parichart Sabado, attended L & E convenings in Oakland on October 2018 and March 2019 to discuss changes to the new TCE evaluation framework, share local evaluation activities, learn from L & E teams at other BHC sites, and discuss the role of L & E in sustainability in light of the initiative coming to an end in 2020.
- Dr. Sabado participated in the development and pilot test of a template for storytelling that will be used across BHC sites to highlight their accomplishments as the initiative comes to an end. After revisions were made based on feedback gathered from a convening of L & E teams, the final Storytelling Blueprint template was shared with BHC sites in April 2019.
- The CHER L & E team, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, and with input from community partners and residents, developed the Resident Power Survey to measure level of engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making. Two waves of data collection for the Resident Power survey were conducted in 2013 and 2015. For the third wave of data collection which took place August – December 2018, the survey was revised to align local evaluation activities with TCE's new evaluation. A total of 440 surveys were collected. A manuscript on the Resident Power Survey is in development that includes an analysis of data from the three waves of data collection and the lessons learned from survey administration.

During the previous reporting period, CHER staff used findings from a community needs assessment to develop a community survey to assist BHCLB's Environmental Health Workgroup in developing a campaign to address environmental injustice in communities of color. An abstract on survey findings (***Green Zones: A Community-led Effort to Reduce Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Long Beach, CA***) was accepted as a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association meeting in November 2018. Dr. Sabado attended the meeting and co-presented the poster with a representative from East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice, an Environmental Health Workgroup member. The poster drew much interest during the poster session, as it highlighted results from a two-stage process of engaging residents in identifying needs in their community.

In addition to the aforementioned poster, two additional posters related to BHCLB work was presented at APHA. ***A Community-led Effort to Increase Open Space for Park-poor Residents in Central Long Beach*** described the construction of Gumbiner Park in Central Long Beach. This community-led effort transformed a dangerous intersection into a safe, open space that provides residents with access to amenities, programming, and the arts, and also improves pedestrian connectivity between multiple neighborhoods. ***A Community-led Effort to Increase Food Access and Improve Economic Development through Urban Agriculture*** was an example of an innovative use of vacant lots to increase access to healthy foods while reducing neighborhood blight. The collaborative effort between local farmers, community-based organizations, and community residents resulted in the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones program that provides tax breaks to property owners who agree to transform their vacant lots into urban farms for at least 5 years. Dr. Sabado worked with CityFabrick, a design firm and BHCLB community partner, on poster development and provided guidance to two community partners who presented the posters at the meeting.

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources – 2 (PPOWER^2) Project - Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM (July 2018 – June 2021)

Funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), the PPOWER^2 study draws upon established community-based partnerships and the work achieved with our first PPOWER Project which was completed during this reporting period in March 2019 (see Completed Projects section.) To address TRDRP's tobacco-related health disparities research priority, the study will develop and test a tobacco/nicotine and cannabis intervention tailored to young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) who report infrequent smoking of tobacco or marijuana, any vaping of tobacco/nicotine (or non-nicotine products), and any cannabis use, including edibles, or any combinations of these. We aim to intervene with both primary and secondary prevention approaches. The primary prevention approaches have been designed to avoid initiation of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use for YBMSM who report never having used any of the above substances. The secondary prevention approaches have been designed to prevent early or infrequent users from transitioning to frequent users. Our preliminary data from the initial PPOWER Project show that YBMSM ages 18-24 experiment and engage in a range of substance use behaviors that vary with social relationships and situations. This points to the importance of identifying opportunities for developing holistic intervention approaches that take into account the context within which YBMSM initiate and continue using substances. The study involves two phases which consists of formative data collection, intervention development, and a feasibility pilot (Phase I), followed by an intervention testing phase (Phase 2).

During the first project year which coincides with this reporting period, we accomplished our objective to complete formative data collection with members of our target population, and use findings from the data to inform the development of intervention components and recruitment strategies. Five focus groups and seven individual interviews were conducted between December 2018 and February 2019. The qualitative data garnered from the focus groups and interviews were used to inform the development of individual-level intervention components which were tested with PPOWER2 outreach staff, and revised as needed for implementation in the community as part of a feasibility pilot test. Findings from the formative data were also used to develop five abstracts for submission to the American Public Health Association for their annual meeting scheduled for November 2019, four of which were accepted for presentation. Two abstracts were accepted for a poster presentation (***The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco***, and ***He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men [YBMSM] in Los Angeles, California.***) The remaining two abstracts were accepted for an oral (***The influence of social norms and pressures to use marijuana among young black men who have sex with men***), and a roundtable presentation (***Is marijuana a sex drug? Perceptions of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County***.) Mr. Jaelen Owens, the Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the project, will attend the meeting and conduct all four presentations. A feasibility pilot to test recruitment, intervention and follow up strategies began participant enrollment in September 2019, with a goal to complete all intervention and data collection activities by the end of the calendar year.

Cambodian Wellness Project Evaluation (January 2017 – April 2022)

The Cambodian Wellness Program (CWP) is one of 35 projects under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) funded by the California Department of Public Health. It is the first program of its kind that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and intervention activities centered on shifting cultural norms about mental illness. The CWP is a collaborative of five Cambodian-serving organizations that are jointly implementing program activities to promote mental wellness among Cambodians. The organizations include Cambodian Association of America (CAA), Families in Good Health (FiGH), Khmer Parent Association (KPA), The Cambodian Family (TCF), and United Cambodian Community (UCC).

CAA, FiGH, TCF, and UCC work collaboratively to implement project activities, while KPA assists with outreach and recruitment only. The CWP is a multi-component program that consists of: 1) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) community outreach and engagement; 2) PEI educational workshops with a focus on mental and physical wellness; 3) case management, navigation, and referral to health and social services; and 4) spiritual and recreational activities. Spiritual activities will harness the power of cultural and religious practices of importance to the Cambodian community such as water blessings, meditation, prayer, and other Buddhist rituals strongly associated with the healing process. Recreational activities include: field trips, in-house activities (e.g., potluck), and arts, crafts, music and dance therapy.

As the local evaluation team for the CWP, CHER assists with data collection for the statewide evaluation, while also conducting local evaluation activities to generate data to add to the body of research on mental health among Cambodians. The CWP evaluation follows a quasi-experimental design to assess program effectiveness in promoting mental wellness among program participants. Evaluation activities include

both quantitative (i.e., pre- and post-surveys) and qualitative (i.e., in-depth interviews) data collection during Years 2-4 of the 5-year project, with Year 1 serving as a pilot phase for program services only (i.e., no data collection). During this reporting period, all participants in two of five Cohorts planned for the project were enrolled and have completed a baseline survey (n=209) with follow-up assessments scheduled at 3-month, 6-month and 9-month post enrollment. During this reporting period, CHER also developed a data entry portal, the CWP database, to collect and manage process level data.

An abstract on findings from an analysis of baseline data (***Baseline data from the Community Wellness Program, a community-based approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA***) has been accepted as an oral presentation at the American Public Health Association meeting, to be held in November 2019. Dr. Sabado will co-present with Mr. Vattana Peong, Executive Director of The Cambodian Family, one of five CWP community partners.

Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (May 2018-April 2023)

CHER was selected to lead local evaluation efforts for the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities funded by the California Department of Public Health California Tobacco Control Program. The API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities has identified three objectives for its tobacco control work: 1) By April 2023, Alhambra and Rosemead will adopt and implement a policy designating all outdoor dining areas, including patios and balconies, as smoke-free; 2) By April 2023, Gardena and San Gabriel will adopt and implement a policy designating 100% of individual units (including balconies and patios) in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes (with two or more attached units) and areas at least 30 feet from doors, windows, patios, and balconies, as smoke-free; and 3) Convene an API Youth Coalition of approximately 10-15 youth members between the ages of 14-19 years to engage in tobacco control work, including, but not limited to, increasing community awareness of tobacco use, policy advocacy, and data collection.

As the local evaluation team, CHER staff is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and data collection instruments, and overseeing evaluation activities for the Network. During this reporting period, Dr. Pari Sabado and Mr. Jeff Wood, CHER IT/Data Manager, provided data collection training to project staff and members of the API Youth Coalition. The training was provided over three days and included prevalence of tobacco/e-cigarette use and their health effects and an overview of the project and evaluation. During the three days, youth members also received a training on human subjects research using CIRTification, a curriculum that was developed by the Center for Clinical and Translational Science as a community-friendly alternative to the online CITI training. CIRTification considers community partners' limited research experience by addressing ethical issues in plain language. The training includes real-world examples and participatory activities, such as brainstorming, case-based discussions, and role-playing exercises. Since completing the CIRTification training, members of the API Youth Coalition have assisted with administering door-to-door surveys in Gardena and El Segundo, and street intercept surveys in Rosemead. During this reporting period, a total of 226 door-to-door and 156 street intercept surveys have been completed.

An abstract on engaging youth in tobacco control work (***Building Youth Capacity for Tobacco Control Work***) has been accepted as an oral presentation at the American Public Health Association meeting, to be held in November 2019. Dr. Sabado will co-present with Ms. Claudia Pinedo, Community Engagement Coordinator at Families in Good Health.

CHER Institute - Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (September 2016 – August 2021)

The goal of the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the CHER Institute features (1) the CHER Institute training program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience for up to 18 early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing a NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held 4 times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. are given priority for participation in the CHER Institute training program, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars is focused on MSI campuses and affiliated networks.

As listed in the proposal to the NIGMS the specific aims of the CHER Institute are to:

- Increase the number of early career faculty members (with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institution Faculty) who are better prepared to become NIH principal investigators in the field of community-based health equity research.
- Increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants.

<u>CHER Institute Training Program</u>

Since its award in September 2016, CHER has held three CHER Institute training programs with a total of 45 faculty participants with seven faculty members from the CSULB College of Health and Human Services. The third annual, six-day CHER Institute training program was held June 3-8, 2019 in the Karl Anatol Center at CSULB. Out of 28 applications received, 18 early career faculty members were accepted into the CHER Institute as Faculty Fellows with one faculty member from CSULB (See Table 1 below). The number of applications received was a 75% increase from the previous year. Enhancements were made to the training program based on staff debriefings and evaluation findings from the second CHER Institute held June 2018.

The CHER Institute training program consisted of five full days, with a half day the final day of the Institute. Daily activities included a plenary session, a networking lunch break, “science chat”, seminars, and time at the end of the day for individual and group assignments. In addition to facilitating plenary sessions, science chats and seminars, Institute faculty mentors met individually with participants each day to provide guidance on the formulation of their research and a 3-year research career development plan. The final day of the program included the presentation of certificates of recognition for the Faculty Fellows. An optional welcome dinner was scheduled for the Sunday before the training as well as a culminating dinner on Friday, June 7th. Both dinners were well attended and served as an opportunity to network.

Table 1: 2019 CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

CHER Institute Faculty Fellow	Institution
Gloria Thomas Anderson	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Rachel L. Burrage	University of Hawaii at Manoá
Noé Rubén Chávez	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Oscar Gil-Garcia	Binghamton University, State University of New York
Julii Green	Alliant International University
Maria Hernandez	California State University, Los Angeles
Aleksander Kecojevic	William Paterson University
Isabella Lanza	California State University, Long Beach
Vithya Murugan	Saint Louis University
Hannah Nguyen	California State University, Dominguez Hills
R. David Rebanal	San Francisco State University
Cindy Sangalang	California State University, Los Angeles
Jin Young Seo	Hunter College, the City University of New York
Esther Son	The City University of New York, College of Staten Island
Casey Taliancich-Klinger	University of Texas at San Antonio
Alvin Thomas	Palo Alto University

An online evaluation of the CHER Institute was conducted during and immediately after the full week of Institute activities. Feedback and comments from participants were overwhelmingly positive. Aspects of the Institute found to be most helpful included the valuable information in constructing the components of the NIH grant application, particularly the sessions on writing a compelling significance section, and the integration of theory into a grant application. Participants were also appreciative of the faculty mentoring available to them during the entirety of program. The following are selected faculty fellow quotes taken from the open-ended portion of the overall evaluation survey:

- *Direct interaction with very accomplished mentors. I think it was especially useful to have the mentors available throughout the week rather than as presenters who offered their expertise in a presentation then left.*
- *Science Chats (being able to discuss my ideas with others and receive feedback)-Panel Discussions (participants were candid about the struggles of the work and how to overcome it)-Working toward deliverables in real time. The daily homework REALLY help me apply the skills presented earlier in the day. - Access to Mentors - Humble and Brilliant Mentors (they challenged us and also encouraged us)-the CHER Team (they established the relaxing and positive space from the moment we walked in the room).*
- *Individual mentoring sessions, the ability to meet other junior faculty, and the self-reflection and empowerment of the sessions. The mentors are the key to this institute. The mentors are fantastic*

and it's so important to have mentors that are highly successful and in a place to be able to share their knowledge and resources with mentees. I was so impressed with how engaged they were (particularly that they came every day for the entire day!). The organization between presentations, panels, and group meetings keeps things moving at a rapid and fun pace through the day. The mock review panel was incredibly helpful! Hearing from community stakeholders was critical too in understanding my potential role in the community. I appreciate that we prepared well for the Institute with the PDP (professional development plan), lit review and drafted Specific Aims.

The 2020 CHER Institute is scheduled for June 8 – 13, 2019.

CHER Institute Webinars

In addition to the CHER Institute training program, four webinars for early career faculty were held during the 2018-2019 academic year (see Table 2 for webinar information). Topics for the CHER Institute webinars focused on 1) funding mechanisms and research support for early career faculty and 2) emerging research methodologies for faculty.

Together, there were a total of 140 registrants for the four webinars, and 86 individual logins. This is an 89% and 80% increase from the previous reporting period in the number of webinar registrants and individual logins respectively. Webinar recordings are available through a link on the CHER website.

Table 2. 2018-2019 Webinar Topics and Presenters

Date	**Webinar Topic**	**Presenter**
2018 FALL SEMESTER		
Oct. 11, 2018	*Recommendations for Incorporating Internet-Based Data Collection for Sensitive Topics within Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations*	**Hugh Klein, PhD** Director, Kensington Research Institute
Nov. 29, 2018	*Why and When to Consider the R03 Mechanism*	**Bradley Conner, PhD** Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of Addiction Counseling, Colorado State University
2019 SPRING SEMESTER		
March 28, 2019	*The Use of the Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Program for Health Disparities Research*	**Naomi Hall-Byers, PhD, MPH** Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences, Winston-Salem State University
May 16, 2019	*Mentoring Early Career Faculty for the NIH Research Climate and Culture*	**Ronald L. Braithwaite, PhD** Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Family Medicine and Psychiatry, Morehouse School of Medicine

The 2019-2020 webinar series for the Fall 2019 semester will be held on the following dates: October 24th, Ms. Elizabeth Wu (UCLA Hub for Health Intervention, Policy and Practice) will present on "The Use of Social Media to Recruit and Engage High Risk Populations in Health Disparities Research", and November 14th, Dr. Jonathon Rendina (Hunter College of the City University of New York) will present on "Tips for Writing a Compelling NIH Approach Section."

Annual CHER Institute Follow Up Survey

A link to a web-based survey was emailed to the 28 early career faculty who participated in our inaugural and second annual CHER Institute held June 2017 and 2018, respectively. The follow-up survey is designed to assess the overall impact of the training program, and to measure progress towards their career and research development goals, specifically their publication and grand development productivity. Overall, faculty reported continued confidence in their progress towards the completion of their career and research development goals and their ability to address barriers and challenges to obtain support for their research portfolios. A large majority also reported that they felt they made lasting connections in the field of health equity research through the CHER Institute. The follow up survey will be conducted annually with each subsequent cohort of CHER Institute participants. Please see section on Contributions to CHHS for a summary of survey responses from CHHS faculty Institute participants.

Optimizing Collective Impact: Task Force to Address Innovations in University and Community Partnerships – Addressing Health Disparities (November 2018 – May 2019)

In April 2017, the CSULB College of Health and Human Services hosted a community town hall discussion on campus, "Optimizing Collective Impact: Innovations in University and Community Partnerships", as the impetus to an initiative to foment intellectual partnerships among CHHS faculty and community-based organizations in Long Beach. The town hall consisted of 24 roundtable discussions with 8-10 faculty and community representatives per table, each focused on one of the four areas of interest; homelessness, health disparities, aging, and clinical care and prevention. CHER Director, Dr. Laura D'Anna, served as a member of the planning committee and participated in the development of the roundtable facilitation questions specific to health disparities. In addition, Dr. D'Anna served as the lead facilitator for the health disparities roundtable discussions at the town hall and was invited to analyze and synthesize the discussions into a peer-review brief. With assistance from members of the CHER team, a 21-page brief/report was prepared that included key findings from the discussions, as well as Long Beach specific health data and local efforts to address health disparities affecting the community. Dean Lounsbery asked Dr. D'Anna to lead the Health Disparities Task Force consisting of faculty and community partners to determine next steps for the project. The first meeting of the task force was held November 2, 2018. The task force continued to meet through the spring 2019 semester and provided Dean Lounsbery with recommendations to inform BEACH 2030 planning.

PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources for substance abuse and HIV/HCV prevention (PPOWER) Project (October 2015 – March 2019)

The Peer Promotion of Wellness, and Enhanced Linkage to Resources Project (PPOWER) Project was a 3-year collaborative effort in partnership with St. Mary Medical Center CARE Program, The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (The Center), and Behavioral Health Services (BHS), Inc., funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Association (SAMSHA). The goal of the project was to address an unmet need on the CSULB campus and in the Long Beach community to serve Black young men who have sex with men (YBMSM) ages 18 to 24, at risk for substance use and HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) infection. Through PPOWER, CHER and its community partners worked to prevent and reduce substance use, specifically alcohol and marijuana use, and provide community-level interventions, testing and

linkage to care to prevent the transmission of HIV/HCV. The specific activities of the project included: 1) outreach to and engage young Black MSM on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 2) recruit young Black MSM and their sex/drug partners (300 total) on the CSULB campus and in the surrounding Long Beach community; 3) provide motivation, support and hope to young Black MSM through the dissemination of role model stories and prevention materials on the CSULB campus and in the community, as well as through a PPOWER website where participants can connect with each other, and engage through blogs and message boards related to the role model stories; 4) conduct screening for alcohol and drug use among young Black MSM, and provide brief intervention on reduction of substance use; 5) increase access to HIV and HCV testing; and 6) establish a continuum of care on and off campus to ensure linkage and quality care for those testing positive for HIV and/or HCV, at risk for other STIs, additional substance abuse treatment, or other supportive services. Center Director, Laura D'Anna served as the Principal Investigator with Dr. T. Alex Washington from the School of Social Work as Co-Investigator. The community- and individual-level interventions were implemented by Health Education/Outreach Specialists (HEOS) and volunteer Peer Advocates (PA) assisted the HEOS with outreach and recruitment through the dissemination of role model stories. CHER subcontracted with BHS and The Center to conduct recruitment, enrollment and data collection activities in the community with oversight from CHER staff. All on-campus recruitment and intervention activities were conducted by Jaelen Owens, the campus Health Education/Outreach Specialist. The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services mobile testing unit and The Center served as HIV testing referral sites.

With an initial end date of September 2018, the PPOWER Project received a six-month no cost extension through March 2019. The project was successful in reaching its enrollment goal of 300 young Black MSM and their partners in June 2018, and was focused on completing all intervention and data collection activities with participants, and meeting project closeout requirements by the funder during this reporting period. Preliminary findings from this study were presented by Dr. D'Anna, Mr. Owens and Ms. Lyka Trinidad in three proceedings (roundtable, poster and oral presentations) at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in November 2018 in San Diego, California.

A comprehensive final report for the project was submitted to SAMHSA in March 2019. Due to the relationships built through this collaboration and preliminary PPOWER Project findings, CHER was awarded a 3-year research grant by the Tobacco Related Disease Research Program in July 2018 to continue our research in substance use prevention and reduction with the same target population. The new project, entitled PPOWER2, is focused on the prevention and reduction of tobacco and cannabis use using a similar peer-led approach.

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project (The *I Am Possible!* Campaign) (May 2016 – October 2018)

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was awarded a subcontract by The California Endowment (TCE) to conduct a process evaluation of the development and implementation of a "narrative change strategy" campaign to promote youth investment in five Building Healthy Communities (BHC) sites across Southern California. TCE contracted with a consulting firm, JHC Consulting, Inc. to implement a narrative change strategy initiative with the goal of increasing social and political investment in youth development and related policy change in participating BHC sites: Long Beach, Santa Ana, Boyle Heights, South Los Angeles, and San Diego. A leadership group comprised of representatives from each site worked collaboratively with JCH Consulting, Inc. and Rally to develop a shared message and related products (e.g., media campaign and print materials) that were made available to all five BHC communities. CHER has conducted final evaluation activities for the Narrative Change Strategy for

Youth Investment initiative during this reporting period. Campaign deliverables ('collateral") and tool kits were developed by Rally, an issue-driven communications firm, in collaboration with project leadership and community leaders and youth, and youth ambassadors were trained by Rally to tell their individual stories and to engage in advocacy activities to encourage additional local and county budgetary investments in youth development during this reporting period. CHER developed and administered an electronic survey to gather information from the youth ambassadors about their experiences related to telling their stories and participating in trainings to build skills and capacity for advocacy and civic engagement. Findings were summarized in a report and shared with TCE and project leaders. Finally, steering committee members were invited to participate in an individual phone interview to share how the campaign collateral tools were being used in each of their respective five sites. The project ended in 2018 and a final report of evaluation findings was submitted to TCE.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Funded Evaluation Subcontracts

***B-Free OC* – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2022)**
Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation Hepatitis B Demonstration Program, Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (VACF) has selected the CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) to serve as the evaluation team for their B-Free OC program, a Hepatitis B Demonstration Program funded by the Office of Minority Health (OMH). Located in Fountain Valley, the VACF has provided cancer education, research, advocacy, and services to Vietnamese American communities in Orange County for over 20 years. As part of their prevention efforts, the VACF offers hepatitis B and C education, screenings, and patient navigation to identify and support individuals at risk for cancer related chronic illnesses (hepatitis is associated with liver cancer.) The B-Free OC collaborative is a multi-stakeholder coalition lead by the VACF, representing primary care providers, community clinics, community-based organizations, the county health department, and liver research centers, to improve hepatitis B (HBV) prevention, early detection, and treatment among Vietnamese Americans (VA) living in Orange County. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver disease, and VA are at high risk for liver disease due to lack of HBV diagnosis and screening information in their communities. The disparities in liver disease outcomes for VA (very high HVB prevalence and disparity in liver cancer mortality) make the case for an effort to target this Asian ethnic community especially in an area with the largest number of VA living in the U.S. In order to achieve its objectives, the B-Free OC program will aim to increase knowledge, attitude, and behavior on hepatitis B screening/testing through individual-level, community-level, and provider and health care system-level program activities.

The goals of their proposed 3-year, multi-level Hepatitis B Demonstration Program are to: 1) Conduct a community awareness outreach and awareness campaign on hepatitis B screening and vaccination; 2) Implement a provider hepatitis B education outreach and training program; and 3) Execute a hepatitis B screening, vaccination and linkage to care, county-wide tracking system and database.

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) will serve as the evaluation team for the B-Free OC program and will use a mixed-method approach to conduct evaluation activities for the proposed individual, community and provider/health care system level programming. The evaluation plan to assess

the effectiveness of the Hepatitis B Demonstration Program will include: providing data collection training and ongoing technical support to VACF and collaborating agency staff to conduct street intercept and/or door-to-door surveys in the targeted communities to assess campaign awareness, hepatitis B knowledge and screening uptake; advising clinic and community partners on data points needed to be able to track progress on project goals and objectives; the creation of a secure CHER data platform for de-identified clinic data for quality assurance, management, and analysis; and evaluation of county surveillance data for changes at the population level. The data collected will be used to assess changes in outcomes. CHER will prepare and provide evaluation summaries and reports to VACF, collaborating partners, and funder as needed.

Long Beach Tobacco Education Program (TEP) – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2020)
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, California Department of Public Health Tobacco Control Program

The Long Beach Tobacco Education Program (TEP) aims to build a healthier community by reducing the use of tobacco and the exposure to secondhand smoke in the city of Long Beach. TEP strives to achieve this goal by: 1) providing referrals for people who want to quit smoking, 2) creating culturally appropriate tobacco control materials for the Long Beach community, 3) supporting community-led smoke free campaigns, and 4) ensuring compliance with local, state and federal tobacco-related laws.

Findings from the evaluation of the program will be used to inform staff at the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services of the program's progress, thereby allowing staff to make necessary adjustments to TEP activities to achieve its intended outcomes. CHER's evaluation plan includes: focus group interviews with Long Beach residents on tobacco use in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes; interviews to explore smoke-free MUH with property owners/managers; key informant interviews with restaurant owners/managers on smoke-free outdoor dining; and key informant interviews with city leaders (e.g., city council members). Findings will also be shared with the funder in a final evaluation report to highlight program accomplishments and lessons learned.

***My Sister's Keeper* Program - Evaluation Project (September 2019 – December 2021)**
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was selected by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) to serve as the evaluator for the 3-year, *My Sister's Keeper* Program, a Specialized Services Program Serving Victims of Human Trafficking funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ/OVC.) CHER will use a mixed method approach for the evaluation of the project, which will include pre-/post surveys, focus groups, and workshop evaluations. Members of the evaluation team will also review and synthesize data gleaned from partner reports to track performance measures, and attend partner meetings to document challenges and barriers to service delivery. Deliverables for the evaluation include data from evaluation activities, presentation of findings to LBDHHS and partner agencies, and completion of the final evaluation report.

Unfunded Proposals

"Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for "Exercise for Better Health'] (Laura D'Anna, PI), submitted to the National Institutes of Health, in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement PAR-18-307: Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (R21/R33), October 2019. This application was a resubmission of a new application submitted October 2016. A previous resubmission in March 2018 was voluntarily withdrawn in order to respond to new clinical trial requirements and a technical issue that occurred during the submission process.

The proposed project, "Haat Praan ChamRouen SokaPheap" [Khmer for *Exercise for Better Health*] was to be a collaborative effort between the CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), The Cambodian Family (TCF), California State University, Fullerton's Center for Successful Aging and multiple Cambodian serving, community-based organizations in Santa Ana and Long Beach, CA. The proposed study would have conducted formative research to develop and test a theory- and evidence-based, peer-led, culturally-relevant, multi-level intervention to increase physical activity (PA) among Cambodian older adults (50 years of age and older) living in two socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, namely Santa Ana and Long Beach.

Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez, from the Department of Health Science, was listed as a co-investigator, and Dr. Debra Rose, Director of the CSUF Center for Successful Aging, was listed as a consultant and subcontract based on her expertise in the development and implementation of physical activity interventions for older adults. The Cambodian Family, a non-profit, organization in Santa Ana, California was also included as a subcontract based on their 30 years plus experience providing social and wellness services to Cambodian families.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

During the period under review, five undergraduate and four graduate students, all from the Health Science department, worked at CHER as volunteers or student interns, with a select few invited to become paid staff upon graduation (see Table 3). As interns and volunteers, the students served as research assistants, providing support to Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports and general office duties as needed.

Table 3: CHER Health Science Student Interns

STUDENT INTERNS
Graduate Students
Deanna Afif*
Gabriel Cruz
Jasmine Doxey
Lyka Eunice Fortaleza Trinidad*
Undergraduate Students
Angineh Babakhians*
Crystal Eckman
Kayla Keck
Nathalia Kim
Carissa Mathison

*Student intern was hired as Center staff upon graduation from CSULB.

CSULB COLLABORATIONS

CHER Director, Dr. D'Anna and the CHER team collaborated with several CSULB faculty and staff members, on projects or in the preparation of proposals and/or manuscripts during the year under review (See Table 4).

Table 4: CSULB Faculty/Staff Collaborators

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
PPOWER and PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Heidi Girling	Student Health Services
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
Proposal Development	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Manuscript Development	
Marissa Hansen	School of Social Work
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHHS Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute
ADD Cohort 1 and 2 Evaluation data , similar data were collected for all participants indicating productivity in publications and grant-writing activity, but for purposes of the this report, we are only including information related to CSULB faculty.

Early career faculty members in the College of Health and Human Services were invited to apply to participate in the 3rd annual CHER Institute held June 2019. Two faculty members submitted an application and were accepted into the program; Vennila Krishnan (Physical Therapy), and Isabella Lanza (Family and Consumer Sciences.) Prior to formal notification of her acceptance, Dr. Krishnan withdrew her application due to a schedule conflict.

A total of six CHHS faculty participated in the previous two CHER Institutes with three faculty participants each in each year. As previously mentioned, past CHER Institute cohorts were invited to participate in a follow up survey to assess the overall impact of the training program, and to measure progress on publication and grand development productivity. In response to the follow up survey, all CHHS faculty reported that participation in the Institute benefited them during the retention, tenure and promotion (RTP) process, and enabled them to accomplish Year 1 goals, as articulated in their professional development plan developed during the CHER Institute. Five of the six participants felt that participation in the Institute helped them become a more productive researcher with the same number agreeing they felt confident that they can request support from their institution to pursue their research interests. Since attending the CHER Institute, CHHS faculty reported submitting a total of 51 papers for peer review or conference presentations, and a total of 6 grant applications.

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The table below lists CSULB faculty and faculty from other academic institutions across the U.S. who are serving as *Faculty Mentors* for the CHER Institute/IPERT Project funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Table 5: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	**Institution**
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH, MPA Professor, Associate Dean for Community Initiatives Associate, Director, Center for Health Equity in the Americas, Keck School of Medicine	University of Southern California
Roshan Bastani, PhD Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity Director, UCLA Center for Prevention Research Director, Disparities and Community Engagement Associate Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, DrPH Adjunct Professor, Maternal and Child Health Gillings School of Global Public Health	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bradley T. Connor, PhD Associate Professor and Director Addiction Counseling Program, Department of Psychology	Colorado State University
Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Adolescent Medicine, Division Chief, Adolescent Medicine Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health Professor of Medicine	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew Mutchler, PhD Professor, Department of Social Work Director, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Nina Harawa, PhD Professor (Charles Drew) Associate Professor in Residence (UCLA)	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles
Fernando Wagner, DS, MPH Professor, School of Social Work	University of Maryland, Baltimore,
Laura D'Anna, DrPH Assistant Professor, Health Science Department	California State University, Long Beach
Thomas Alex Washington, PhD Professor, School of Social Work	California State University, Long Beach

In addition, the CHER team collaborates with faculty and staff from other institutions on our current research projects and in the development of publications. See Table 6.

Table 6:

FACULTY/STAFF	INSTITUTION
Consultant	
Jennifer Unger, PhD Professor of Preventive Medicine	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Manuscript Development	
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Jane Steinberg, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor of Clinical Preventive Medicine	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Alex H. Kral, PhD Distinguished Fellow	RTI International
Lynn D. Wenger, MSW, MPH Senior Project Director	RTI International
Stephanie Sumstine*, MPH Center Coordinator	UC Global Health Institute Women's Health, Gender, and Empowerment Center of Expertise University of California, Los Angeles

*Miss Sumstine is a CSULB MPH graduate and a former CHER graduate student intern and staff member.

In addition, CHER staff collaborates with multiple community-based organizations on ongoing projects and/or proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

Table 7: Community Based Collaborators

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Gisele Fong	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	Long Beach Forward
James Sauzo	Long Beach Forward
Sevly Snguon	Long Beach Forward
PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Morales	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Michael Buitron	St. Mary Medical Center C.A.R.E. Program

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Morgan Venter	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Eipryl Tello	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Leevi Camus	AIDS Project Los Angeles
Community Wellness Program Collaborators	
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
California Tobacco Control Program (St. Mary Medical Center)	
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Scott Chan	API (Asian Pacific Islander) Forward Movement
Rod Lew	APPEAL (Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership)
Proposal Development	
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Becky Nguyen	Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation
Dung Hoa	Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation
John Ho	Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Jaelen Owens, Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the PPOWER^2 Project, is a member of the City of Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group, and serves as the Chair for the group's PrEP subcommittee for the group. Each committee meets bimonthly to discuss HIV prevention and care program planning in the City of Long Beach. Jaelen is a CSULB graduate with a B.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences who began his employment at CHER in 2016 as a part-time Health Education/Outreach Specialist. Upon his graduation in 2018 he transitioned to his current full-time position as the Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the PPOWER^2 Project. In addition, Dr. Pari Sabado, our Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation, actively participates in meetings for two groups that support local tobacco policy advocacy efforts: the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach and the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Los Angeles County.

C. Accomplishments

This section includes manuscripts and abstracts related to CHER projects that were prepared and submitted by CHER staff from July 2018 to June 2019 and accepted for publication or presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

Steinberg J, Kral AH, Sumstine S, Wenger LD, **D'Anna LH**, and Bluthenthal RN. Gang involvement and drug use histories among people who inject drugs in California: A retrospective analysis. Journal of Drug Issues 2019; 49(4): 593 – 606

D'Anna LH, Fisher D, **Trinidad LE**, **Canjura C**, and **Wood J**. Building health equity one institution at a time: The Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions Project. Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice 2019; 12 (2): 138-147. D'Anna LH, Peong V, Sabado P, Valdez-Dadia A, Hansen MC, Canjura C, Hong M. Barriers to physical and mental health: Understanding the intersecting needs of Cambodian and Latino residents in urban communities. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health 2018; 20(5): 1243-1260.

The following are manuscripts that were submitted to peer-reviewed journals that were not accepted for publication. The manuscripts are currently under revision for resubmission.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Trinidad LE, Washington TA**.** Marijuana use and sexual risk behavior among young black men who have sex with men in California. Submitted to AIDS and Behavior.

D'Anna LH, Washington TA**, Cabudol M, Canjura C, Owens J**, and the PPOWER Project Team. Exploring awareness of HCV among sexual-minority Black generation Millenniums and Gen Z: A qualitative study. Submitted to Health Education and Behavior.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019

D'Anna LH, **Owens J**, **Eckman C**, **Canjura C**, Washington TA. The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Eckman C, **D'Anna LH**, **Canjura C**, **Owens J**, Washington TA. The influence of social norms and pressures to use marijuana among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM). Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

D'Anna LH, **Canjura C**, **Owens J,** Washington TA, **Wood J**. He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

D'Anna LH, **Canjura C**, **Owens J**, Washington TA, **Wood J**. Is marijuana a sex drug? Perceptions of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County. Abstract accepted for a roundtable presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Peong V, Sngiem S, Gervacio L, Hopson C, Sen-Matthews A, Soeung S, Nim C, Tham L, Hun M, Phou S, **D'Anna LH**. Baseline data form the Community Wellness Program, a community-based approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sabado P, Pinedo C, Chan L, Sak S, Mai V, Moua S, **Trinidad L, D'Anna LH**. Building youth capacity for tobacco control work. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Peong V, Chhoeng S, Sen-Matthews A, Chiang S, Welty I, **Sabado P**, Chea R, Kem H. Resident empowerment and advocacy as a model to improve access to mental health services and resources among Cambodians in Orange County, California. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2018

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Owens J, and Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Cannabis use and increased risks for HIV among young black sexual minority males in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at the 22nd International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; July 2018.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, **Owens J**, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Structural, social and behavioral facilitators and barriers associated with antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) usage among marginalized young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, **Owens J**, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Stigma and discrimination: Fueling the HIV epidemic among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Owens J, D'Anna LH, Wood J, Canjura C, Washington, TA and the PPOWER Leadership Team. Intimate partner violence (IPV) and increased sexual-risk behaviors in a sample of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, Damico T, Fong G, Petit C, and **D'Anna LH**. A Community-led Effort to Increase Food Access and Improve Economic Development through Urban Agriculture. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, **D'Anna LH**, Fong G, Petit C, and Ulaszewski B. A Community-led Effort to Increase Open Space for Park-poor Residents in Central Long Beach, CA. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Sabado P, Rasmussen A, Fong G, Petit C, and **D'Anna LH**. Green Zones: A Community-led Effort to Reduce Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Long Beach, CA. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

Valdez-Dadia A, Kouch K, Sngiem S, Peong V, Gervacio L, Hopson C, **Sabado P**, and **D'Anna LH.** Working as a collaborative on a community-defined approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, California; November 2018.

II. Unit Accounting

CHER was awarded a total of approximately $1.44 million in new funding for research and evaluation during this reporting period. Center funding has remained consistent over the past several years with new sources of federal grant funding and an increase in awards to conduct local evaluation. This includes multiple evaluation subcontracts from the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, and a 3-year evaluation project for the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation with funding from the U.S. Office of Minority Health (OMH.) With a half million dollar increase in funding beginning in 2015, the Center has maintained an average of approximately $1.2 million in support each subsequent year.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CHER Institute – Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) YR 3
National Institute of General Medical Services
Fund G1992
Project Period: 09/01/18– 08/31/19

Year 3 Award	$385,069
Balance as of 06/30/19	$129,323

PPOWER2: Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM – YR 1
Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) – Univ. of California Office of the President
Project Period: 07/01/18 – 06/30/19

Year 1 Award	$368,738
Balance as of 06/30/19	$114,988

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G2183
Project Period: 07/01/18 – 12/31/19 (No cost extension, initial end date 6/30/19)

Initial award amount	$62,500
Award augmentation 03/04/16	$130,750 (new total - $68,500 additional funds)
Balance as of 06/30/19	$42,069

Cambodian Wellness Project – Evaluation YR 2
California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity via Cambodian Assoc. of America
Fund G2039
Project Period: 07/01/18 – 06/30/19

Year 2 Award	$45,600
Balance as of 06/30/19	$1,024

API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (also known as A.I.R.E.-Advocates Invested in Restoring the Environment) – Evaluation YR 1
St. Mary Medical Center (lead agency)
California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program
Fund G2161
Project Period: 06/01/18 – 06/30/19

Year 1 Award:	$38,280
Balance as of 06/30/19	$5,675

Center for Health Equity Research
Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$12,622
Funds expended during the review period	$6,130
Balance as of 06/30/2019	$30,281

NEW AWARDS

Tobacco Education Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency)
California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/20, Total Funding $24,970
Year 1 Award $24,970

B-Free OC, Hepatitis B Demonstration Project – Evaluation
Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (lead agency)
Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/22, Total Funding $255,000
Year 1 Award $85,000

My Sister's Keeper Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency)
U. S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Project Period: 09/01/19 – 12/31/21, Total Funding $49,500
Year 1 Award $7,071

COMPLETED FUNDING

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources (PPOWER) Project YR3
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Fund G1871
Project Period: 09/30/17 – 03/23/19 (No cost extension, initial end date 09/29/18)
Total Funding $899,617

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G2075
Project Period: 07/01/17 – 12/31/18 (No cost extension, initial end date 06/30/18)
Total Funding $75,000

Narrative Change Strategy for Youth Investment Evaluation Project
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G1929
Project Period: 05/01/16 – 10/31/18 (No cost extension, initial end date 02/28/18)
Total Funding $68,240

Long Beach California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) 7 Project Evaluation YR 2 – City of Long Beach Department of Development Services
Fund G1827
Project Period: 04/22/16 – 07/31/18 (No cost extension, initial end date 04/21/17)
Total Funding $90,000

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space and a shared conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. CHER space includes four private offices and a reception area with space for three cubicles with work stations. With a total of ten work stations, the Center is an active hub every day of the week with each station occupied by either a staff member or a student intern/volunteer. Identifying additional space will be a priority during the next reporting period in order to accommodate the Center's growth, and to meet the demand of students who are interested in interning/volunteering at CHER.

CHER WEBSITE

A CHER website is located at www.csulb.edu/HealthEquity. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar, center-related news articles, staff bios and links to their publications, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and other information about health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the public. Contact and event management, mailings, event announcements, and registration for CHER-sponsored events, including webinars and the summer CHER Institute, are managed using CiviCRM, an open-source module that works with Drupal to provide event and contact management. CHER has increased use of additional research support tools available through the website, including a MySQL database server and in-house installation of the open-source on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' used in projects requiring greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools. The software allows CHER to provide special handling of sensitive data, complex question presentation and data validation, and data entry collaboration with community partners. During the current reporting period CHER has used these tools to increase the value of assistance it provides to community partners by helping them to automate the processing of funder-required data gathered though collaborative research efforts. Updates have been made to the content management and survey systems with additional upgrades planned in conjunction with required upgrades to university web servers. CHER also continues to provide in-kind support for a third year to the CSULB BUILD project by hosting a student mentor database and search tool, developed and maintained by CHER technical staff, on the CHER website. Efforts have also been made to update the CHER website with current news, achievements and project descriptions.

Center for Health Equity Research
California State University, Long Beach

Annual Report
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 20 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. During these 20 years, the Center garnered over $20.5 million dollars in research funding. A sizable portion of this funding ($4.5 million) was from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Project, and more recently from two new awards totaling $3 million dollars.

CHER was renamed and reconstituted as a center of the college in April 2014 through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Dr. Laura D'Anna, Assistant Professor in the department of Health Science, is Center Director. In addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center, Dr. D'Anna also serves as the principal investigator on ongoing projects, and provides direction and oversight for all Center activities.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships and student research assistant positions. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach and the Greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Currently, CHER serves as the lead evaluators for Building Health Communities, Long Beach, a large public health initiative funded by The California Endowment, as well as the evaluators for community-based projects conducted by St. Mary Medical Center, the Long Department of Health and Human Services, and a collaborative lead by the Cambodian Association of America.

CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. The following pages contain information on these efforts as well as an overview of our current projects.

Center for Health Equity Research Staff

The CHER currently team consists of six full-time and five part-time staff members. Whenever possible, CHER aims to hire qualified CSULB students and graduates in fulfillment of our aim to support students in becoming the next generation of public health leaders. During this reporting period, the Center added a statistician position to its staffing complement. Miss Angineh Babakhanians, a 2019 CSULB Heath Science graduate, also joined our team as a full-time Evaluation Coordinator to provide support with our growing portfolio of evaluation projects. All CHER staff are hired as CSULB Research Foundation employees. In addition, a new cohort of 4-5 CSULB graduate and undergraduate students typically joins the team each semester to gain meaningful health research experience as part-time research assistants. Please see table below for a list of our staff. For a list of student interns, see Section B. Student and Faculty Involvement.

Staff Member	**Position**
FULL-TIME STAFF	
Pari Sabado, PhD*	Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation
Carol Canjura*	Center Coordinator
Jeff Wood	IT/Data Manager
Angineh Babakhanians*	Evaluation Coordinator
Jaelen Owens*	Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator
Zina Ogunnaya	Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist
PART-TIME STAFF	
Kyle Chang, PhD	Statistician
Angel Ramos**	Health Education/Outreach Specialist
Wendy Nomura	IPERT Event Coordinator
Kevin Pinkerton	Media Production Specialist
Samantha Ruiz**	Research Assistant

* CSULB Alumni
** Current CSULB graduate student

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

PROJECTS

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project (January 2012 - June 2020)
Lead Agency: The California Endowment via Long Beach Forward

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L&E) Team for BHCLB. As the L&E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys with adult residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; and work with BHCLB staff to interpret findings. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participates in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- CHER Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation, Dr. Parichart Sabado, participated in a TCE-led planning committee for a virtual learning event that was held in lieu of an in-person cross-site convening. The planning committee met every two weeks between March 17, 2020 and May 26, 2020 and was comprised of members of the TCE evaluation team as well as local evaluation teams across 14 BHC sites.
- Dr. Sabado attended a cross-site virtual learning event on May 28, 2020 to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected learning and evaluation activities, and to share the ways in which local evaluation teams have had to pivot. Dr. Sabado shared CHER's alternative approaches to data collection during the pandemic and how BHCLB partners have engaged in mutual assistance to address residents' immediate needs.
- A group of community leaders and organizers was convened to serve as key informants for the development of a case study on Power Building in Long Beach. A meeting was held on December 17, 2019 to discuss how power building should be presented in the case study and to identify additional individuals whose perspectives should be included in the story. The key informant interviews were conducted by Dr. Sabado, with assistance from MPH graduate student, Patricia Trinidad, who conducted interviews with monolingual, Spanish-speaking participants. The case study will be available on paper and online, and will include quantitative data from the Resident Power Survey and the Leadership Development Survey, and qualitative data from

individual interviews with community leaders. It is currently under development with an expected completion date of December 31, 2020.

- The CHER L&E team (Drs. D'Anna, Sabado, Ms. Babakhanians, and Mr. Wood) developed the Leadership Development Survey to examine how participation in BHCLB-affiliated training programs has contributed to organizing and advocacy among resident leaders. The survey was administered online to English-, Spanish-, and Khmer-speaking residents from November 2019 to February 2020. To be eligible to participate, individuals had to complete a training workshop on leadership development hosted by BHCLB or a BHCLB partner organization. The CHER L&E team is currently analyzing data from a total of 71 surveys. Findings from the survey will be used to inform current training programs.
- Dr. Sabado provides ongoing research and evaluation support to the Just Environment Long Beach (JELB) coalition, originally the BHCLB Environmental Health Workgroup. JELB is a collaborative of organizations and individuals working to achieve systemic changes on matters of environmental health and justice in the most affected neighborhoods of North, West, and Central Long Beach. During this reporting period, Dr. Sabado co-authored a blog post on findings from a 2-stage community needs assessment that was conducted by CHER in collaboration with coalition members. Also during this reporting period, Dr. Sabado presented on focus group facilitation to JELB coalition members on June 3, 2020 and is currently developing a 2-day training on focus group facilitation for resident leaders, which will be held Nov. 7 and 9, 2020.
- The CHER L & E team, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, and with input from community partners and residents, developed the Resident Power Survey to measure level of engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making. Three waves of data collection for the Resident Power survey were conducted in 2013, 2015, and 2018. A total of 440 surveys were collected and the data have been analyzed. Two manuscripts on Resident Power Survey were submitted during this reporting period. The first manuscript, ***Identifying the Key Domains of Resident Power Building to Inform a Place-Based Health Initiative in California***, was submitted to *Health and Place*, and focused on data collection methodology and survey findings. This manuscript was not accepted, thus a revised manuscript, ***Identifying Key Domains Connected to Resident Power Building in the Evaluation of a Place-based Initiative***, was submitted to *Evaluation* and focused on a framework that CHER developed (Resident Power Framework) to guide data analysis and interpretation of findings. This also was not accepted for publication. At the time of writing this report, a third revised manuscript, ***Identifying Key Domains Connected to Resident Power Building in the Evaluation of a Place-based Initiative***, was submitted to *Health Promotion Practice* and is currently under review.

A report brief that presents findings from the Resident Power Survey in a more community-friendly format is currently under development. Once complete, it will be available in print and online to the larger community. Lastly, an abstract (***Identifying the Key Domains of Resident Power Building to Inform a Place-Based Health Initiative in California***) on findings from the Resident Power Survey was submitted to the American Public Health Association following two previous APHA presentations on the survey, demonstrating interest of the larger public health community in the role of resident power in place-based initiatives. The abstract was wait-listed and then declined. This was likely due to the change in meeting format from in person to virtual, which may have led to a reduction in the number of presentations this year.

With support from MPH graduate assistant, Samantha Ruiz, Dr. Sabado continues to compile data from existing data sources to track health-related indicators tied to the BHCLB Community Action Plan to examine population level changes. These data will be presented in a report brief that will include infographics and data summaries, as well as descriptions of campaigns in each of the target areas to provide readers with context on the effort that was undertaken by BHCLB partners.

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources – 2 (PPOWER^2) Project - Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM (July 2018 – June 2021)

Funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), the PPOWER^2 study draws upon established community-based partnerships and the work achieved with our first PPOWER Project which was completed in March 2019. To address TRDRP's tobacco-related health disparities research priority, the study is testing a tobacco/nicotine and cannabis intervention tailored to young Black men (YBM), with an emphasis on men who have sex with men (YBMSM), who report infrequent smoking of tobacco or marijuana, any vaping of tobacco/nicotine (or non-nicotine products), and any cannabis use, including edibles, or any combinations of these. We aim to intervene with both primary and secondary prevention approaches. The primary prevention approaches have been designed to avoid initiation of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use for YBM who report never having used any of the above substances. The secondary prevention approaches have been designed to prevent early or infrequent users from transitioning to frequent users. Our preliminary data from the initial PPOWER Project show that YBMSM ages 18-24 experiment and engage in a range of substance use behaviors that vary with social relationships and situations. This points to the importance of identifying opportunities for developing holistic intervention approaches that take into account the context within which YBMSM initiate and continue using substances. The study involves two phases which consists of formative data collection, intervention development, and a feasibility pilot (Phase I), followed by an intervention testing phase (Phase 2). The formative and intervention development activities for this study were completed during the previous reporting period.

During the second project year which coincides with this reporting period, we accomplished our objective to conduct a feasibility pilot and launch the intervention testing phase for the study. The second year of the project began with finalizing the recruitment strategies and intervention components for testing in a feasibility pilot with a small sample of young Black men (Aim 3 of the study.) In preparation for the feasibility pilot, the project's Health Education/Outreach Specialists (HEOS) participated in motivational interview trainings and dedicated additional time towards streamlining and revising individual-level intervention components. The small pilot was launched in September 2019 with final recruitment ending in November. Street intercept outreach and recruitment was conducted to engage a total of 10 YBMSM in the feasibility pilot. An IRB modification was submitted in October to include all young Black cisgender men (YBM) and to change the age eligibility criteria from 18-24 years of age to 18-29 years. A total of 12 YBM enrolled in the pilot with 6 participants completing a follow-up assessment one-month post enrollment. An IRB application for the intervention-testing phase of the project was submitted in January 2020 with approval granted in early February. The eligibility criteria for this phase was modified to include all young Black cisgender men and the maximum age limit was increased from 24 to 34 years of age. We aim to enroll 220 YBM in this phase with 110 participants in an intervention group recruited from City of Long Beach and surrounding communities and 110 participants in a control group recruited from the South Los Angeles area. Initial study activities were conducted in-person for approximately one month until March 13, 2020 when all CSULB staff were ordered to work from home and all in-person research activities were halted by the CSULB IRB due to the COVID19 pandemic. In order to meet our research objectives, an IRB modification was submitted and approved to

change study protocols to an online format. We promptly transitioned all study activities, including study enrollment, and intervention activities to be conducted via Zoom videoconferencing with participants. Using social media as an outreach strategy, study staff engage YBM to complete a screener to determine eligibility for the study. As of June 30, 53 participants were enrolled in the study with 22 in the intervention group and 31 in the comparison group. The completion of follow-up assessments and brief risk behavioral reports are ongoing, and study staff have expanded their online recruitment strategies to broaden their reach to YBM. We anticipate completing all intervention and data collection activities by the end of the next reporting period.

We continue to disseminate findings from the formative data for the study. Four presentations on findings were conducted at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia, PA on November 2019. The abstracts for these presentations were submitted during the previous reporting period. Crystal Eckman, health science undergraduate student and spring 2019 CHER intern, was the lead author on the abstract, *The influence of social norms and pressures to use marijuana among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM)*, which was accepted for an oral presentation by APHA. The abstract was based on her analysis of the qualitative, formative focus groups and interviews conducted for the project. An additional seven abstracts were created from these data and submitted to the 2020 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, the 23rd International AIDS Conference, and the Joining Forces 2020 Conference (accepted for oral presentation). The following five abstracts were accepted for presentation: *Contextualizing HIV risk: Exploring the relationship between marijuana and sexual risk behaviors in the context of polysubstance use and mental health among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the United States.* (International AIDS Conference); *Depression, HIV risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California* (International AIDS Conference); *Engaging Young Black Men (YBM) in conversations around tobacco and marijuana use as an outreach strategy: Lessons learned from the PPOWER2 Project in Long Beach, CA.* (APHA Annual Meeting); *The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco.* (Joining Forces Conference); *He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California*. (TRDRP Joining Forces Conference). The APHA Annual Meeting and International AIDS Conference were held as virtual conferences. Jasmine Doxey, MPH graduate student intern, was the lead author on the second abstract accepted for the 2020 International AIDS Conference. In addition to conducting the data analysis and leading the development of the abstract, she prepared the poster content and video presentation for the virtual conference. Mr. Jaelen Owens, the Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the project prepared the abstract and developed a video for his poster presentation for the virtual 2020 APHA Annual Meeting.

Cambodian Wellness Program Evaluation (January 2017 – April 2022)
Lead Agency: Cambodian Association of America

The Community Wellness Program (CWP) is one of 35 projects under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) funded by the California Department of Public Health. It is the first program of its kind that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and intervention activities centered on shifting cultural norms about mental illness. The CWP is a collaborative of five Cambodian-serving organizations that are jointly implementing program activities to promote mental wellness among Cambodians. The organizations include Cambodian Association of

America (CAA – Lead Agency), Families in Good Health (FiGH), Khmer Parent Association (KPA), The Cambodian Family (TCF), and United Cambodian Community (UCC).

CAA, FiGH, TCF, and UCC work collaboratively to implement project activities, while KPA assists with outreach and recruitment only. The CWP is a multi-component program that consists of: 1) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) community outreach and engagement; 2) PEI educational workshops with a focus on mental and physical wellness; 3) case management, navigation, and referral to health and social services; and 4) spiritual and recreational activities. Spiritual activities harness the power of cultural and religious practices of importance to the Cambodian community such as water blessings, meditation, prayer, and other Buddhist rituals strongly associated with the healing process. Recreational activities include: field trips, in-house activities (e.g., potluck), and arts, crafts, music and dance therapy.

As the local evaluation team for the CWP, CHER assists with data collection for the statewide evaluation, while also conducting local evaluation activities to generate data to contribute to the body of research on mental health among Cambodians. The CWP evaluation follows a delayed intervention quasi-experimental design to assess program effectiveness in promoting mental wellness among program participants. Evaluation activities include both quantitative (i.e., pre- and post-surveys) and qualitative (i.e., in-depth interviews) data collection during Years 2-4 of the 5-year project, with Year 1 serving as a pilot phase for program services only (i.e., no data collection). All pre- and post-surveys are coded, entered and verified by CHER student interns. During this reporting period, partner agencies have completed program activities for Cohort 4. To date, 267 participants have completed the CWP and preliminary data show that 57.7% of participants reported reductions in the effects of past trauma on their current well-being, while 69.3% of those with depression-related symptoms at the beginning of the program reported reductions in symptoms.

On November 6, 2019, Dr. Sabado and Mr. Vattana Peong, Executive Director of TCF, presented on baseline data at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting in Philadelphia, marking the second oral presentation on the CWP. The presentation was part of a panel of presentations on culturally-rooted practices among immigrants and refugees. An abstract on findings from a more detailed analysis of baseline and follow-up data (***Using community-defined practices to address trauma among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA***) was once again submitted to APHA, but was not accepted for presentation this year, like also due to the same reason provided above for the abstract on the Resident Power Survey.

During this reporting period, CWP partner agencies closed their offices in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and community health workers (CHWs) all are currently working remotely from home. All CWP activities have moved online, including survey administration. However, since a large majority of CWP participants are older and have low computer literacy, surveys have been administered over the phone using an online survey that CHER developed in response to the pandemic. Follow-up surveys for Cohort 4 and baseline surveys for Cohort 5 have been administered in this manner.

During the last reporting period, CHER developed a data entry portal (the CWP database) to collect and manage process level data. The purpose of the database is three-fold: 1) to minimize the burden for CHWs of having to report program activities for each quarterly progress report for the funder (Office of Health Equity) and the semi-annual report for the statewide evaluation team, 2) to centralize process level data and provide a mechanism for CHWs to query individual level data to track program engagement, and 3) to allow reporting of accurate data. The CWP database is currently in used and has proven to be extremely helpful.

Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities Evaluation (May 2018-April 2023)
Lead Agency: St. Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health

CHER was selected to lead local evaluation efforts for the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities funded by the California Department of Public Health California Tobacco Control Program. The API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities has identified three objectives for its tobacco control work: 1) By April 2023, Lomita and Rosemead will adopt and implement a policy designating all outdoor dining areas, including patios and balconies, as smoke-free; 2) By April 2023, Gardena and El Segundo will adopt and implement a policy designating 100% of individual units (including balconies and patios) in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes (with two or more attached units) and areas at least 30 feet from doors, windows, patios, and balconies, as smoke-free; and 3) Convene an API Youth Coalition of approximately 10-15 youth members between the ages of 14-19 years to engage in tobacco control work, including, but not limited to, increasing community awareness of tobacco use, policy advocacy, and data collection.

As the local evaluation team, CHER staff is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and data collection instruments, and overseeing evaluation activities for the Network. The following evaluation activities were completed during this reporting period:

- A total of five key informant interviews were conducted. Two interviews (one in Rosemead and one in Lomita) were conducted with restaurant owners/managers to learn about smoking in outdoor dining areas (e.g., balconies and patios), restaurant policies related to smoking in these areas, and complaints about secondhand smoke by diners. Restaurant owners/managers were also asked about their support of a city-wide policy that will prohibit smoking in outdoor dining areas. Three interviews were conducted with property owners/managers in Gardena to learn about smoking in multi-unit housing, policies that prohibit smoking on the property, and complaints about drifting smoke into individual units. Property owners/managers were also asked about their support of a city-wide policy that would prohibit smoking in multi-unit housing. Findings from key informant interviews will be included in material that will be used in community outreach and in meetings with city leaders.
- A focus group was held in October 2019 with 9 members of the API Youth Coalition to learn about their perspectives on the use of electronic and combustible cigarettes. More specifically, they were asked to comment on the prevalence of smoking among their peers, on the reasons why their peers might use these products, and on the ease of purchasing these products. Youth were also asked to share their experiences in the coalition and for recommendations on ways to engage more youth in the coalition, including use of images and messaging that appeal to youth. Patricia Trinidad, MPH graduate student, summarized the findings from the focus group.
- Twelve surveys were completed by members of the API Youth Coalition in November 2019. The purpose of the survey is to learn about: 1) how involvement in the coalition has contributed to changes in knowledge of how the health effects of tobacco and vape use, 2) youth engagement in outreach and evaluation activities, and 3) group diversity and member satisfaction.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, all in-person data collection activities have been suspended. Instead, remaining door-to-door and street intercept surveys, and key informant interviews are being conducted via telephone. To assist with this transition, CHER has developed online surveys for project staff to use during telephone data collection.

On November 4, 2019, Dr. Sabado and Ms. Claudia Pinedo, Community Engagement Coordinator at Families in Good Health, co-delivered a presentation on working with youth on the API

Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (***Building Youth Capacity for Tobacco Control Work***) at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Philadelphia. The presentation was part of a panel on youth as agents of change for tobacco control.

Long Beach Tobacco Education Program (TEP) – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2020)
Lead Agency: Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

The Long Beach Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (TEPP) aims to build a healthier community by reducing the use of tobacco and the exposure to secondhand smoke in the city of Long Beach. TEP strives to achieve this goal by: 1) providing referrals for people who want to quit smoking, 2) creating culturally appropriate tobacco control materials for the Long Beach community, 3) supporting community-led smoke free campaigns, and 4) ensuring compliance with local, state and federal tobacco-related laws.

As the evaluation team, CHER is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and associated data collection instruments to generate findings that will be used to inform staff at the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services of the program's progress, thereby allowing staff to make necessary adjustments to TEPP activities to achieve its intended outcomes. CHER's evaluation plan includes: focus group interviews with Long Beach residents on tobacco use in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes; interviews to explore smoke-free MUH with property owners/managers; key informant interviews with restaurant owners/managers on smoke-free outdoor dining; and key informant interviews with city leaders (e.g., city council members). Findings will also be shared with the funder in a final evaluation report to highlight program accomplishments and lessons learned.

During this reporting period, seven key informant interviews were conducted in Long Beach. Five interviews were conducted with restaurant owners/managers to learn about smoking in outdoor dining areas, such as balconies and patios, and about concerns over exposure to secondhand smoke among restaurant diners. Restaurant owners/managers were also asked about existing policies that prohibit smoking in outdoor dining and about their support of a city-wide policy that would ban outdoor smoking within 25 feet of their establishment. Two interviews were conducted with tobacco retailers to learn about their perspectives of the role of flavored tobacco and vape products in smoking initiation among youth and about their support of a city-wide ban on the sale of these products. CHER interns, Blake Stephens and Jasmine Doxey, assisted with these interviews. Due to the pandemic, all in-person data collection activities have been suspended. Remaining key informant interviews will be conducted via telephone and street intercept surveys will be administered as an online survey.

My Sister's Keeper **Program - Evaluation Project (September 2019 – December 2021)**
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime

CHER was selected by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) to serve as the evaluator for the 3-year, *My Sister's Keeper (MSK)* Program, a Specialized Services Program Serving Victims of Human Trafficking funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ/OVC). CHER uses a mixed method approach for the evaluation of this project, which includes pre-/post surveys, individual interviews, and workshop evaluations. The evaluation team also reviews and synthesizes data gleaned from partner reports to track performance measures, and attends partner meetings to document challenges and barriers to service delivery. Deliverables for the evaluation

include data from evaluation activities, presentation of findings to LBDHHS and partner agencies, and completion of the final evaluation report.

Due to the pandemic, MSK workshops are delivered virtually via Zoom and data collection activities (surveys and interviews) are completed via telephone. During this reporting period, MSK enrolled a total of 17 participants, 11 of whom have completed the program. One participant moved out of state before completing the follow-up survey, resulting in 10 total participants who completed both the baseline and follow-up survey. Four participants took part in individual interviews to share their experiences in the program.

CHER Institute - Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (September 2016 – August 2021)

The goal of the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the CHER Institute features (1) the CHER Institute training program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience for up to 18 early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing a NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held 4 times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. are given priority for participation in the CHER Institute training program, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars is focused on MSI campuses and affiliated networks.

As listed in the proposal to the NIGMS the specific aims of the CHER Institute are to:

- Increase the number of early career faculty members (with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institution Faculty) who are better prepared to become NIH principal investigators in the field of community-based health equity research.
- Increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants.

<u>CHER Institute Training Program</u>

The annual, six-day CHER Institute was held as a virtual training program via Zoom videoconference on June 8-13, 2020. Given the uncertainty related to the pandemic, a smaller number of applications were received for the Institute this year. Out of 14 applications received, 11 early career faculty members were accepted into the CHER Institute as Faculty Fellows with three faculty members from CSULB (See table 1 on the following page). Since its award in September 2016, CHER has held four CHER Institute training programs with a total of 56 faculty participants, including nine faculty members from the CSULB College of Health and Human Services.

The CHER Institute training program consisted of five full days, with a half day on the final day. Scheduling for the program was adjusted to accommodate the variation in time zones among the Institute participants and mentors from across the U.S. The CSULB Beach Board was also utilized as central

location to access program materials and Zoom links for the daily sessions. Daily activities included a plenary session, "science chat", seminars, and time at the end of the day for individual and group assignments. In addition to facilitating plenary sessions, science chats and seminars, Institute faculty mentors met individually with participants each day to provide guidance on the formulation of their research and a 3-year research career development plan. (See table 5 under Academic and Community Collaborations for a list of our CHER Institute faculty mentors.) A Zoom social networking session was held on Friday, June 12th, which also included attendance by Faculty Fellows from previous CHER Institute cohorts.

Table 1: 2020 CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

CHER Institute Faculty Fellow	**Institution**
Sandra P. Arévalo, PhD, MA	CSULB
Joanna L. Barreras, PhD, MSW	CSULB
James J. Garcia, PhD, MS	University of La Verne
Melawhy L. Garcia, PhD, MPH	CSULB
Xu Jiang, PhD	University of Memphis
Martinque Jones, PhD, MEd	University of North Texas
Melissa C. Kay, PhD, LAT, ATC	University of Southern Mississippi
Dione M. King, PhD, MSW	University of Alabama, Birmingham
Manuel Cano Moreno, PhD	University of Texas at San Antonio
Tabashir Nobari, PhD, MPH	CSU Fullerton
Michelle M. Vance, PhD, MSW	North Carolina Agricultural and State University

An online evaluation of the CHER Institute was conducted during and immediately after the full week of Institute activities. Feedback and comments from participants were overwhelmingly positive. Aspects of the Institute found to be most helpful included the valuable information in constructing the components of the NIH grant application, particularly the sessions on writing a compelling significance section, and the integration of theory into a grant application. Another aspect particularly helpful was the faculty mentoring. Faculty fellows received tailored feedback and new research ideas for their individual outputs including the specific aims page and career development plan. The diversity of research experiences of the selected faculty mentors who delivered engaging presentations were highly appreciated. The following are selected quotes taken from the open-ended portion of the overall evaluation survey:

- *The panels were very helpful as well as the science chats and having each of the mentors discuss an area related to the application. Comments outside of our own mentor were very helpful as well as being able to meet with other mentors on Wednesday.*
- *Everything! The support, guidance, safe space, authenticity. I feel more inspired and better equipped to succeed in my career. I gained valuable knowledge and a great network of mentors.*
- *The mentor science chats and SAP peer review were very helpful. Although I learned a lot from all of the plenary/panel sessions, I found the mentored research time to be very helpful and will make a long-term impact on my scholarship.*
- *The various presentations about research and NIH funding were extremely helpful and informative. The mentorship offered by the institute was also extremely helpful and valuable.*

- *All presenters provide new and important information that I can see myself applying and referencing in the future.*
- *I thoroughly enjoyed the science chats and the ability to interact with a mentor and peer on a more in-depth level.*

The 2021 CHER Institute is scheduled for June 7 – 12, 2021.

CHER Institute Webinars

In addition to the CHER Institute training program, four webinars for early career faculty were held during the 2019-2020 academic year (see Table 2 for webinar information). Topics for the CHER Institute webinars focused on 1) funding mechanisms and research support for early career faculty and 2) emerging research methodologies for faculty.

Together, there were a total of 155 registrants for the four webinars, and 92 individual logins. Webinar recordings are available through a link on the CHER website.

Table 2. 2018-2019 Webinar Topics and Presenters

Date	Webinar Topic	Presenter
2019 FALL SEMESTER		
Oct. 24, 2019	*The Use of Social Media to Recruit and Engage High Risk Populations in Health Disparities Research*	**Elizabeth Wu, MPH Director of Research Programs** UCLA Hub for Health Intervention, Policy and Practice UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Department of Social Welfare
Nov. 14, 2019	*Tips for Writing a Compelling NIH Approach Section*	**Jonathon Rendina PhD, MPH** Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Director, Applied Intersectionality & Minority Stress (AIMS) Lab Faculty Investigator, Hunter College PRIDE Health Research Consortium Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY)
2020 SPRING SEMESTER		
April 7, 2020	*Tips for Persisting through the Challenges, Getting Funded and Doing the Science at a Teaching University*	**Matt Mutchler, PhD** Professor and Director, Urban Community Research Center Director of Assessment California State University, Dominguez Hills
April 23, 2020	*Career Development is Essential: Preparing Yourself to be Successful with the NIH Process*	**LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP** Associate Dean for Global Health & Equity Independence Foundation Associate Professor of Nursing Yale School of Nursing, Yale University

The 2020 – 2021 webinar series for the Fall 2020 semester will be held on the following dates: October 29th, Dr. Willie M. Abel (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) will present on *What's so*

special about the K Award: Exploring Mentored Career Development Awards, and November 12th, Dr. Ronald L. Braithwaite (Morehouse School of Medicine) will present on *Navigating the NIH Extramural System: Does Race Matter?*

Annual CHER Institute Follow Up Survey

A link to a web-based survey was emailed to the 45 early career faculty who participated in our previous three annual CHER Institutes. A total of 39 faculty fellows responded to the survey administered in June 2020.The follow-up survey is designed to assess the overall impact of the training program, and to measure progress towards their career and research development goals, specifically their publication and grand development productivity. Overall, faculty reported continued confidence in their progress towards the completion of their career and research development goals and their ability to address barriers and challenges to obtain support for their research portfolios. A large majority also reported that they felt they made lasting connections in the field of health equity research through the CHER Institute. The follow up survey will be conducted annually with each subsequent cohort of CHER Institute participants. Please see section on Contributions to CHHS for a summary of survey responses from CHHS faculty Institute participants.

CHER Institute Wiki

In support of the CHER Institute's goal to provide continuing support and resource access to institute alumni, CHER staff have established a private wiki-style information store. The CHER Institute Wiki is constructed using MediaWiki, a widely-used open-source content-creation tool which serves as the basis for Wikipedia.org and many similar sites. This web-accessible information store is currently housed on development servers provide by CSULB IT staff. The initial content is currently being deployed and will include presentations, video, and other resources provided during each of the past four years of the summer institutes, along with additional information about past participants, research support resources, and collaboration opportunities.

PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

***B-Free OC* – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2022)**
Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation Hepatitis B Demonstration Program, Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

CHER was selected to serve as the evaluation team for B-Free OC program, a Hepatitis B Demonstration Program implemented by the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (VACF) and funded by the Office of Minority Health (OMH). Located in Fountain Valley, the VACF has provided cancer education, research, advocacy, and services to Vietnamese American communities in Orange County for over 20 years. As part of their prevention efforts, the VACF offers hepatitis B and C education, screenings, and patient navigation to identify and support individuals at risk for cancer related chronic illnesses (hepatitis is associated with liver cancer.) The B-Free OC collaborative is a multi-stakeholder coalition lead by the VACF, representing primary care providers, community clinics, community-based organizations, the county health department, and liver research centers, to improve hepatitis B (HBV) prevention, early detection, and treatment among Vietnamese Americans (VA) living in Orange County. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver disease, and VA are at high risk for liver disease due to lack of HBV diagnosis and

screening information in their communities. The disparities in liver disease outcomes for VA (very high HVB prevalence and disparity in liver cancer mortality) make the case for an effort to target this Asian ethnic community especially in an area with the largest number of VA living in the U.S. In order to achieve its objectives, the B-Free OC program aims to increase knowledge, attitude, and behavior on hepatitis B screening/testing through individual-level, community-level, and provider and health care system-level program activities.

VACF has made the difficult decision to return funding to OMH due to its inability to meet one of the three program goals: 1) Conduct a community awareness outreach and awareness campaign on hepatitis B screening and vaccination; 2) Implement a provider hepatitis B education outreach and training program; and 3) Execute a hepatitis B screening, vaccination and linkage to care, county-wide tracking system and database. During this reporting period, CHER developed an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the Hepatitis B Demonstration Program that included a community survey to assess campaign awareness, hepatitis B knowledge and screening uptake among Vietnamese households in Orange County, and a post-survey for workshop participants to assess changes in hepatitis B knowledge and intention to be screened. CHER advised clinic and community partners on data points needed to be able to track progress on project goals and objectives. Lastly, CHER submitted an application to the CSULB Institutional Review Board for the B-Free OC project evaluation and provided two trainings to VACF staff and volunteers on telephone survey administration using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing software.

FUNDED PROPOSALS

Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking
University of California, Irvine, David Timberlake, PhD (PI)
Tobacco-Related Disease Program Pilot Award, 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

Dr. Laura D'Anna, CHER Director, will serve as a Co-Investigator on a grant awarded to Dr. David Timberlake, Professor at the University of California, Irvine under the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Pilot Award funding mechanism. Dr. Timberlake's proposal, entitled *Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking,* is an exploratory study of cannabis use, specifically blunt use (rolled cannabis in tobacco leaf), among African-American adults in order to identify acceptable non-tobacco leaf alternatives and reduce exposure to tobacco. The specific aims of the project are to: 1) Evaluate the content of Twitter messages (tweets) regarding accessibility, product characteristics, perceived health advantages, comparisons to cigarillos, promotional messages, and within–category comparisons of brand, type (e.g. hemp), and flavors of non-tobacco wraps; 2) Test whether ordinances banning flavored tobacco (e.g., blunt wraps) in California counties/cities have led to an increase in the incidence rate of tweets about non-tobacco wraps; and 3) Assess blunt smokers' perceptions about the similarities, differences, advantages and disadvantages of using non-tobacco wraps relative to cigarillos via focus groups conducted with past-month blunt smokers. Based on her expertise and the collective experience among CHER staff working with the African-American community, Dr. D'Anna will lead community engagement efforts in the greater Long Beach area for the recruitment of participants for eight focus groups to be conducted in year 2 of the proposed two-year project. She will also advise on effective community engagement and outreach strategies, and assist Dr. Timberlake and his research team with building relationships with community–based organizations that work with populations at high risk for co-use of cannabis and tobacco.

UNFUNDED PROPOSALS

Community-based Partnerships for Economic Resilience in Multi-Ethnic Communities (CPERMEC) Project – Evaluation Subcontract
Lead Agency: The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana, California
Funder: DHHS Office of Minority Health

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research was invited to lead the evaluation efforts for the proposed *Community-based Partnerships for Economic Resilience in Multi-Ethnic Communities (CPERMEC)* Project submitted to the Office of Minority Health (OMH) by The Cambodian Family (TCF) in response to their Community-based Approaches to Strengthening Economic Supports for Working Families funding opportunity announcement. The Community-based Approaches to Strengthening Economic Supports for Working Families initiative sought to determine if implementation of earned income tax credit (EITC) outreach and education activities in communities at higher risk for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can result in (1) increased EITC receipt and (2) changes in risk and/or protective factors for ACEs. The proposed CPERMEC is a 3-year collaborative effort with multiple community partners to test the effectiveness of a community-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate intervention program that will provide EITC outreach and education, and other support services to racial and ethnic minority working families living in Santa Ana, California. CHER developed an evaluation plan that would have used a mixed methods approach to evaluate the project including collection and analysis of community level data (ACES, EITC) from project partners, and individual data collection (i.e. surveys) among program participants.

Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education (HRME) Program – Evaluation Subcontract
Lead Agency: Cambodian Association of America, Long Beach, California
Funder: DHHS Administration for Families and Children

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) was listed as the local evaluator in an application for the *Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education (HRME) Program* proposed by the Cambodian Association of America (CAA) under the Family, Relationship, and Marriage Education Works - Adults (FRAMEWorks) program funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Families and Children (AFC). The HRME Program is a community-based program to build marriage and relationship skills among low-income refugees and immigrants leading to improved family stability and functioning; improved adult and child well-being, improved parenting and co-parenting skills; and increased economic stability and mobility through education and employment. The HMRE Program includes: 1) A public advertising campaign focused on engagement and recruitment; 2) marriage and relationship education/skills (MRES) workshops that integrate parenting, financial management, conflict resolution and conflict resolution; 3) job and career advancement; and 4) case management and family support. The MRES workshops will use *Family Wellness – The Strongest Link*, an evidence-based curriculum to address socioeconomic, intergenerational, and culture-related challenges that can cause or exacerbate marital discord and conflict particularly within immigrant communities.

As the local evaluator, the CHER team planned to conduct a descriptive evaluation to assess the effectiveness of HRME Program case management and supportive services on meeting program outcomes. CHER proposed a pre-/post-test evaluation to generate information on the benefits of individual and collective program activities and the use of the Information, Family Outcomes, Reporting, and Management (nFORM) platform to collect, store and manage data on program enrollment, participant and family characteristics, participation and program completion, and case management.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

CHER offers internship and volunteer opportunities to undergraduate and graduate CSULB students. The CHER internship is a semester-long placement to provide students with experience in the area of minority health, health disparities and health equity research, and develop skills useful for entry-level health related careers and preparation for higher education. As interns and volunteers, the students serve as research assistants, providing support to Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports and general office duties as needed. Students are also offered the opportunity to assist with data collection, such as survey administration and phone interviews. Graduate students are also assigned high level tasks such as literature reviews, data analysis, the development of abstracts, presentations and manuscript, proposal and report sections, in particular if they are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. CHER staff work one-on-one with interns providing training, feedback on assignments, and mentorship. During the period under review, three undergraduate and four graduate students, all from the Health Science department, worked at CHER as volunteers or student interns (see Table 3). Three of the students listed began their time at CHER as a volunteer and then transitioned to an internship placement the following semester. Jasmine Doxey, an MPH student, was the lead author on an abstract submitted to and accepted by the International AIDS Conference. Samantha Ruiz, MPH student, and Ivan Keophimphone, health science undergraduate student, assisted with the literature review, data analysis, and the preparation of tables for two manuscripts submitted during this reporting period that were accepted for publication. Additionally, MPH student, Christopher Counts, assisted with analysis of focus group data and is in the process of developing a manuscript using these findings.

Table 3: CHER Health Science Student Interns and Volunteers

STUDENT INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS
Graduate Students
Christopher Counts
Jasmine Doxey
Samantha Ruiz*
Patricia Trinidad
Undergraduate Students
Jessica Cueva
Ivan Keophimphone
Blake Stephens

*Student intern was hired as part-time research assistant.

CSULB COLLABORATIONS

CHER Director, Dr. D'Anna and the CHER team collaborated with several CSULB faculty and staff members, on projects or in the preparation of proposals and/or manuscripts during the year under review (See Table 4).

Table 4: CSULB Faculty/Staff Collaborators

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
PPOWER[2] Project Collaborators	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Liz Barnett	School of Social Work
Heidi Girling	Student Health Services
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services
Proposal Development	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Manuscript Development	
Marissa Hansen	School of Social Work
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHHS Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute

The 4th annual CHER Institute, held online in June 2020, was attended by three member of the CHHS faculty: Sandra Arevalo (Human Development), Joanna Barrreras (Social Work), and Melaway Garcia (Health Science). Dr. Niloo Bavarian, Health Science faculty and a past CHER Institute Faculty Fellow, also participated in the panel discussion, *Persisting through the Challenges, Getting Funded and Doing the Science at a Teaching University*, sharing her personal experience at CSULB.

A total of seven CHHS faculty participated in the previous three CHER Institutes. As previously mentioned, past CHER Institute cohorts are invited to participate in a follow up survey to assess the overall impact of the training program, and to measure progress on publication and grand development productivity. In response to the 2020 follow up survey, all CHHS faculty reported that participation in the Institute benefited them during the retention, tenure and promotion (RTP) process, helped them become a more productive researchers, and enabled them to accomplish Year 1 goals, as articulated in their professional development plan developed during the CHER Institute. Five of the seven participants felt confident that they can request support from their institution to pursue their research interests. Since attending the CHER Institute, CHHS faculty reported submitting a total of 42 papers for peer review, and a total of 12 grant applications.

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The table below lists faculty from other academic institutions across the U.S. who participated this reporting year as *Faculty Mentors* for the CHER Institute/IPERT Project funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Table 5: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	**Institution**
Laura D'Anna, DrPH Assistant Professor, Health Science Director, Center for Health Equity Research Director, CHER Institute	CSULB
T. Alex Washington, PhD Professor, School of Social Work Co-Director, CHER Institute	CSULB
Roshan Bastani, PhD Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity Director, UCLA Center for Prevention Research Director, Disparities and Community Engagement Associate Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, DrPH Adjunct Professor, Maternal and Child Health Gillings School of Global Public Health	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bradley T. Connor, PhD Associate Professor and Director Addiction Counseling Program, Department of Psychology	Colorado State University
Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Adolescent Medicine, Division Chief, Adolescent Medicine Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health Professor of Medicine	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew Mutchler, PhD Professor, Department of Social Work Director, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Nina Harawa, PhD Professor (Charles Drew) Associate Professor in Residence (UCLA)	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles
Fernando Wagner, DS, MPH Professor, School of Social Work	University of Maryland, Baltimore,

In addition, the CHER team collaborates with faculty and staff from other institutions on our current research projects and in the development of publications. See Table 6.

Table 6:

FACULTY/STAFF	INSTITUTION
Consultant	
Jennifer Unger, PhD Professor of Preventive Medicine	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Manuscript Development	
Gisele Fong Program Manager	The California Endowment
Christine Petit Executive Director	Long Beach Forward (Building Healthy Communities, Long Beach)

In addition, CHER staff collaborates with multiple community-based organizations on ongoing projects and/or proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

Table 7: Community Based Collaborators

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Gisele Fong	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	Long Beach Forward
James Sauzo	Long Beach Forward
PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Morales	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Richard Nuñez	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Eipryl Tello	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Leevi Camus	AIDS Project Los Angeles
Norma Sanchez	Latino Equality Alliance
Jaylen Hibbert	Reach LA
Robert Anderson	Pacific Oaks Medical Group
Anthony Singleton	AMAAD Institute

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Community Wellness Program Collaborators	
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
California Tobacco Control Programs	
Lindsay Gervacio	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Scott Chan	API (Asian Pacific Islander) Forward Movement
Rod Lew	APPEAL (Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership)
Eipryl Tello	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Proposal Development	
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Jaelen Owens, Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the PPOWER^2 Project, is a member of the City of Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group, and serves as the Chair for the group's PrEP subcommittee for the group. Each committee meets bimonthly to discuss HIV prevention and care program planning in the City of Long Beach. Jaelen is a CSULB graduate with a B.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences who began his employment at CHER as a student in 2016 as a part-time Health Education/Outreach Specialist.

In addition, Dr. Pari Sabado, our Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation, actively participates in meetings for two groups that support local tobacco policy advocacy efforts: the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach and the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Los Angeles County.

C. Accomplishments

This section includes manuscripts and abstracts related to CHER projects that were prepared and submitted by CHER staff from July 2019 to June 2020 and accepted for publication or presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

D'Anna LH, Washington TA**, Cabudol M, Canjura C, Owens J**, and the PPOWER Project Team. Exploring awareness of HCV among sexual-minority Black generation Millennials and Gen Z: A qualitative study. Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities 2020; 7: 555-562.

Manuscripts under review as of June 2020

D'Anna LH, Wood J, Chang K, Washington TA and the PPOWER Team. Marijuana use and sexual risk behavior among young black men who have sex with men in California. Submitted to Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. (Accepted October 2020)

Sabado P, D'Anna L, Fong G, Petit C, and **Wood J**. Identifying Key Domains Connected to Resident Power Building in the Evaluation of a Place-based Initiative. Submitted to Health Promotion Practice.

The following are manuscripts that were submitted to peer-reviewed journals that were not accepted for publication.

Sabado P, D'Anna L, Fong G, Petit C, and **Wood J**. Identifying Key Domains Connected to Resident Power Building in the Evaluation of a Place-based Initiative. Submitted to Evaluation.

Sabado P, D'Anna L, Fong G, Petit C, and **Wood J**. Identifying Key Domains Connected to Resident Power Building in the Evaluation of a Place-based Initiative. Submitted to Health and Place.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

<u>2020</u>

D'Anna L, Wood J, Owens J, Canjura C, Washington TA, and the PPOWER^2 Team. Contextualizing HIV risk: Exploring the relationship between marijuana and sexual risk behaviors in the context of polysubstance use and mental health among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the United States. Poster presentation at: 23rd International AIDS (virtual) Conference, July 2020.

J. Doxey, LH D'Anna, J. Wood, C. Canjura, J. Owens, TA Washington and the PPOWER Team. Depression, HIV risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at: 23rd International AIDS (virtual) Conference, July 2020.

Owens J, D'Anna L, Canjura C, Washington TA, **Wood J**, and the PPOWER^2 Team. Engaging Young Black Men (YBM) in conversations around tobacco and marijuana use as an outreach strategy: Lessons learned from the PPOWER2 Project in Long Beach, CA. Accepted for poster presentation at: American Public Health Annual Meeting, October 2020.

D'Anna L, Owens J, Eckman C, Canjura C, Washington T, **Wood J**, and the PPOWER[2] Team. The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco. Accepted for poster presentation: Joining Forces 2020.

D'Anna L, Owens J, Canjura C, Washington T, **Wood J**, and the PPOWER[2] Team. He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California. Accepted for oral presentation: Joining Forces 2020.

2019

D'Anna LH, **Owens J**, **Eckman C**, **Canjura C**, Washington TA. The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Eckman C, **D'Anna LH**, **Canjura C**, **Owens J**, Washington TA. The influence of social norms and pressures to use marijuana among young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM). Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

D'Anna LH, **Canjura C**, **Owens J,** Washington TA, **Wood J**. He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California. Abstract accepted for a poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

D'Anna LH, **Canjura C**, **Owens J**, Washington TA, **Wood J**. Is marijuana a sex drug? Perceptions of young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County. Abstract accepted for a roundtable presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Peong V, Sngiem S, Gervacio L, Hopson C, Sen-Matthews A, Soeung S, Nim C, Tham L, Hun M, Phou S, **D'Anna LH**. Baseline data form the Community Wellness Program, a community-based approach to address mental health disparities among Cambodians in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sabado P, Pinedo C, Chan L, Sak S, Mai V, Moua S, **Trinidad L, D'Anna LH**. Building youth capacity for tobacco control work. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Peong V, Chhoeng S, Sen-Matthews A, Chiang S, Welty I, **Sabado P**, Chea R, Kem H. Resident empowerment and advocacy as a model to improve access to mental health services and resources among Cambodians in Orange County, California. Abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; November 2-6, 2019; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

II. Unit Accounting

CHER was awarded a total of approximately $1.06 million in new funding for research and evaluation during this reporting period. Center funding has remained consistent over the past several years with new sources of federal and state grant funding and an increase in awards to conduct local evaluation. This includes multiple evaluation subcontracts from the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. With a half million dollar increase in funding beginning in 2015, the Center has maintained an average of approximately $1.2 million in support each subsequent year.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CHER Institute – Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) YR 4
National Institute of General Medical Services
Fund G1992; Total Funding $1,923,986
Project Period: 09/01/19 – 08/31/20

Year 4 Award	$383,846
Balance as of 06/30/20	$129,323

PPOWER2: Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM – YR 2
Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) – Univ. of California Office of the President
Fund G2039; Total Funding $1,106,197
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/20

Year 2 Award	$368,715
Balance as of 06/30/20	$113,569

Community Wellness Program – Evaluation YR 3
California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity via Cambodian Assoc. of America
Fund G2039; Total Funding $228,000
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/20

Year 3 Award	$45,600
Balance as of 06/30/20	$0

API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (also known as A.I.R.E.-Advocates Invested in Restoring the Environment) – Evaluation YR 2
St. Mary Medical Center (lead agency); CDPH, California Tobacco Control Program
Fund G2161; Total Funding $191,386
Project Period: 06/01/19 – 06/30/20

Year 2 Award:	$38,280
Balance as of 06/30/20	$16,723

Tobacco Education Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency); CDPH, California Tobacco Control Program
Fund G2293
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/20

Award	$24,790
Balance as of 06/30/20	$9,007

My Sister's Keeper Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency)
U. S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Fund G2328
Project Period: 09/01/19 – 12/31/21

Award	$49,500
Balance as of 06/30/20	$36,612

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G2363
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 12/31/20 (No cost extension, initial end date 6/30/20)

Award	$66,000
Balance as of 06/30/20	$25,668

Center for Health Equity Research
Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$18,956
Funds expended during the review period	$8,997
Balance as of 06/30/2020	$40,240

COMPLETED FUNDING

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G2183
Project Period: 07/01/18 – 12/31/19 (No cost extension, initial end date 6/30/19)

Initial award amount	$62,500
Award augmentation 03/04/19	$130,750 (new total - $68,500 additional funds)
Balance as of 12/31/19	$0

B-Free OC, Hepatitis B Demonstration Project – Evaluation
Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (lead agency)
Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Fund G2329
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/22, Total Funding $255,000

Year 1 Award	$85,000
Balance as of 06/30/20	$380

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space and a shared conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. CHER space includes four private offices and a reception area with space for three cubicles with work stations. With a total of ten work stations, the Center is an active hub every day of the week with each station occupied by either a staff member or a student intern/volunteer. Identifying additional space continues to be a priority in order to accommodate the Center's growth, and to meet the demand of students who are interested in interning/volunteering at CHER.

TRANSITION TO WORK FROM HOME

With the CSULB campus-wide order on March 16, 2020, the entire CHER team, including student interns and volunteers, began remote work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In anticipation of this order, CHER staff met daily over the previous week to discuss preparations for working from home (i.e. access to files) and to strategize how to best meet project objectives with the cessation of in-person research activities. CHER laptops, generally used in the field for data collection and presentations, were loaned out to staff who share computer resources in their homes, and Jeff Wood, CHER IT/Data Manager, worked with CSULB technology services to ensure the installment of VPN capabilities and access to the CHER network for all CHER staff. Ongoing technical support for CHER staff is provided by Mr. Wood and CSULB/CHHS technology resources as needed.

CHER WEBSITE

A CHER website is located at web.csulb.edu/HealthEquity and is regularly to updated with CHER center-related news, achievements and project descriptions. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar, center-related news articles, staff bios and links to their publications, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and other information about health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the public. Contact and event management, mailings, event announcements, and registration for CHER-sponsored events, including webinars and the summer CHER Institute, are managed using CiviCRM, an open-source module that works with Drupal to provide event and contact management. CHER has increased use of additional research support tools available through the website, including a MySQL database server and in-house installation of the open-source on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' used in projects requiring greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools. The software allows CHER to provide special handling of sensitive data, complex question presentation and data validation, and data entry collaboration with community partners. During the current reporting period CHER has used these tools to increase the value of assistance it provides to community partners by helping them to automate the processing of funder-required data gathered though collaborative research efforts. Updates have been made to the content management and survey systems with additional upgrades planned in conjunction with required upgrades to university web servers. CHER also continues to provide in-kind support for a fourth year to the CSULB BUILD project by hosting a student mentor database and search tool, developed and maintained by CHER technical staff, on the CHER website.

Center for Health Equity Research
California State University, Long Beach

Annual Report
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 21 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. Over the past two decades, the Center has garnered approximately $21 million dollars in research funding.

CHER was renamed and reconstituted as a center of the college in April 2014 through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER is to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Professor in the department of Health Science, is Center Director. In addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center, Dr. D'Anna also serves as the principal investigator on ongoing projects, and provides direction and oversight for all Center activities.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using a community-based participatory approach. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi-experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships and student research assistant positions. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach and the Greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Currently, CHER serves as the lead evaluators for Building Health Communities, Long Beach, a large public health initiative funded by The California Endowment, as well as the evaluators for community-based projects conducted by St. Mary Medical Center, the Long Department of Health and Human Services, and a collaborative lead by the Cambodian Association of America.

The CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. The following pages contain information on these efforts as well as an overview of our current projects.

Center for Health Equity Research Staff

The CHER team currently consists of five full-time and five part-time staff members. Whenever possible, CHER aims to hire qualified CSULB students and graduates in fulfillment of its aim to support students in becoming the next generation of public health leaders. During this reporting period, Ms. Jasmine Doxey joined the Center as a part-time Evaluation Assistant upon the departure of Miss Angineh Babkhanians who served as a full-time, Evaluation Coordinator. Both are CSULB Health Science graduates who also completed internships at CHER. Ms. Doxey also earned her MPH from CSULB. All CHER staff are hired as CSULB Research Foundation employees. In addition, a new cohort of 3-4 CSULB graduate and undergraduate students joins the team each semester and summer break to gain meaningful health research experience as part-time research assistants. Please see the table below for a list of CHER team members. For a list of student interns during the 2020-2021 academic year, see Section B. Student and Faculty Involvement.

Staff Member	**Position**
FULL-TIME STAFF	
Pari Sabado, PhD*	Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation
Carol Canjura*	Center Coordinator
Jeff Wood	IT/Data Manager
Jaelen Owens*	Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator
Zina Ogunnaya	Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist
PART-TIME STAFF	
Kyle Chang, PhD	Public Health Statistician
Jasmine Doxey*	Evaluation Assistant
Angel Ramos**	Health Education/Outreach Specialist
Wendy Nomura	IPERT Event Coordinator; Full-time Lecturer Faculty, Health Science Department
Kevin Pinkerton	Media Production Specialist

* CSULB Alumni
** Current CSULB graduate student

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

PROJECTS

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project (January 2012 - June 2022)
Lead Agency: The California Endowment via Long Beach Forward
Funder: The California Endowment

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach is one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) serves as the Learning and Evaluation (L&E) Team for BHCLB. As the L&E Team, CHER is responsible for the following: revise and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conduct surveys with adult residents; analyze and disseminate BHCLB data and findings; attend BHCLB-related meetings; participate in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determine evaluation training needs; coordinate support for evaluation trainings; provide ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; and work with BHCLB staff to interpret findings. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participates in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees focusing on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

- CHER Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation, Dr. Parichart Sabado, participated in a TCE-led planning committee for a virtual event to celebrate 10 years of BHCLB. The planning committee met twice, on April 28, 2021 and May 20, 2021. The committee was comprised of members of the TCE evaluation team as well as local evaluation teams across 14 BHC sites.
- Dr. Sabado attended a Community of Learning event on June 9, 2021 to celebrate the evaluation of the BHC initiative, and to share lessons learned over the years.
- With guidance from key informants, CHER developed a case study to examine how resident power is built in Long Beach. It includes quantitative data from the Resident Power Survey and the Leadership Development Survey, and qualitative data from individual interviews with community leaders. Development of the case study was led by CHER with input from staff at Long Beach Forward and The California Endowment. The case study has been translated to Spanish and Khmer, and will be available online and as a hard copy. It is currently in print with an expected dissemination date of December 31, 2021.
- Dr. Sabado continues to provide ongoing research and evaluation support to the Just Environment Long Beach (JELB) coalition, originally the BHCLB Environmental Health Workgroup. JELB is a collaborative of organizations and individuals working to achieve systemic changes on matters of environmental health and justice in the most affected neighborhoods of North, West, and Central Long Beach. During this reporting period, Dr. Sabado provided research support on focus

group facilitation and delivered two training workshops for resident leaders. The first workshop was on held on October 30, 2020 and the second workshop was held on January 13, 2021. Both training workshops were delivered virtually using Zoom. Next steps include analyzing focus group data, for which Dr. Sabado will deliver a training on coding using a web-based software. The training is scheduled for December 2021.

- The CHER L&E team, in collaboration with BHCLB Hub Manager and TCE Program Manager, and with input from community partners and residents, developed the Resident Power Survey to measure level of engagement in BHCLB, leadership development, and ability to influence decision-making. Three waves of data collection for the Resident Power survey were conducted in 2013, 2015, and 2018. A total of 440 surveys were collected and the data have been analyzed. We developed a manuscript on survey findings and are happy to report that our manuscript entitled, ***Examining Resident Power Building in a Place-based Initiative*** was accepted for publication in *Health Promotion Practice* during this reporting period.
- CHER developed a report brief that presents findings from the Resident Power Survey in a more community-friendly format. It is currently being translated into Spanish and Khmer, and once complete, the report brief will be made available to the larger community.
- An abstract (***Identifying the Key Domains of Resident Power Building to Inform a Place-Based Health Initiative in California***) on findings from the Resident Power Survey was submitted to the American Public Health Association but was declined.
- With support from a former CSULB MPH graduate student, Ms. Samantha Ruiz, Dr. Sabado continues to compile data from existing data sources to track health-related indicators tied to the BHCLB Community Action Plan to examine population level changes. These data will be presented in a report brief that will include infographics and data summaries, as well as descriptions of campaigns in each of the target areas to provide readers with context on the effort that was undertaken by BHCLB partners.
- CHER has received additional funding from The California Endowment for the dissemination of findings from the BHCLB evaluation. Deliverables include development and distribution of a case study on power building, a report on health-related indicators connected to BHCLB's Community Action Plan, a report brief on findings from the Resident Power Survey, and a data dashboard that will allow BHCLB collaborative partners to extract evaluation data for activities related to sustainability.

Community Wellness Program Evaluation (January 2017 – April 2022)
Lead Agency: Cambodian Association of America
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity

The Community Wellness Program (CWP) is one of 35 projects under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) funded by the California Department of Public Health. It is the first program of its kind that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and intervention activities centered on shifting cultural norms about mental illness. The CWP is a collaborative of five Cambodian-serving organizations that are jointly implementing program activities to promote mental wellness among Cambodians. The organizations include Cambodian Association of America (CAA – Lead Agency), Families in Good Health (FiGH), Khmer Parent Association (KPA), The Cambodian Family (TCF), and United Cambodian Community (UCC).

CAA, FiGH, TCF, and UCC work collaboratively to implement project activities, while KPA assists with outreach and recruitment only. The CWP is a multi-component program that consists of: 1) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) community outreach and engagement; 2) PEI educational

workshops with a focus on mental and physical wellness; 3) case management, navigation, and referral to health and social services; and 4) spiritual and recreational activities. Spiritual activities harness the power of cultural and religious practices of importance to the Cambodian community such as water blessings, meditation, prayer, and other Buddhist rituals strongly associated with the healing process. Recreational activities include: field trips, in-house activities (e.g., potluck), and arts, crafts, music and dance therapy.

As the local evaluation team for the CWP, CHER assists with data collection for the statewide evaluation, while also conducting local evaluation activities to generate data to contribute to the body of research on mental health among Cambodians. The CWP evaluation follows a delayed intervention quasi-experimental design to assess program effectiveness in promoting mental wellness among program participants. Evaluation activities include both quantitative (i.e., pre- and post-surveys) and qualitative (i.e., focus groups) data collection during Years 2-4 of the 5-year project, with Year 1 serving as a pilot phase for program services only (i.e., no data collection). All pre- and post-surveys are coded, entered and verified by CHER student interns.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all CWP activities (e.g., educational workshops, case management, and social activities) were delivered online using Zoom and Facebook Messenger. The transition to online services was a barrier for older participants who were not able to connect to virtual platforms, despite assistance from Community Health Workers (CHWs). To address this barrier, CHWs have had to come up with innovative ideas on how to deliver program services, including making home visits to drop off hard copy PowerPoint slides for participants to use during telephone workshops. The following evaluation activities were completed during this reporting period:

- To date, 386 participants have completed the CWP and while evaluation activities have concluded, the program remains active until April 2022 with rolling enrollment instead of enrollment by cohort. Despite the challenges with service delivery during the pandemic, evaluation findings show that program participation contributed to statistically significant improvements in social isolation, social connectedness, trauma symptoms, mental health stigma, and physical and mental health.
- On October 27, 2021, Dr. Sabado delivered a virtual oral presentation (***Using community-defined practices to decrease symptoms of trauma among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA***) on evaluation findings at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting. The presentation was part of a panel on culturally-responsive approaches to increasing outreach and access to mental health care for underserved populations. This marks the third presentation on the CWP at APHA, which demonstrates the value that the program has to the larger public health community.
- We previously reported that CHER developed a data entry portal (the CWP database) to collect and manage process level data. The purpose of the database is three-fold: 1) to minimize the burden for CHWs of having to report program activities for each quarterly progress report for the funder (Office of Health Equity) and the semi-annual report for the statewide evaluation team, 2) to centralize process level data and provide a mechanism for CHWs to query individual level data to track program engagement, and 3) to allow reporting of accurate data. CHWs continue to use CWP database and it has proven to be extremely helpful in alleviating the need for CHWs to regularly provide process level data for multiple reports.
- The CHER evaluation team submitted the final local evaluation report to the California Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity on November 1, 2021.

Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities Evaluation (May 2018-April 2023)
Lead Agency: St. Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program

CHER was selected to lead local evaluation efforts for the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities funded by the California Department of Public Health California Tobacco Control Program. The API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities has identified three objectives for its tobacco control work: 1) By April 2023, Lomita and Rosemead will adopt and implement a policy designating all outdoor dining areas, including patios and balconies, as smoke-free; 2) By April 2023, Gardena and El Segundo will adopt and implement a policy designating 100% of individual units (including balconies and patios) in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes (with two or more attached units) and areas at least 30 feet from doors, windows, patios, and balconies, as smoke-free; and 3) Convene an API Youth Coalition of approximately 10-15 youth members between the ages of 14-19 years to engage in tobacco control work, including, but not limited to, increasing community awareness of tobacco use, policy advocacy, and data collection.

As the local evaluation team, CHER staff is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and data collection instruments, and overseeing evaluation activities for the Network. The following evaluation activities were completed during this reporting period:

- Fifty surveys have been collected in Lomita, CA to learn about diners' experience with secondhand smoke exposure while dining outdoors. The purpose of the survey is to also gauge diners' support of a policy that would prohibit smoking in outdoor dining areas (e.g., patios and balconies).
- One key informant interview was conducted with a property manager in El Segundo to learn about secondhand smoke exposure among tenants, and to explore the possibility of passing a policy that would prohibit smoking in multi-unit housing.
- Ten surveys were completed by members of the API Youth Coalition in August 2021. The purpose of the survey is to learn about: 1) how involvement in the coalition has contributed to changes in knowledge of how the health effects of tobacco and vape use, 2) youth engagement in outreach and evaluation activities, and 3) group diversity and member satisfaction.
- Dr. Sabado conducted two virtual 2-day training workshops on Human Subjects Research using the CIRTification curriculum developed by the Center of Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Illinois Chicago. The CIRTification training has been approved by the CSULB IRB as a community-friendly alternative to the online CITI training. The training was provided to project staff and members of the API Youth Coalition, as required by the IRB for all individuals who are involved with data collection activities. The trainings were held on the following dates:
    - April 22 and 29, 2021
    - August 19 and 26, 2021
- A virtual poster titled ***Exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing as a health equity issue*** was presented at the American Public Health Association meeting on October 21, 2021.

In-person data collection activities have resumed with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. All in-person data collection activities are conducted outdoors and individuals assisting with data collection are instructed to wear a face covering and to maintain physical distancing. Focus groups and interviews continue to be conducted via telephone or a videoconferencing platform.

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources – 2 (PPOWER^2) Project - Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM (July 2018 – June 2021)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, University of California Office of the President

Funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), the PPOWER^2 study draws upon established community-based partnerships and the work achieved with the first PPOWER Project which was completed in March 2019. To address TRDRP's tobacco-related health disparities research priority, the study is testing a tobacco/nicotine and cannabis intervention tailored to young Black men (YBM), who report infrequent smoking of tobacco or marijuana, any vaping of tobacco/nicotine (or non-nicotine products), and any cannabis use, including edibles, or any combinations of these. The primary prevention approaches have been designed to avoid initiation of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use for YBM who report never having used any of the above substances. The secondary prevention approaches have been designed to prevent early or infrequent users from transitioning to frequent users. The study involved two phases which consists of formative data collection, intervention development, and a feasibility pilot (Phase I), followed by an intervention testing phase (Phase 2). The intervention phase of the study was launched during the previous reporting period and completed its third year in conjunction with this reporting period. Initially scheduled to end in June, a 9-month no cost extension was submitted and approved, with a final end date of March 30, 2022. Due to recruitment challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the additional time was needed to continue participant enrollment and complete data collection activities. In support of projects requiring additional time to meet goals and objectives, TRDRP awarded CHER a $125,000 administrative supplement to provide staff support during the no cost extension period.

The third year of the project was focused on the enrollment of intervention testing phase participants and the completion of intervention and data collection activities. With an enrollment goal of 220 YBM for this phase, participant enrollment will be evenly distributed between an intervention group (n=110) recruited from City of Long Beach and surrounding communities and a control group (n=110) recruited from the South Los Angeles area. From July 2020 to June 2021, the Health Educator and Outreach Specialists (HEOS) team for the project implemented rigorous recruitment strategies for online enrollment. The team developed 327 culturally relevant posts to engage Black men ages 18 to 34 in Los Angeles County. Within this time frame, social media following increased from approximately 100 followers to 1,362 followers on the project's dedicated Instagram page with an additional increase in content engagement by 100%. Outreach efforts culminated in the completion of 1,149 screeners with 849 locations based in Los Angeles. The remaining screeners were based in Long Beach. This accomplishment was achieved by tracking analytics gathered through Instagram and tailoring content creation to increase engagement. Changes that were made based on analytics data included the addition of video spotlights of health services provided by community partners, direct messages to followers within the network of these partners, and snowball referrals from project participants who expressed interest in these services. As of June 30, 179 participants were enrolled in the study with 89 in the intervention group and 90 in the comparison group. All data collection activities are expected to be completed by mid-March 2022.

The dissemination of findings from the formative data for the study is an ongoing priority for the project. Seven abstracts were developed from findings from formative focus groups and interview data and submitted during the previous reporting period to the 2020 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, the 23rd International AIDS Conference, and the Joining Forces 2020 Conference (accepted for oral presentation). The following five abstracts were accepted for presentation: *Contextualizing HIV risk: Exploring the relationship between marijuana and sexual risk behaviors in the*

context of polysubstance use and mental health among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the United States. (International AIDS Conference); *Depression, HIV risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California* (International AIDS Conference); *Engaging Young Black Men (YBM) in conversations around tobacco and marijuana use as an outreach strategy: Lessons learned from the PPOWER2 Project in Long Beach, CA.* (APHA Annual Meeting); *The hidden hook: Young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) are at heightened risk for the dangers associated with co-use (mulling) of cannabis and tobacco.* (Joining Forces Conference); *He just added more flame to my fire! Exploring structural inequities as factors associated with smoking rates among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles, California*. (TRDRP Joining Forces Conference). The International AIDS Conference and APHA Annual Meeting were held as virtual conferences in July and November 2020 respectively. Jasmine Doxey, MPH graduate student intern at the time of submission, was the lead author on the second abstract accepted for the 2020 International AIDS Conference. In addition to conducting the data analysis and leading the development of the abstract, she prepared the poster content and video presentation for the virtual conference. Mr. Jaelen Owens, the Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the project prepared the abstract and developed a video for his poster presentation for the virtual 2020 APHA Annual Meeting. The Joining Forces 2020 Conferences was postponed indefinitely.

During the current report period, three abstracts were developed on preliminary findings and outreach approaches for the project, and submitted to the 2021 APHA Annual Meeting. One abstract, *An intervention to address alcohol and drug use among Black men in Los Angeles County during the COVID-19 lockdown*, was accepted for a poster presentation.

Long Beach Tobacco Education Program (TEP) – Evaluation Project (July 2019 – June 2020)
Lead Agency: Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program

The Long Beach Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (TEPP) aims to build a healthier community by reducing the use of tobacco and the exposure to secondhand smoke in the city of Long Beach. TEP strives to achieve this goal by: 1) providing referrals for people who want to quit smoking, 2) creating culturally appropriate tobacco control materials for the Long Beach community, 3) supporting community-led smoke free campaigns, and 4) ensuring compliance with local, state and federal tobacco-related laws.

As the evaluation team, CHER is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and associated data collection instruments to generate findings that will be used to inform staff at the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services of the program's progress, thereby allowing staff to make necessary adjustments to TEPP activities to achieve its intended outcomes. CHER's evaluation plan includes: focus group interviews with Long Beach residents on tobacco use in multi-unit housing (MUH); interviews to explore smoke-free MUH with property owners/managers; key informant interviews with restaurant owners/managers on smoke-free outdoor dining; observation surveys to examine enforcement of the smoke-free outdoor dining ordinance; and key informant interviews with tobacco retailers to learn about the impact of the city ordinance that prohibits that sale of flavored tobacco and vape products. Findings will also be shared with the funder in a final evaluation report to highlight program accomplishments and lessons learned. The following evaluation activities were completed during this reporting period:

- The CHER evaluation team conducted an additional seven key informant interviews with key stakeholders in Long Beach.

- Two interviews were conducted with restaurant owners/managers to learn about enforcement of the city ordinance that ban smoking in outdoor dining areas, such as balconies and patios, and about continued exposure to secondhand smoke among restaurant diners.
- Three interviews were conducted with tobacco retailers to learn about their perspectives of the role of flavored tobacco and vape products in smoking initiation among youth, and about their support of a city-wide permanent ban on the sale of these products.
- Two interviews were conducted with property managers at multi-unit housing (MUH) to learn about exposure to secondhand smoke among tenants and about their thoughts on a policy that would prohibit smoking in MUH.

In-person data collection activities have resumed with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Individuals assisting with data collection are instructed to wear a facial covering and to maintain physical distancing when collecting data.

***My Sister's Keeper* Program - Evaluation Project (September 2019 – December 2021)**
Lead Agency: City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS)
Funder: U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime

CHER was selected by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) to serve as the evaluator for the 3-year, *My Sister's Keeper (MSK)* Program, a Specialized Services Program Serving Victims of Human Trafficking funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ/OVC). CHER uses a mixed method approach for the evaluation of this project, which includes pre-/post surveys, individual interviews, and workshop evaluations. The evaluation team also reviews and synthesizes data gleaned from partner reports to track performance measures, and attends partner meetings to document challenges and barriers to service delivery. Deliverables for the evaluation include data from evaluation activities, presentation of findings to LBDHHS and partner agencies, and completion of the final evaluation report.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all MSK workshops were delivered virtually via Zoom and data collection activities (surveys and interviews) were completed via telephone. During this reporting period, MSK enrolled a total of 44 participants, 34 of whom have completed the program. The remaining participants dropped out of the program (6) or were lost to follow-up (4). The following evaluation activities were completed during this reporting period:

- Thirty-four (34) participants completed a pre- and post-survey
- The CHER evaluation team interviewed 9 participants to learn about their experience in the program and what they liked and did not like about MSK. Participants were also asked to share suggestions for how the program can be improved to better serve human trafficking survivors.
- Dr. Sabado presented preliminary evaluation findings to MSK partners on April 13, 2021
- The CHER evaluation team is currently working on the final evaluation report that will be submitted to LBDHHS early December 2021

CHER Institute - Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (September 2016 – August 2022)
Funder: National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)/National Institutes of Health

The goal of the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the CHER Institute features (1) the CHER Institute training program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experience for early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing a NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held four times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. are given priority for participation in the CHER Institute training program, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars is focused on MSI campuses and affiliated networks.

As listed in the proposal to the NIGMS the specific aims of the CHER Institute are to:

- Increase the number of early career faculty members (with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institution Faculty) who are better prepared to become NIH principal investigators in the field of community-based health equity research.
- Increase the quantity and quality of health equity research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations developed by CHER Institute Training Program participants.

CHER Institute Training Program

The annual, six-day CHER Institute was held as a virtual training program via Zoom videoconference on June 7-12, 2021. The Institute was held virtually again due to the uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of 39 applications received, 20 early career faculty members were accepted into the CHER Institute as Faculty Fellows with two faculty members from CSULB (See table 1 on the following page). Since its award in September 2016, CHER has held five CHER Institute training programs with a total of 76 faculty participants, including nine faculty from the CSULB College of Health and Human Services.

The CHER Institute training program consisted of five and a half days. The program schedule was adjusted to accommodate the variation in time zones among the Institute participants and mentors from across the U.S. The CSULB Beach Board was also utilized as central location to access program materials and Zoom links for the daily sessions. Daily activities included a plenary session, "science chat", seminars, and time at the end of the day for individual and group assignments. In addition to facilitating plenary sessions, science chats and seminars, Institute faculty mentors met individually with participants each day to provide guidance on the formulation of their research and a 3-year research career development plan. (See table 5 under Academic and Community Collaborations for a list of our CHER Institute faculty mentors.) A Zoom social networking session was held on Friday, June 11, which also included attendance by Faculty Fellows from previous CHER Institute cohorts.

Table 1: 2021 CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

CHER Institute Faculty Fellow	**Institution**
Raymond Aguilar, PhD, MSW	Alabama A&M University
Olajide N. Bamishigbin, Jr. PhD	California State University, Long Beach
Kacie Blackman, PhD	California State University, Northridge

Kelly Lynn Clary, PhD, MSW	Texas State University, San Marcos
Renee Colsch, PhD, RN, SCR, CQ	St. Catherine University, St. Paul
Tanisha Garcia, MHA, PhD	California State University, Fresno
Bryan Gere, PhD, MBA, CRC, LGPC	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Portia A. Jackson Preston, PhD, MPH	California State University, Fullerton
Matthew E. Jaurequi, PhD, LMFT, CFLE	California State University, Long Beach
Sana Malik, MSW, MPH, DrPH	Stony Brook University, New York
December Maxwell, PhD, MSW	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Renee M. Penalver, PhD	California State University, Monterey Bay
Lorinda Riley, SJD	University of Hawai'i Mānoa
Cindy Lynn Salazar-Collier, PhD, MPH	Baylor University
Jaclyn Schwartz, PhD, OTR/L	Florida International University
Tayla D. Thomas, PhD, MPA	Jackson State University
Elizabeth Reeves Tomlinson, PhD, RN	North Carolina Central University
Meng-Han Tsai, PhD	California State University, Monterey Bay
Karlita L. Warren, PhD, ATC	University of LaVerne
Shanika Lavi Wilson, DSW, MSSW	North Carolina Central University

An online evaluation of the CHER Institute was conducted daily and immediately after the full week of Institute activities. Feedback and comments from participants were overwhelmingly positive. All 20 Faculty Fellows completed the overall evaluation Institute survey and gave the highest ratings to the following statements (all respondents agreed or strongly agreed): *I received new ideas about how to pursue and enhance my research endeavors; It is likely that I will submit a grant proposal within the next year using the specific aims developed at CHER; Overall, the CHER Institute met my expectations; and I intend to participate in CHER Institute webinars when relevant for my research interests*. Aspects of the Institute found to be most helpful included the valuable information in constructing the components of the NIH grant application and the proposal review process. In addition, participants responded positively to the panel discussion on community-based participatory research led by CHER staff and Mr. Vattana Peong, Executive Director of The Cambodian Family, a long-time, community collaborator. Another aspect particularly helpful was the faculty mentoring. Faculty fellows received tailored feedback and new research ideas for their individual outputs including the specific aims page and career development plan. Participants reported greater confidence in their ability to construct specific aims for a grant proposal and a stronger likelihood that a grant proposal will be submitted within the next year. The following are selected quotes taken from the open-ended portion of the overall evaluation survey:

- *The CHER Institute exceeded my expectations. The faculty mentors, the group sessions, the science chats, and peer interactions were all extremely helpful and provided invaluable information that not only challenged me for growth, but also reaffirmed the preliminary steps I have taken as an early career researcher.*

- *I really enjoyed all the seminars and networking/discussion. It helped me a lot on preparing my aim page. I also enjoyed the time when we talked with different mentors on our career path. It gave me more clear ideas on what are my next steps.*
- *The mock review gave me a new perspective of how applications are graded and reviewed. This is crucial for understanding the importance of certain aspects of the application, such as the specific aims page.*
- *I LOVED CHER! It was one of the best scientific experiences of my life. Thanks so much for the learning, enrichment, and kindness.*

The 2022 CHER Institute is scheduled for June 6 – 11, 2022.

CHER Institute Webinars

In addition to the CHER Institute training program, four webinars for early career faculty were held during the 2019-2020 academic year (see Table 2 for webinar information). Topics for the CHER Institute webinars focused on 1) funding mechanisms and research support for early career faculty and 2) emerging research methodologies for faculty. Together, there were a total of 168 registrants for the four webinars, and 105 individual logins.

Table 2. 2020-2021 Webinar Topics and Presenters

Date	**Webinar Topic**	**Presenter**
2020 FALL SEMESTER		
Oct. 29, 2020	*What's so special about the K Award: Exploring Mentored Career Development Awards (e.g., K01, K99)*	**Willie Mae Abel, PhD, RN, FAHA** Associate Professor, School of Nursing University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Nov. 12, 2020	*Navigating the NIH Extramural System: Does Race Matter?*	**Ronald L. Braithwaite, MD** Professor, Departments of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Family Medicine and Psychiatry Morehouse School of Medicine
2021 SPRING SEMESTER		
April 8, 2021	Journey to a Successful Career as an Academic and Funded Researcher	**Tonya M. Coakley, PhD, MSW** Professor, Department of Social Work Associate Chair in Social Work for Research Provost's Faculty Fellow University of North Carolina at Greensboro
April 15, 2021	*Science with Impact: Leading Community Based Participatory Research Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Communities*	**Sonya Arreola, PhD, MPH** Arreola Research

Institute Alumni Research Spotlight

A two-hour Institute Faculty Fellow (virtual) "Research Spotlight" was held on February 18, 2021 as an event to highlight the accomplishments of past CHER Institute participants and provide information on our new web-based data collection portal and WIKI page developed for the Institute. CHER Institute Faculty Mentors and all Institute Faculty Fellows were invited to attend.

Annual CHER Institute Follow Up Survey

A link to a web-based survey was emailed to the 56 early career faculty who participated in our previous four annual CHER Institutes. A total of 55 faculty fellows responded to the most recent survey administered in April-May 2021. The follow-up survey is designed to assess the overall impact of the training program, and to measure progress towards career and research development goals, specifically publication and grant development productivity. Overall, the majority of Institute faculty fellows reported continued confidence in their progress towards the completion of their career and research development goals, and their ability to address barriers and challenges to obtain support for their research portfolios. Respondents also reported they received new ideas about how to pursue and enhance their research endeavors since their participation in the CHER Institute. A large majority also reported that they felt they made lasting connections in the field of health equity research through the CHER Institute.

CHER Institute Wiki

In support of the CHER Institute's goal to provide continuing support and resource access to institute alumni, CHER staff have established a private wiki-style information store. The CHER Institute Wiki is constructed using MediaWiki, a widely-used open-source content-creation tool which serves as the basis for Wikipedia.org and many similar sites. This web-accessible information store is currently housed on development servers provide by CSULB IT staff. The initial content is currently being deployed and will include presentations, video, and other resources provided during each of the past four years of the summer institutes, along with additional information about past participants, research support resources, and collaboration opportunities.

FUNDED PROPOSAL

Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking (7/1/21 – 6/30/22)
Lead Agency: University of California, Irvine, David Timberlake, PhD (PI)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Program Pilot Award, University of Southern California Office of the President

Dr. Laura D'Anna, CHER Director, will serve as a Co-Investigator on a grant awarded to Dr. David Timberlake, Professor at the University of California, Irvine, under the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Pilot Award funding mechanism. Dr. Timberlake's proposal, entitled *Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking,* is an exploratory study of cannabis use, specifically blunt use (rolled cannabis in tobacco leaf), among African-American adults in order to identify acceptable non-tobacco leaf alternatives and reduce exposure to tobacco. The specific aims of the project are to: 1) Evaluate the content of Twitter messages (tweets) regarding accessibility, product characteristics, perceived health advantages, comparisons to cigarillos, promotional messages, and within–category comparisons of brand, type (e.g. hemp), and flavors of non-tobacco wraps; 2) Test whether ordinances banning flavored tobacco (e.g., blunt wraps) in California counties/cities have led to an increase in the incidence rate of tweets about non-tobacco wraps; and 3) Assess blunt smokers' perceptions about the similarities, differences, advantages and disadvantages of using non-tobacco wraps relative to cigarillos via focus groups conducted with past-month blunt smokers. Based on her expertise and the collective experience among CHER staff working with the African-American community, Dr. D'Anna will lead community engagement efforts in the greater Long Beach area for the recruitment of participants for eight focus groups to be conducted in year 2 of the proposed two-year project. She will also advise on effective community engagement and outreach strategies, and assist Dr. Timberlake and his research team with building relationships with community–based organizations that work with populations at high risk for co-use of cannabis and tobacco.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

AUGUST 2020
Community-based Partnerships for Economic Resilience in Multi-Ethnic Communities (CPERMEC) Project – Evaluation Subcontract
Lead Agency: The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana, California
Funder: DHHS Office of Minority Health

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research was invited to lead the evaluation efforts for the proposed *Community-based Partnerships for Economic Resilience in Multi-Ethnic Communities (CPERMEC)* Project submitted to the Office of Minority Health (OMH) by The Cambodian Family (TCF) in response to their Community-based Approaches to Strengthening Economic Supports for Working Families funding opportunity announcement. The Community-based Approaches to Strengthening Economic Supports for Working Families initiative sought to determine if implementation of earned income tax credit (EITC) outreach and education activities in communities at higher risk for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can result in (1) increased EITC receipt and (2) changes in risk and/or protective factors for ACEs.

DECEMBER 2020

***PPOWER3: Supporting Young Black Men to Overcome Environmental and Structural Stressors Related to COVID and Racial Injustice* (Laura D'Anna, PI)**
National Institutes of Health, Community Interventions to Address the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Health Disparity and Vulnerable Populations (PA-20-237) – R01 Not Scored

A five-year R01 application was submitted to the National Institutes of Health to develop and test a peer led, multi-level intervention to address the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the emotional and physical well-being of young Black men (YBM) ages 18-34 living in the greater Los Angeles area.

APRIL 2021

***Alcohol use and misuse among poly-substance using young Black/African American men during the COVID-19 pandemic: Development and pilot testing of a theory-based ecological momentary intervention* (Laura D'Anna, PI)**
National Institutes of Health, SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 and Consequences of Alcohol Use (RFA-AA-21-004) – R21 Not Scored

In response to the National Institutes of Health funding announcement, *SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 and Consequences of Alcohol Use* (RFA-AA-21-004), CHER submitted a two-year R21 application proposing exploratory research to inform the development of an individual-level intervention to address alcohol use among young Black men (YBM) ages 18-34 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAY 2021

***PPOWER^3: Supporting Young Black Adults to Overcome Socio-Structural Stressors* (Laura D'Anna, PI)**
National Institutes of Health, Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity at Minority Serving Institutions U01 (RFA-RM-21-022) Impact Score: 48, Resubmission planned for 3/22.

The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), in response to the National Institutes of Health's funding announcement, *Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity at Minority Serving Institutions U01*, proposed to use a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach to develop processes and interventions that prepare and empower young Black adults (ages 18-34) in the greater Long Beach, CA area. Increased awareness of systemic racism and injustice, and a widespread determination to seek routes of equitable change, opened an opportunity to implement innovative programs at individual and organizational levels.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

CHER offers internship and volunteer opportunities to undergraduate and graduate CSULB students. The CHER internship is a semester-long placement to provide students with experience in the area of minority health, health disparities and health equity research, and develop skills useful for entry-level health related careers and preparation for higher education. As interns and volunteers, the students serve as research assistants, providing support to Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, data entry and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports and general office duties as needed. Students are also offered the opportunity to assist with data collection, such as survey administration and phone interviews. Graduate students are also assigned high level tasks such as literature reviews, data analysis, the development of abstracts, presentations and manuscript, proposal and report sections, in particular if they are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. CHER staff work one-on-one with interns providing training, feedback on assignments, and mentorship. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, internships have been transitioned to a remote placement with all intern assignments and check-ins coordinated via a combination of email and Zoom meetings. During the period under review, three undergraduate and three graduate students, all from the Health Science Department, were engaged with CHER as volunteers or student interns (see Table 3). Two of the graduate students began their time with CHER as volunteers and then transitioned to an internship placement in the spring semester. In addition, as of June 2021, three students were engaged to serve as volunteers over the summer.

Table 3: CHER Student Interns and Volunteers

STUDENT INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS
Graduate Students
Christopher Counts*
John Poli
Samantha Ruiz*
Undergraduate Students
Ligia Avelar
Candelaria Garcia
Cassidy Thompson

*Past student volunteer

CSULB COLLABORATIONS

CHER Director, Dr. D'Anna and the CHER team collaborated with CSULB faculty and staff members on projects and in the preparation of proposals and/or manuscripts during the year under review (see below).

Table 4: CSULB Faculty/Staff Collaborators

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services
Proposal and Manuscript Development	
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHHS Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute
A total of 12 CSULB faculty have participated in the CHER Institute since its inception, with nine faculty (75%) from CHHS (see list below). Two CSULB faculty members were accepted as CHER Institute faculty fellows for the 5th annual Institute held June 2021: Dr. Matthew Jaurequi (Family and Consumer Sciences) and Dr. Olajide Bamishigbin Jr. (Psychology.) Dr. Niloo Bavarian, Health Science faculty and a past Institute Faculty Fellow, participated in the panel discussion, *Persisting through the Challenges, Getting Funded and Doing the Science at a Teaching University*, sharing her personal experience at CSULB. Dr. Selena Nguyen Rodriguez, Health Science faculty, also co-presented with Dr. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, CHER Institute Faculty Mentor, on the seminar *Lessons Learned: Experience with the Research Career Development (K) Award*, sharing her experience as a K award recipient.

CSULB CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

2017
Niloo Bavarian – Health Science/CHHS
Virginia Gray – Family and Consumer Sciences/CHHS
Amber Johnson – Health Science/CHHS

2018
Salim Al-Ani – Speech Language Pathology/CHHS
Fiona Gorman – Health Science/CHHS
Kellie Walters – Kinesiology/CHHS

2019
Isabella Lanza – Human Development/CLA

2020
Sandra Arevalo – Human Development/CLA
Joanna Barreras – Social Work/CHHS
Melawhy Garcia – Health Science/CHHS

2021
Olajide Bamishigbin Jr. – Psychology/CLA
Matthew Jarequi – Family and Consumer Sciences/CHHS

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The table below lists faculty from other academic institutions across the U.S. who participated this reporting period as *Faculty Mentors* for the NIGMS funded CHER Institute/IPERT Program.

Table 5: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	**Institution**
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD Professor, Dept. of Population & Public Health Sciences Associate Dean for Community Initiatives Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Roshan Bastani, PhD Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity Director, UCLA Center for Prevention Research Director, Disparities and Community Engagement Associate Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, DrPH Adjunct Professor, Maternal and Child Health Gillings School of Global Public Health	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bradley T. Connor, PhD Associate Professor and Director Addiction Counseling Program, Department of Psychology	Colorado State University
Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Adolescent Medicine, Division Chief, Adolescent Medicine Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health Professor of Medicine	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew Mutchler, PhD Professor, Department of Social Work Director, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Nina Harawa, PhD Associate Professor in Residence (UCLA) Professor (Charles Drew)	David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Fernando Wagner, DS, MPH Professor, School of Social Work	University of Maryland, Baltimore,

In addition, CHER collaborates with multiple community-based organizations on ongoing projects, and proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

Table 6: Community Collaborators

NAME	ORGANIZATION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Gisele Fong	The California Endowment
Christine Petit	Long Beach Forward
James Sauzo	Long Beach Forward
PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Salamanca	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Leevi Camus	AIDS Project Los Angeles
Jaylen Hibbert	Reach LA
Community Wellness Program Collaborators	
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Ladine Chan	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
California Tobacco Control Programs	
Ladine Chan	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Eipryl Tello	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
My Sister's Keeper Program	
Theresa Gomez	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Bita Ghafoori	Long Beach Trauma and Recovery Center
Myra Miller	GEMS Uncovered
Mary White	GEMS Uncovered
Ben Espitia	Goodwill Industries
Proposal Development	
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Jaelen Owens, Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator for the PPOWER2 Project, serves as a co-chair for the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group. The group meets quarterly to coordinate efforts between Long Beach-based health agencies and community leaders to achieve the goals of the Long Beach HIV-STD Strategy. Jaelen is a CSULB graduate with a B.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences who began his employment at CHER as a student in 2016 as a part-time Health Education/Outreach Specialist.

In addition, Dr. Pari Sabado, our Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation, actively participates in meetings for two groups that support local tobacco policy advocacy efforts: the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach and the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Los Angeles County (regional meeting.) Finally, Dr. Laura D'Anna serves as a member of the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group's PrEP Subgroup. This role includes monthly meetings, providing advice for data collection strategies, and cultivating collaborative grant proposal opportunities.

C. Accomplishments

This section includes manuscripts and abstracts related to CHER projects that were prepared and submitted by CHER staff from July 2020 to June 2021 and accepted for publication or presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

Sabado P, D'Anna L, Fong G, Petit C, **Wood J**. Examining Resident Power Building in a Place-Based Initiative. Health Promot Pract. 2021 Oct 11;:15248399211045355. doi: 10.1177/15248399211045355. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 34628971.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34628971/

D'Anna LH, Chang K, Wood J, Washington TA. Marijuana Use and Sexual Risk Behavior Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex with Men in California. J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2020 Nov 16;. doi: 10.1007/s40615-020-00915-3. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 33197039.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33197039/

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2021

Chang K, Wood J, Owens J, D'Anna L. An intervention to address alcohol and drug use among Black men in Los Angeles County during the COVID-19 lockdown. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado. (virtual poster presentation)

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Peong V, Sngiem S, Chan L, Hopson C, Soeung S, Colfax G, Sen-Matthews A, Ung V, Tieng P, Tham L, Siphan S, Dance J, **D'Anna L**. Using community-defined practices to decrease symptoms of trauma among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado. (virtual oral presentation)

Sabado P, Chan L, Mai V, Abea M, Wilcox M, **D'Anna L**. Exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing as a health equity issue. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado. (virtual poster presentation)

2020

D'Anna L, Wood J, Owens J, Canjura C, Washington TA, and the PPOWER^2 Team. Contextualizing HIV risk: Exploring the relationship between marijuana and sexual risk behaviors in the context of polysubstance use and mental health among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in the United States. Poster presentation at: 23rd International AIDS (virtual) Conference, July 2020.

J. Doxey, LH D'Anna, J. Wood, C. Canjura, J. Owens, TA Washington and the PPOWER Team. Depression, HIV risk behaviors, and perceptions of risk among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County, California. Poster presentation at: 23rd International AIDS (virtual) Conference, July 2020.

Owens J, D'Anna L, Canjura C, Washington TA, **Wood J**, and the PPOWER^2 Team. Engaging Young Black Men (YBM) in conversations around tobacco and marijuana use as an outreach strategy: Lessons learned from the PPOWER2 Project in Long Beach, CA. Poster presentation at: American Public Health (virtual) Annual Meeting, October 2020.

II. Unit Accounting

CHER was awarded a total of approximately $911,250 in ongoing funding for research and evaluation during this reporting period. Center funding has remained consistent over the past several years with federal and state grant funding, and subcontracts to conduct local evaluation. With a half million dollar increase in funding beginning in 2015, the Center has maintained an average of approximately $1.2 million in support each subsequent year. It is important to note that a number of CHER's grants will end in 2021/2022 and thus, the CHER Team prioritized seeking new grant sources during the 2021 calendar year and will continue to do so into 2022. The CHHS Associate Dean for Research, and the Health Science Department Chair have been made aware of the need to secure new funding sources and/or potential gap funding to ensure CHER's sustainability beyond 2022.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CHER Institute – Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) YR 5
National Institute of General Medical Services
Fund G1992; Total Funding $1,923,986
Project Period: 09/01/20 – 08/31/22 (No cost extension, initial end date 08/31/21)

Year 5 Award	$383,630
Balance as of 06/30/21	$363,195 (includes cumulative carry forward)

PPOWER2: Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM – YR 3
Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) – Univ. of California Office of the President
Fund G2039; Total Funding $1,106,197
Project Period: 07/01/20 – 03/30/22 (9-month no cost extension, initial end date 6/30/21)

Year 3 Award	$368,744
Balance as of 06/30/21	$76,445
Administrative Supplement awarded July 2021	$184,365

Community Wellness Program – Evaluation YR 4
California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity via Cambodian Assoc. of America
Fund G2039; Total Funding $228,000
Project Period: 07/01/20 – 06/30/21

Year 4 Award	$45,600
Balance as of 06/30/21	$3,345

API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (also known as A.I.R.E.-Advocates Invested in Restoring the Environment) – Evaluation YR 3
St. Mary Medical Center (lead agency); CDPH, California Tobacco Control Program
Fund G2161; Total Funding $191,386
Project Period: 07/01/20 – 06/30/21

Year 3 Award:	$38,280
Balance as of 06/30/21	$325

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners

Fund G2451
Project Period: 07/01/20 – 06/30/21

Award	$25,500
Balance as of 06/30/21	$527

My Sister's Keeper Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency)
U. S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Fund G2328
Project Period: 09/01/19 – 12/31/21

Award	$49,500
Balance as of 06/30/21	$7,774

Center for Health Equity Research
Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$19,368
Funds expended during the review period	$3,290
Balance as of 06/30/2021	$59,095

COMPLETED FUNDING

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Evaluation – Hub Collaborative Long Beach
The California Endowment via Community Partners
Fund G2363
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 12/31/20 (No cost extension, initial end date 6/30/20)

Award	$66,000
Balance as of 12/31/20	$94

Tobacco Education Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency); CDPH, California Tobacco Control Program
Fund G2293
Project Period: 07/01/19 – 06/30/20

Award	$24,790
Balance as of 06/30/20	$9,007

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space and a shared conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. CHER space includes four private offices (two of which are shared offices) and a reception area with space for three cubicles with work stations. With a total of ten work stations, under normal circumstances, the Center is an active hub every day of the week with each station occupied by either a staff member or a student intern/volunteer. Prior to COVID stay-at-home orders, identifying additional space was a priority in order to accommodate the Center's growth, and to meet the demand of students who are interested in interning/volunteering at CHER.

STAFF REMOTE WORK SCHEDULE

During this reporting period, CHER team members as well as student interns and volunteers worked remotely from home as a mitigation effort in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CHER laptops, generally used in the field for data collection and presentations, were loaned out to staff who share computer resources in their homes, and VPN capabilities are utilized by staff to access the CHER network on the CSULB server. Ongoing technical support for CHER staff is provided by Mr. Wood and CSULB/CHHS technology resources as needed. As of late June 2021, CHER staff were directed to return to campus with a part-time, modified work schedule by the College of Health and Human Services administrative staff.

CHER WEBSITE

A CHER website is located at sites.csulb.edu/HealthEquity and is regularly updated with CHER center-related news, achievements and project descriptions. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar, center-related news articles, staff bios and links to their publications, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and other information about health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the public. Contact and event management, mailings, event announcements, and registration for CHER-sponsored events, including webinars and the summer CHER Institute, are managed using CiviCRM, an open-source module that works with Drupal to provide event and contact management. CHER manages additional research support tools available through the website, including a MySQL database server, research Wiki, telephone and paper-based data management tools, and in-house installation of the open-source on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' used in projects requiring greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools. The software allows CHER to provide special handling of sensitive data, complex question presentation and data validation, and data entry collaboration with community partners. During the current reporting period CHER has used these tools to increase the value of assistance it provides to community partners by helping them to automate the processing of funder-required data gathered though collaborative research efforts. Updates have been made to the content management and survey systems and University-wide server upgrades have also enhanced the speed and capacity of CHER's web-based research resources. For much of the year, CHER also continued to provide in-kind support to the CSULB BUILD project by hosting a student mentor database and search tool, developed and maintained by CHER technical staff, and assisted in migrating this tool to a new home at the website of the Office of Undergraduate Research Services.

Center for Health Equity Research
California State University, Long Beach

Annual Report
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER or "The Center") is an academic center on the California State University, Long Beach campus focused on community-based, health equity, health disparities, and minority health research. CHER has been in existence for approximately 22 years, previously as the Center for Health Care Innovation (CHCI), and prior to that, as the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs. Over the past two decades, the Center has garnered approximately $25 million dollars in research funding. CHER was recently awarded two exploratory research grants by the National Institutes of Health and the California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, and its NIGM-funded CHER Institute faculty research training program was renewed for an additional five years for a total of $3.4 million in funding.

CHER was renamed and reconstituted as a center of the College of Health and Human Services in April 2014 through support from a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at CSULB – the RIMI Project. The purpose of CHER when reconstituted was to institutionalize the progress made by RIMI and to establish a lasting hub of health equity, health disparities, and minority health research and to serve as a resource for the CSULB community. Recently, however, CHER was moved under the Department of Health Sciences as the institutional memory related to these commitments has waned.

Dr. Laura D'Anna, Associate Professor in the department of Health Science, is Center Director. In addition to generating new projects and revenue for the Center, Dr. D'Anna also serves as the principal investigator on ongoing projects, and provides direction and oversight for all Center activities. She also guides and oversees student internship experiences. Since her transition to Center Director in 2014, CHER has been awarded over $9.6 million in funding for its research and evaluation efforts.

The goals of CHER can be summarized in one sentence, which serves as the Center's tagline, *"Promoting Health Equity through Community, Collaboration, and Science."* The research conducted at CHER follows rigorous, sound scientific methods using community-based participatory research approaches, and genuine community engagement. The gold standards for research, such as experimental or quasi- experimental designs, are used as well as theory driven models for the development and testing of behavioral interventions. CHER supports research conducted by unit members, as well as collaborative community and interdisciplinary research and health equity research by affiliated faculty members. CHER also offers opportunities for student training in health equity research topics and skills through internships and student research assistant positions. Guided by its mission statement, "*To promote health equity by engaging researchers and community partners in conducting rigorous and innovative public health research*," CHER actively seeks projects that allow it to work collaboratively with community partners throughout Long Beach and the Greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Currently, CHER serves as the evaluators for community-based projects conducted by St. Mary Medical Center, the Long Department of Health and Human Services, and a collaborative lead by the Cambodian Association of America.

The CHER team has been active in garnering funding to support new and ongoing research-related activities, despite the extremely competitive extramural funding climate. The following pages contain information on these efforts as well as an overview of our current projects.

Center for Health Equity Research Staff

During the reporting period, the CHER team consisted of five full-time and three part-time staff members, in addition to its director. Whenever possible, CHER aims to hire qualified CSULB students and graduates in fulfillment of its aim to support students in becoming the next generation of public health leaders. During this reporting period, Miss Zina Ogunnaya resigned from her position in February 2022 to pursue higher education and Ms. Jasmine Doxey transitioned from a part-time Evaluation Assistant to a full-time Health Education/Evaluation/Outreach Specialist (HEOS) in June 2022 to provide support to our research studies and evaluation projects. Ms. Doxey is a CSULB MPH graduate who also completed her internship at CHER to meet her program requirement. In addition, a new cohort of 3-4 CSULB graduate and undergraduate students joins the team each semester and summer break to gain meaningful health research experience as part-time research assistants. Please see the table below for a list of CHER team members during this reporting period. For a list of student interns during the 2021-2022 academic year, see Section B. Student and Faculty Involvement.

Staff Member	**Position**
FULL-TIME STAFF	
Pari Sabado, PhD*	Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation
Carol Canjura*	Center Coordinator
Jeff Wood	IT/Data Manager
Jaelen Owens*	Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator
Zina Ogunnaya	Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist
Jasmine Doxey*	Health Education/Evaluation/Outreach Specialist
PART-TIME STAFF	
Kyle Chang, PhD	Public Health Statistician
Wendy Nomura*	IPERT Event Coordinator; Full-time Lecturer Faculty, Health Science Department
Kevin Pinkerton	Media Production Specialist

* CSULB Alumni

I. Unit Performance and Accomplishments

A. Performance

This section gives a brief overview of the projects in the CHER portfolio. Following the overview of current projects, grant proposals prepared during the time period covered by this report are also discussed.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Building Health Communities, Long Beach (BHCLB) Place-Based Learning and Evaluation Project
Laura D'Anna, DrPH, Subcontract PI
Lead Agency: Long Beach Forward
Funder: The California Endowment
Project Period: January 2012 – June 2022

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) was a ten-year, $1 billion place-based initiative funded by The California Endowment (TCE), designed to develop a collaborative structure with residents, community-based organizations, and government leaders to address policy issues affecting health. Central/West Long Beach was selected as one of 14 communities in California selected by TCE. The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) served as the Learning and Evaluation (L&E) Team for BHCLB. As the L&E Team, CHER was responsible for the following activities: revised and update the evaluation plan and instruments as needed; conducted surveys with adult residents; analyzed and disseminated BHCLB data and findings; attended BHCLB-related meetings; participated in training and technical assistance about evaluation and learning; determined evaluation training needs; coordinated support for evaluation trainings; provided ongoing feedback to BHCLB about evaluation and learning findings; and worked with BHCLB staff to interpret findings. As part of the initiative's cross-site evaluation, CHER also participated in cross-site learning and evaluation activities, including attendance at cross-site convenings, participation in one or more of the learning subcommittees on the development of cross-site tools and methods, and related data collection activities. Notable activities conducted during this reporting period include:

<u>Power Building Case Study and Webinar:</u>

- As previously reported, CHER developed a case study in collaboration with Long Beach Forward to examine resident power building in Long Beach. The case study was finalized and printed on July 21, 2021, and is available in English, Spanish, and Khmer.
- Dr. Parichart Sabado, CHER Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation, worked in collaboration with the Long Beach Forward leadership team from November 2021 to April 2022 to plan a virtual webinar on Building Community Power in Long Beach. The purpose of the webinar was to highlight power building activities within BHCLB over the past 10 years and to discuss key accomplishments (e.g., policy wins) that resulted from these activities. The webinar was held on April 12, 2022 and April 20, 2022, during which Dr. Sabado presented the power building case study to community stakeholders.

<u>Data Dashboard:</u>

- CHER IT/Data Manager, Mr. Jefferson Wood, developed a data dashboard for the Resident Power Survey. The survey was developed to assess residents' level of **engagement** in BHCLB and changes in their **leadership** skills and in their perception of their ability to **influence** change. These three elements are viewed by BHCLB partners as the core ingredients of resident power and are necessary for power to be constructed and deployed. The Resident Power Survey was

administered in 2013, 2015, and 2018 to a total of 443 Long Beach residents who were directly involved with the initiative via its many campaigns and coalitions, or indirectly involved via its 50+ community partners. Using the dashboard, BHCLB partners and allies can access data from the Resident Power Survey for reports, grant proposal development, and presentations to elected officials to support their community change activities.

Just Environment Long Beach - Research & Evaluation Support:

- Despite our BHCLB evaluation grant coming to an end in June 2022, Dr. Sabado continues to provide ongoing research and evaluation support to the Just Environment Long Beach (JELB) coalition, originally the BHCLB Environmental Health Workgroup. JELB is a collaborative of organizations and individuals working to achieve systemic changes on matters of environmental health and justice in the most affected neighborhoods of North, West, and Central Long Beach. During this reporting period, Dr. Sabado trained a subset of four JELB members and two CHER interns on qualitative data analysis using Dedoose, a web-based data analysis software. Data were collected from 18 focus groups with residents in Central, West, and North Long Beach. Focus groups were held to delve deeper into community survey findings and to learn what residents would like to see changed in their communities, and who they believed should be part of the change. Findings from the focus groups will be used to inform policy development as part of JELB's work plan. In addition to facilitating the training on qualitative data analysis, Dr. Sabado also assisted with qualitative data analysis and developed a presentation to report back focus group findings to the community.

Community Wellness Program Evaluation, Laura D'Anna, DrPH, Subcontract PI
Lead Agency: Cambodian Association of America, Kimthai Kuoch, PI
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity
Project Period: January 2017 – April 2022, Extended through April 2026

The Community Wellness Program (CWP) is one of 35 projects under the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) funded by the California Department of Public Health. It is the first program of its kind that seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of culture-specific outreach techniques and intervention activities centered on shifting cultural norms about mental illness. The CWP is a collaborative of five Cambodian-serving organizations that are jointly implementing program activities to promote mental wellness among Cambodians. The organizations include Cambodian Association of America (CAA – Lead Agency), Families in Good Health (FiGH), Khmer Parent Association (KPA), The Cambodian Family (TCF), and United Cambodian Community (UCC). CAA, FiGH, TCF, and UCC work collaboratively to implement project activities, while KPA assists with outreach and recruitment only.

Since the last report, all in-person program and data collection activities have resumed, but some activities are still delivered online per participants' request[1].

During the past 4 years, CHER served as the local evaluation team for the CWP, while assisting with statewide data collection activities. As the local evaluation team, CHER conducted evaluation activities specific to the CWP to generate data to contribute to the body of research on mental health among Cambodians.

[1] While, the CWP grant period ended in April 2022, the California-reducing Disparities Project received additional funding to extend all 35 projects through April 2026.

CWP Extension

- During this reporting period, the California-reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) received $63.1 million in additional funding as a result of advocacy that was spearheaded by the CRDP Sustainability Committee. The additional funding extends all 35 projects, including the CWP, through April 2026.
- The CWP team took this opportunity to make changes to the program design.
- As part of the extension, Dr. Sabado met with CWP partners to discuss the successes and challenges of the previous iteration, and the ways in which the evaluation can be streamlined to lessen the burden of data collection on partners.

CWP Database

- We previously reported that CHER developed a data entry portal (the CWP database) to collect and manage process level data. CHWs continue to use CWP database and it has proven to be extremely helpful in alleviating the need for CHWs to regularly provide process level data for multiple reports. CHER provides ongoing technical assistance to CHWs and trains new staff on how to enter and query data.

Asian Pacific Islander Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities Evaluation
Laura D'Anna, DrPH, Subcontract PI
Lead Agency: St. Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health
Funder: California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program
Project Period: May 2018 – April 2023

CHER was selected to lead local evaluation efforts for the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities funded by the California Department of Public Health California Tobacco Control Program. The API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities has identified three objectives for its tobacco control work: 1) By April 2023, Lomita and Rosemead will adopt and implement a policy designating all outdoor dining areas, including patios and balconies, as smoke-free; 2) By April 2023, Gardena and El Segundo will adopt and implement a policy designating 100% of individual units (including balconies and patios) in multi-unit housing (MUH) complexes (with two or more attached units) and areas at least 30 feet from doors, windows, patios, and balconies, as smoke-free; and 3) Convene an API Youth Coalition of approximately 10-15 youth members between the ages of 14-19 years to engage in tobacco control work, including, but not limited to, increasing community awareness of tobacco use, policy advocacy, and data collection.

As the local evaluation team, CHER staff is responsible for developing an evaluation plan and data collection instruments, and overseeing evaluation activities for the Network. The following evaluation activities were completed during this reporting period:

Street Intercept and Door-to-Door Surveys

- Since the last reporting period, 100 additional surveys have been collected in Lomita, CA for a total of 150 surveys. The purpose of the survey is to learn about diners' experience with secondhand smoke exposure while dining outdoors, and to assess their support of a policy that would prohibit smoking in outdoor dining areas, such as patios and balconies.
- An additional 67 surveys on smoke-free multi-unit housing (MUH) have been collected in El Segundo, bringing the total to 150 surveys. The purpose of the smoke-free MUH survey is to learn about existing smoke-free policies at their complex, about tenants' experience with drifting

smoke, and about their thoughts on policies that would restrict smoking in common areas, on balconies and patios, and in individual units.

Both the street intercept survey and door-to-door survey were administered by trained members of the API Youth Coalition. Survey data were entered and analyzed by CHER student interns.

Key Informant Interviews

- One key informant interview was conducted on April 28, 2022 with a property manager in El Segundo. The purpose of the interview is to learn about existing (voluntary) smoke-free policies and support of a city-wide policy that would prohibit smoking in common areas and individual units.
- Two key informant interviews were conducted with city leaders during this reporting period.

Consumer Feedback Focus Group

- Dr. Sabado facilitated a focus group on December 14, 2021 to ask participants for feedback on a PSA that was developed to increase community awareness of the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Youth Training

- Dr. Sabado conducted a 2-day virtual training workshop on Human Subjects Research for new members of the API Youth Coalition. The CIRTification training has been approved by the CSULB IRB as a community-friendly alternative to the online CITI training. The trainings were held on August 19 and 26, 2021.

As previously reported, all in-person data collection activities have resumed with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Data collection activities are conducted outdoors and individuals assisting with data collection are advised to wear a face covering and to maintain physical distancing. Focus groups and interviews continue to be conducted via Zoom.

***My Sister's Keeper* Program - Evaluation Project**
Laura D'Anna, DrPH, Subcontract PI
Lead Agency: City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Funder: U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Project Period: September 2019 – December 2021; no-cost extension through September 2022

CHER was selected by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) to serve as the evaluator for the 3-year, *My Sister's Keeper (MSK)* Program, a Specialized Services Program Serving Victims of Human Trafficking funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ/OVC). The evaluation team also reviews and synthesizes data gleaned from partner reports to track performance measures, and attends partner meetings to document challenges and barriers to service delivery. Deliverables for the evaluation include data from evaluation activities, presentation of findings to LBDHHS and partner agencies, and completion of the final evaluation report.

Since the last report, all MSK workshops continue to be delivered virtually via Zoom and data collection activities (surveys and interviews) have been completed online via an online survey and Zoom. Though CHER's evaluation subcontract ended in December 2021, CHER was able to continue evaluation activities for a period of 9 months (January 2022 through September 2022) with additional funding through a no-cost extension of the prime contract.

Peer Promotion of Wellness and Enhanced Linkage to Resources – 2 (PPOWER^2) Project - Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM
Laura D'Anna, DrPH, PI
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, University of California Office of the President
Project Period: July 2018 – March 2022

Funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), the PPOWER^2 study drew upon established community-based partnerships and the work achieved with the first PPOWER Project which was completed in March 2019. To address TRDRP's tobacco-related health disparities research priority, the study tested a tobacco/nicotine and cannabis intervention tailored to young Black men (YBM), who report infrequent smoking of tobacco or marijuana, any vaping of tobacco/nicotine (or non-nicotine products), and any cannabis use edibles, or any combinations of these. Primary prevention approaches were designed to avoid initiation of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis use for YBM who report never having used any of the above substances. The secondary prevention approaches were designed to prevent early or infrequent users from transitioning to frequent users. The study involved two phases which consisted of formative data collection, intervention development, and a feasibility pilot (Phase I), followed by an intervention testing phase (Phase 2). Initially scheduled to end in June 2021, a 9-month no cost extension was submitted and approved, with a final end date of March 30, 2022. Due to recruitment challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the additional time was needed to continue participant enrollment and complete data collection activities. In support of projects requiring additional time to meet goals and objectives, TRDRP awarded CHER a $125,000 administrative supplement to provide staff support during the no cost extension period.

Activities for the project during the no cost extension were focused on the enrollment of intervention testing phase participants, the completion of remaining data collection activities (3- and 6-month follow-up surveys) and data analysis. A total of 206 participants were enrolled. A behavioral questionnaire was administered online at baseline, 3-month, and 6-month follow up. Follow up rates were 75.7% at 3-month and 73.3% at 6-months.

Based on the work and preliminary data from this study, a proposal to explore collateral tobacco exposure among young Black men (YBM) was submitted to the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program in November 2021 (See Funded Proposals) and subsequently funded.

Exploratory Interviews: Are blunts and spliffs the new menthol? Exploring the potential role for marijuana to increase health disparities within the Black community
Laura D'Anna, DrPH, PI
Funder: CSULB College of Health and Human Services, Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA) Grant
Project period: Fall 2021 – Summer 2022

As a faculty member in the health science department, Dr. Laura D'Anna, CHER Director, was awarded a RSCA grant to conduct qualitative research with young Black and Latinx men to explore knowledge, beliefs and attitudes about the risks associated with the co-use of marijuana and tobacco, a behavior which has the potential to lead to nicotine dependence. Project activities included the conduct of in-depth, individual interviews with up to 20 Black and Latinx men, ages 18-34, living in Los Angeles County who report co-use of tobacco and marijuana in the past three months. Interview findings will be used to inform future research. (See Proposal Submissions, one study was subsequently funded.) During this reporting period, data collection instruments and protocol were developed and submitted for IRB approval in

November 2021 with final approval granted in December. Eight individual interviews were conducted by June 30, 2022 with an additional 12 interviews completed over the summer. As of this writing, qualitative data analysis of the interview transcripts using NVIVO software is ongoing with assistance from a health science student intern.

Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking
Laura D'Anna, DrPH, Subcontract PI
Lead Agency: University of California, Irvine, David Timberlake, PhD (PI)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Program Pilot Award, University of Southern California Office of the President
Project Period: July 2021 – June 2022

Dr. Laura D'Anna, CHER Director, served as a Co-Investigator on a grant awarded to Dr. David Timberlake, Professor at the University of California, Irvine, under the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Pilot Award funding mechanism. Dr. Timberlake's proposal, entitled *Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking,* is an exploratory study of cannabis use, specifically blunt use (rolled cannabis in tobacco leaf), among African-American adults in order to identify acceptable non-tobacco leaf alternatives and reduce exposure to tobacco. Dr. D'Anna advised on effective community engagement and outreach strategies, and assisted Dr. Timberlake and his research team with optimal strategies for data collection using virtual methods.

CHER Institute - Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (September 2016 – August 2022)
Funder: National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)/National Institutes of Health

Previously scheduled to end in August 2021, CHER received a no cost extension (with sufficient carry forward) to complete an additional year of IPERT programming during this reporting period. In addition, CHER was successful with its application to renew the CHER Institute for an additional five years (now CHER Institute II in its second iteration). See section on Funded Proposal Submissions.

The goal of the CHER Institute at California State University, Long Beach is to provide educational experiences to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research to achieve health equity among racial/ethnic minority populations, and to increase the number of scientists from MSIs represented among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the CHER Institute features (1) the CHER Institute training program, an annual, in-person, six-day, intensive research training and mentoring experiences for early career faculty on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research with the purpose of developing an NIH research application, and (2) single topic webinars held four times annually for interested faculty across the U.S. on theory-based, culture-informed methods for effective community engagement in health equity research. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. are given priority for participation in the CHER Institute training program, but interested faculty from other institutions may also apply. Outreach for the research webinars is focused on MSI campuses and affiliated networks.

<u>CHER Institute Training Program</u>
As in previous years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual, six-day CHER Institute was held as a virtual training program via Zoom videoconference on June 6-11, 2022. Fourteen early career

faculty members were accepted into the CHER Institute as Faculty Fellows (See table 1 on the following page). Since its award in September 2016, CHER has held six CHER Institute training programs with a total of 90 faculty participants, including nine faculty from the CSULB College of Health and Human Services.

The summer CHER Institute training program consisted of five and a half days of online programming. To facilitate the virtual program, the CSULB BeachBoard was utilized as a central location to access program materials and Zoom links for the daily sessions. Daily activities included a plenary session, "science chats", seminars, and time was allotted at the end of the day for individual and group assignments. In addition to facilitating plenary sessions, science chats and seminars, Institute faculty mentors (seasoned researchers from other Institutions) met individually with participants each day to provide guidance on the formulation of their research and a 3-year research career development plan. (See table 5 under Academic and Community Collaborations for a list of our CHER Institute faculty mentors.) A two-hour Institute Faculty Fellow Alumni "Research Spotlight" was held on Friday, June 10 to highlight the accomplishments of past CHER Institute participants, which also included attendance by Faculty Fellows from previous CHER Institute cohorts.

Table 1: 2022 CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

CHER Institute Faculty Fellow	**Institution**
Wallis Adams, PhD, MPH	California State University, East Bay
Danielle Dickens, PhD, MS	Spellman College
Lizbeth Gaona, PhD, LCSW	California Baptist University
Alexis Jemal, PhD, MSW, LCSW, LCADC, JD	Hunter College
Katina Lang-Lindsey, PhD, LMSW	Alabama A&M University
Kimberly Lawrence, PhD,	Virginia State University
Nicole Mahrer, PhD	University of La Verne
Lohuwa Mamudu, PhD, MSc	California State University, Fullerton
Tamara Nelson, PhD, MPH	Rutgers University – Camden
Areen Omary, PhD, LMSW	West Texas A&M University
Zubaida Qamar, PhD, RDN	San Francisco State University
Tamara Savage, PhD, MSW	University of North Carolina Pembroke
Christian Vazquez, PhD, MSW	The University of Texas at Arlington
Jia Wu, PhD, CRC, LPC	Northeastern Illinois University

An online evaluation of the CHER Institute was conducted daily and immediately after the full week of Institute activities. Feedback and comments from participants were overwhelmingly positive. The following are selected quotes taken from the open-ended portion of the overall evaluation survey:

- *Before CHER I lacked the confidence that I could actually engage in research as a PI*
- *I took away that it is okay to ask many questions; I felt validated that others may also have similar questions and asking for help is part of the process*

- *The prof dev plan being 2 years out gives me permission to be patient and think long term (crock pot- not microwave)*
- *Thank you so much for the invaluable training. I really appreciate this institute and all of the information ascertained and lessons learned!*
- *Thank you so much for this opportunity. It exceeded my expectations and I am glad to have been a part of this Institute.*
- *I would recommend future fellows to take full advantage of this opportunity and to rely on and utilize the community that is developed through this Institute.*
- *The training is intense but definitely worth it!! You will learn not only about the NIH grant process, but you will grow as a researcher and a scholar.*

CHER Institute Webinars

In addition to the CHER Institute training program, four webinars for early career faculty were held during the 2021-20221 academic year (see Table 2 for webinar information). Topics for the CHER Institute webinars focused on 1) funding mechanisms and research support for early career faculty, and 2) emerging research methodologies for faculty. Together, there were a total of 222 registrants for the four webinars, and 105 individual logins.

Table 2. 2021-2022 Webinar Topics and Presenters

Date	**Webinar Topic**	**Presenter**
2021 FALL SEMESTER		
Oct. 28, 2021	*Transforming Clinical or Community-Based Research Approaches to Improve the Health of People of Color*	**Lisa Bowleg, PhD, MA** Professor, Applied Social Psychology Director, DC CFAR Social and Behavioral Sciences, George Washington University
Nov. 11, 2021	*The Use of Social Media to Recruit during the COVID Pandemic*	**Tiffany Daniel Pineda** Research Navigator Clinical and Translational Science Institute Chair, CTSI Diversity and Cultural Competence Council University of Florida
2022 SPRING SEMESTER		
March 24, 2022	*Writing the Quantitative Data Analysis Section for an NIH Proposal*	**Yan Wang, DrPH, MS** Associate Professor, Prevention and Community Health Milken Institute School of Public Health George Washington University
April 7, 2022	*Alternative Ways to Get Involved with Conducting NIH Research*	**Sheldon Fields, PhD, RN, CRNP, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN** Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion | Research Professor, Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing, The Pennsylvania State University

Annual CHER Institute Follow Up Survey

A link to a web-based survey was emailed to the 76 early career faculty who participated in our previous four annual CHER Institutes. Overall, the majority of Institute faculty fellows reported continued confidence in their progress towards the completion of their career and research development goals, and their ability to address barriers and challenges to obtain support for their research portfolios. Respondents also reported they received new ideas about how to pursue and enhance their research endeavors since their participation in the CHER Institute. A large majority also reported that they felt they made lasting connections in the field of health equity research through the CHER Institute.

CHER Institute Wiki

In support of the CHER Institute's goal to provide continuing support and resource access to institute alumni, CHER staff have established a private wiki-style information store. The CHER Institute Wiki is constructed using MediaWiki, a widely-used open-source content-creation tool which serves as the basis for Wikipedia.org and many similar sites. This web-accessible information store is housed alongside the CSULB CHER Website on servers provide by CSULB. The Wiki is access controlled and available to fellows and mentors of the CHER Institute and CHER Staff. Content includes details and video recording from the summer CHER institute and CHER Institute Webinars, along with other research support resources developed during the past four years of the summer institutes, profiles of the fellows and mentors, and collaboration opportunities.

FUNDED PROPOSALS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

OCTOBER 2021

IPERT – CHER Institute II (Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Alex Washington, Co-Investigator)
Funder: National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH, PAR-21-196, Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (R25), July 2022 – June 2027

An application was submitted to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to renew CHER's previously funded IPERT grant for an additional five years to provide educational and mentored activities to enhance the readiness of diverse early career faculty at minority serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community engaged biomedical research designed to promote health equity. CHER Institute II builds on the lessons learned, experiences, and accomplishments garnered by the original CHER Institute (2016 – 2022), with the inclusion of a wider range of biomedical scientists, enhancements to mentor training and mentoring components, and additional funding to support proposal development among select Institute participants. The CHER Institute II will feature: 1) A six-day, individual and group intensive experience focused on effective community engaged biomedical research to support participants in the development of a specific aims page for an NIH proposal, and either an outline of a manuscript for peer-review or the approach section for an NIH proposal; 2) Regular, mentored support between CHER Institute faculty mentors and graduated faculty fellows for up to 12 months following the institute; 3) A highly focused, virtual writing retreat to continue to develop skills/capacity among alumni who are preparing a submission (or resubmission) of an NIH grant proposal to include mentoring for up to 6 months, support for one course buyout or the equivalent, and a peer review prior to submission of their proposal; 4) Webinars (2 per semester) for 100 early career faculty (including mentored faculty fellows) annually on theory-based, culturally informed methods and skills development for community-engaged biomedical research. Institute participants will be recruited from MSI campuses and affiliated networks using CHER's database developed during the first CHER Institute, and through the partnerships established with CHER Institute faculty mentors and alumni. Faculty at sister MSIs across the U.S. will be given priority, but interested faculty from other institutions who are working in the area of community-engaged health equity biomedical research may also apply.

NOVEMBER 2021

Is marijuana the new menthol? Can marijuana use among YBM serve as a hook for nicotine addiction? (Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Raina Pang, University of Southern California, Study Advisor)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), The Regents of the University of California, Office of the President, High Impact Pilot Award, July 2022 – June 2024

Building on our recent TRDRP-funded work with young Black men (YBM), our research team proposed a mixed methods approach to explore nicotine exposure resulting from the mixture of tobacco and marijuana which typifies certain marijuana use modalities (hereafter referred to as "collateral" tobacco/nicotine exposure), and to assess the levels of risk awareness present among marijuana-using YBM. The study will: 1) provide empirical data required to aid in elaborating a grounded theoretical understanding of how certain marijuana use methods may influence the potential for subsequent nicotine addiction, 2) elucidate the risks associated with various types of marijuana use and mulling behaviors, and 3) provide insights for developing nicotine reduction strategies in future harm-reduction oriented interventions.

MARCH 2022

Implementing a Community-engaged Equity Approach to Explore Barriers and Community Assets to Improve the PrEP Care Continuum in Long Beach, CA for Black and Latinx SGM Individuals
(Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Everardo Alvizo, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Principal Investigator; Nina Harawa, UCLA, Co-Investigator)
Lead Agency: UCLA-Charles Drew University Center for AIDS Research (UCLA-CDU CFAR)
Funder: NIH Ending the HIV Epidemic Supplement Award, July 2022 – June 2024

This proposal was included in an application by the UCLA-CDU CFAR for supplemental support to fund multiple projects for research to support the objectives of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic* (EHE) national initiative. We proposed a mixed-method study guided by the EPIS implementation science framework in response to the EHE topic *#2 Equity-focused approaches to reduce HIV-related health disparities*. Our research team engaged in an equity-focused approach to identifying pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)-related needs through meaningful partnerships with the community; the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group (HPG)'s PrEP and Trans Wellness Workgroups including individuals affected by HIV. The study will address the following *three research questions: 1) What are the experiences and perceived barriers resulting in low PrEP engagement along the care continuum for Black and Latino men who have sex with men (BLMSM) and transwomen in Long Beach; 2) Among existing and potential PrEP providers, what are the gaps and feasibility of providing culturally tailored PrEP-related services; And, 3) How can the barriers be addressed effectively?*

OTHER PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS DURING THE FUNDING PERIOD

JULY 2021

Project ASSIST (Access and Social Support Intervention STudy): A Multi-Level, Community-Based Intervention to Increase COVID-19 Testing Among Black/African Americans and Latinos
(Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Pari Sabado, Co-Investigator)
Funder: National Institutes of Health, RFA-OD-21-008, Emergency Awards: Community-engaged COVID-19 Testing Interventions among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations – RADx-UP Phase II

Project ASSIST (Access and Social Support Intervention STudy), proposed to employ peer-led intervention techniques to increase COVID-19 testing and vaccination uptake among Black/African American and Latinos, two groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOVEMBER 2021

A Dyad/Friendship Circle Pilot Intervention to Reduce Nicotine Exposure among Black and Latinx MSM
(Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator; Matt Mutchler, CSUDH, Co-Investigator)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), The Regents of the University of California, Office of the President, High Impact Pilot Award

This application proposed a mixed methods approach to develop a culturally and contextually responsive brief intervention to reduce nicotine exposure and conduct a feasibility pilot test with dyads and small friendship circles of Black and Latinx men who have sex with men (BLMSM).

NOVEMBER 2021 (continued)

The Association between Intergenerational Trauma and Nicotine and Cannabis Use
(Pari Sabado, Academic Principal Investigator; Vattana Peong, The Cambodian Family, Community Principal Investigator, Laura D'Anna, Academic Co-Investigator)
Funder: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), The Regents of the University of California, Office of the President, Community-Partnered Participatory Research Award

The proposed study consisted of a collaboration between CHER and The Cambodian Family (TCF), a social service agency serving Cambodian immigrant and refugee populations since 1980. The overarching goals of this study were to examine intergenerational trauma, parent/child relationship, cultural identification, and mental health among youth and parent dyads, and to elucidate the mechanisms by which parental trauma is associated with use of nicotine and marijuana products among Cambodian and Vietnamese transitional age youth (TAY; 16-25 years).

MAY 2022

PPOWER3: Supporting Young Black Adults to Overcome Socio-Structural Stressors
(Laura D'Anna, Principal Investigator)
Funder: National Institutes of Health, RFA-RM-22-001, Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity at Minority Serving Institutions (U01)

The PPOWER3 project sought to mitigate the physical and emotional effects of disparate stress stemming from experiences of systemic racism and injustice through a multi-level racial healing intervention designed to empower Black adults to implement and sustain practices that enhance justice, wellness, and resilience in their own lives. This application proposed to use a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach to develop and test interventions that prepare and empower young Black adults (ages 18-25) in the greater Long Beach area, and simultaneously bring participants into positions where they can participate in the guidance of organizational-level changes toward the adoption of practices that embrace the principles of a racial healing justice framework, and diminish the stress induced weathering, which is a consequence of surviving injustice.

B. Student and Faculty Involvement

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

CHER offers internship and volunteer opportunities to undergraduate and graduate CSULB students. The CHER internship is a semester-long placement to provide students with experience in the area of minority health, health disparities and health equity research, and develop skills useful for entry-level health related careers and preparation for higher education. As interns and volunteers, the students serve as research assistants, providing support to Center staff with various research related activities that include literature searches and reviews, transcription of audio recorded qualitative interviews and focus groups, data cleaning, coding, entry, and analysis, preparation of graphs, tables and narrative summaries of findings for reports and general office duties as needed. Students are also offered the opportunity to assist with data collection, such as survey administration and phone interviews. Graduate students are also assigned more advanced research-related opportunities such as the development of abstracts, presentations and manuscript, proposal and report sections, in particular if they are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. CHER's director and staff work with interns providing training, feedback on assignments, and mentorship. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the internships were transitioned to a remote placement with all intern assignments and check-ins coordinated via a combination of email and Zoom meetings. Beginning summer 2022, internship and volunteers follow a hybrid placement, with select assignments conducted in the CHER office as well as remotely. During this reporting period, three undergraduate and two graduate students, all from the Health Science Department, were engaged with CHER as volunteers or student interns (see Table 3). In addition, during summer 2022 one health science undergraduate student and a CSULB MPH graduate (former intern) were engaged as volunteers.

Table 3: CHER Student Interns and Volunteers

STUDENT INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS
Graduate Students
Myriah Kunipo-Aguirre*
Kiara Lacambra
Irene Tri
Rebecca Rink
Undergraduate Students
Richelle Chow
Sofia Geiger*
Bobby Sanchez
Alumni
Brittany Levenson**

*Student volunteer
**2018 MPH intern

CSULB COLLABORATIONS

CHER Director, Dr. D'Anna and the CHER team collaborated with CSULB faculty and staff members on projects and in the preparation of proposals and/or manuscripts during the year under review (see below).

Table 4: CSULB Faculty/Staff Collaborators

FACULTY/STAFF	CSULB DEPARTMENT
PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
Heidi Ortiz	Student Health Services
CHER Institute Summer Program Presenters	
Joanna Barreras	School of Social Work
Niloo Bavarian	Health Science
Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez	Health Science
Proposal and Manuscript Development	
Claire Garrido-Ortega	Health Science
Fiona Gorman	Health Science
T. Alex Washington	School of Social Work

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHHS Faculty Participation in the CHER Institute
A total of 12 CSULB faculty have participated in the CHER Institute since its inception, with nine faculty (75%) from CHHS (see list below).

CSULB CHER Institute Faculty Fellows

2017
Niloo Bavarian – Health Science/CHHS
Virginia Gray – Family and Consumer Sciences/CHHS
Amber Johnson – Health Science/CHHS

2018
Salim Al-Ani – Speech Language Pathology/CHHS
Fiona Gorman – Health Science/CHHS
Kellie Walters – Kinesiology/CHHS

2019
Isabella Lanza – Human Development/CLA

2020
Sandra Arevalo – Human Development/CLA
Joanna Barreras – Social Work/CHHS
Melawhy Garcia – Health Science/CHHS

2021
Olajide Bamishigbin Jr. – Psychology/CLA
Matthew Jarequi – Family and Consumer Sciences/CHHS

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The table below lists faculty from other academic institutions across the U.S. who participated this reporting period as *Faculty Mentors* for the NIGMS funded CHER Institute/IPERT Program.

Table 5: CHER Institute Faculty Mentors

CHER Institute Faculty Mentors	**Institution**
Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD Professor, Dept. of Population & Public Health Sciences Associate Dean for Community Initiatives Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute for Prevention Research	Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
Dorothy C. Browne, DrPH Adjunct Professor, Maternal and Child Health Gillings School of Global Public Health	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bradley T. Connor, PhD Associate Professor and Director Addiction Counseling Program, Department of Psychology	Colorado State University
Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Adolescent Medicine, Division Chief, Adolescent Medicine Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health Professor of Medicine	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew Mutchler, PhD Professor, Department of Social Work Director, Urban Community Research Center	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Nina Harawa, PhD Associate Professor in Residence (UCLA) Professor (Charles Drew)	David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Fernando Wagner, DS, MPH Professor, School of Social Work	University of Maryland, Baltimore,

In addition, CHER collaborates with multiple community-based organizations and academic researchers from other institutions on ongoing projects, and proposal and manuscript development as noted in the table below.

Table 6: Community Collaborators

NAME	ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION
BHCLB Collaborators	
Gisele Fong	The California Endowment
James Sauzo	Long Beach Forward
Jan Victor Andasan	East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Sylvia Betancourt	Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
Steve Gerhardt	Walk Long Beach
Danny Gamboa	Healthy Active Streets
Hilda Gaytan	Puente
PPOWER^2 Project Collaborators	
Wendell Glenn	Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Ismael Salamanca	The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
Leevi Camus	AIDS Project Los Angeles
Jaylen Hibbert	REACH LA
Community Wellness Program Collaborators	
Kimthai Kuoch	Cambodian Association of American
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family
Susanna Sngiem	United Cambodian Community
Ladine Chan	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
Chan Hopson	Khmer Parent Association
California Tobacco Control Program	
Ladine Chan	St. Mary Medical Center Families in Good Health
My Sister's Keeper Program	
Teresa Gomez	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Myra Miller	GEMS Uncovered
Mary White	GEMS Uncovered
Cindy Sanchez	Pacific Gateway
Francesca Douglass-Franco	Humansave
Proposal Development	
Everardo Alvizo	Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

NAME	ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION
Sonya Arreola	Arreola Research
Laura Bogart	Rand Corporation
Nina Harawa	University of California, Los Angeles
Matt Mutchler	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Raina Pang	University of Southern California
Vattana Peong	The Cambodian Family, Santa Ana
Audrena Redmond	Black Lives Matter, Long Beach Chapter
James Sauzo	Long Beach Forward

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Jaelen Owens, Health Education/Outreach/Intervention Specialist Coordinator, served as a co-chair for the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group (HPG) from 2021 to 2022. He continues to participate in the HPG as a member of the PrEP and Trans Wellness work groups. The HPG meets quarterly to coordinate efforts between Long Beach-based health agencies and community leaders to achieve the goals of the Long Beach HIV-STD Strategy. Jaelen is a CSULB graduate with a B.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences who began his employment at CHER as a student in 2016 as a part-time Health Education/Outreach Specialist.

In addition, Dr. Pari Sabado, our Director of Community Engagement and Evaluation, actively participates in meetings for two groups that support local tobacco policy advocacy efforts: the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach and the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Los Angeles County (regional meeting.)

Finally, Dr. Laura D'Anna serves as a member of the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group and the PrEP Subgroup. These role includes monthly meetings, providing advice for data collection strategies, and cultivating collaborative grant proposal opportunities.

C. Accomplishments

This section includes manuscripts and abstracts related to CHER projects that were prepared and submitted by CHER staff from July 2020 to June 2021 and accepted for publication or presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

Under Review

D'Anna LH, Washington TA, **Nomura W**. Supporting Minority Serving Institution Faculty to Enhance Biomedical Research: The CSULB Center for Health Equity Research Institute. Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice.

D'Anna LH, Chang K. Intersectionality of Healthcare Discrimination, Anticipated HIV Stigma, and Income as Predictors of HIV Testing Among a Community Sample of YBMSM. AIDS Care.

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Sngiem S, Peong V, Chan L, Hopson C, Veng T, Colfax G, Tham L, Sen-Matthews A, Ung V, Tieng P, Siphan C, Dance **J, Wood J, Doxey J, D'Anna L**. A Community-defined Approach to Address Trauma among Cambodian Immigrants and Refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, California. Health Promotion Practice.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022

Sabado P, Lacambra K, Kuoch K, **Wood J**, Colfax G, Chan L, Dance J, Hopson C, Peong V, Ung V, Siphan C, Sngiem S, Tham L, Tieng P. Examining the association between cultural identification and trauma and mental health outcomes among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. Accepted for poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2022. Boston, Massachusetts.

Owens J, Tri I, D'Anna L. Marijuana use, expectancy, and sexual risk behaviors among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) and with women (BMSW). Accepted for oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2022. Boston, Massachusetts.

Doxey J, Owens J, D'Anna L. Intimate partner violence (IPV), HIV-risk behaviors, marijuana expectancy and use among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) in Los Angeles County (LAC), California. Accepted for oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2022. Boston, Massachusetts.

2021

Chang K, Wood J, Owens J, D'Anna L. An intervention to address alcohol and drug use among Black men in Los Angeles County during the COVID-19 lockdown. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado. (virtual poster presentation)

Sabado P, Kuoch K, Peong V, Sngiem S, Chan L, Hopson C, Soeung S, Colfax G, Sen-Matthews A, Ung V, Tieng P, Tham L, Siphan S, Dance J, **D'Anna L**. Using community-defined practices to decrease

symptoms of trauma among Cambodian refugees in Long Beach and Santa Ana, CA. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado. (virtual oral presentation)

Sabado P, Chan L, Mai V, Abea M, Wilcox M, **D'Anna L**. Exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing as a health equity issue. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2021. Denver, Colorado. (virtual poster presentation)

II. Unit Accounting

CHER was awarded a total of approximately $268,245 in funding for research and evaluation during this reporting period with approximately $396,791 in carry forward for a total of $665,035. With a number of CHER grant awards ending in 2021/2022, the CHER Team focused on seeking new grant sources as noted by the number of proposals submitted during this reporting period. CHER was awarded approximately $3.4 million in state and federal research funding beginning in the 2022 fiscal year in addition to its ongoing support from local evaluation subcontracts.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CHER Institute – Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) YR 6
National Institute of General Medical Services
Fund G1992; Total Funding $1,923,986
Project Period: 09/01/21 – 08/31/22 (No cost extension, initial end date 08/31/21)

Year 6 Carry Forward	$320,346
Balance as of 06/30/22	$62,566

PPOWER2: Tobacco and Cannabis Intervention for Young Black MSM – YR 3
Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) – Univ. of California Office of the President
Fund G2039; Total Funding $1,106,197
Project Period: 07/01/21 – 03/30/22 (9-month no cost extension, initial end date 6/30/21)

Year 4 Carry Forward	$76,445
Supplement awarded July 2021	$184,365
Balance as of 06/30/22	$0

Community Wellness Program – Evaluation YR 5
California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity via Cambodian Assoc. of America
Fund G2039; Total Funding $228,000
Project Period: 07/01/21 – 04/30/22

Year 5 Award	$45,600
Balance as of 06/30/22	$16

API Regional Network to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities (also known as A.I.R.E.-Advocates Invested in Restoring the Environment) – Evaluation YR 4
St. Mary Medical Center (lead agency); CDPH, California Tobacco Control Program
Fund G2161; Total Funding $185,020
Project Period: 07/01/21 – 06/30/22

Year 3 Award:	$38,280
Balance as of 06/30/22	$0

Investigating the Potential for Non-Tobacco Wraps to Displace Cigarillos for Blunt Smoking
University of California, Irvine, Tobacco-Related Disease Program Pilot Award, University of Southern California Office of the President
Fund G2577; Total Funding $24,426
Project Period: July 2021 – June 2022

Award	$24,426
Balance as of 06/30/22	$0

Center for Health Equity Research
Research Stimulation Account
Fund RS028

Funds received during the review period	$13,366
Funds expended during the review period	$29,221
Balance as of 06/30/2022	$40,240

COMPLETED FUNDING

My Sister's Keeper Program – Evaluation
Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (lead agency)
U. S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Fund G2328
Project Period: 09/01/19 – 12/31/21
Award $49,500

SPACE AND SQUARE FEET UTILIZED

CHER offices are located in F05, Suite 120. This suite of offices contains 1004 square feet of assignable space and a shared conference room with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs that is approximately 300 square feet. CHER space includes four private offices (two of which are shared offices) and a reception area with space for three cubicles with work stations.

STAFF HYBRID WORK SCHEDULE

As of July 2021, CHER team members as well as student interns and volunteers follow a hybrid work schedule as a mitigation effort in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Full-time staff work in the Center three days a week with schedules that allow for no more than 5-6 individuals (including students) in the office at the same time. Part-time staff work 1-2 days a week in the Center based on their level of effort. CHER laptops, generally used in the field for data collection and presentations, are loaned out to staff who share computer resources in their homes, and VPN capabilities are utilized by staff to access the CHER network on the CSULB server. Ongoing technical support for CHER staff is provided by Mr. Wood and CSULB/CHHS technology resources as needed.

CHER WEBSITE

A CHER website is located at sites.csulb.edu/HealthEquity and is regularly updated with CHER center-related news, achievements and project descriptions. The website was developed using the Drupal Content Management System, allowing a collaborative effort among CHER staff to incorporate pertinent information about the center in an attractive, user-friendly format. Site contents include pages outlining current and past projects, an event calendar, center-related news articles, staff bios and links to their publications, information on affiliated faculty and partner organizations, and other information about health equity and health disparities research that may be of interest to the public. Contact and event management, mailings, event announcements, and registration for CHER-sponsored events, including webinars and the summer CHER Institute, are managed using CiviCRM, an open-source module that

works with Drupal to provide event and contact management. CHER manages additional research support tools available through the website, including a MySQL database server, research Wiki, telephone and paper-based data management tools, and in-house installation of the open-source on-line survey tool 'Limesurvey' used in projects requiring greater flexibility than is available through third-party tools. The software allows CHER to provide special handling of sensitive data, complex question presentation and data validation, and data entry collaboration with community partners. During the current reporting period CHER has used these tools to increase the value of assistance it provides to community partners by helping them to automate the processing of funder-required data gathered though collaborative research efforts. Updates have been made to the content management and survey systems and University-wide server upgrades have also enhanced the speed and capacity of CHER's web-based research resources. For much of the year, CHER also continued to provide in-kind support to the CSULB BUILD project by hosting a student mentor database and search tool, developed and maintained by CHER technical staff, and assisted in migrating this tool to a new home at the website of the Office of Undergraduate Research Services.