The Story of the GONA Collaborative: Community Driven Evidence Building
Acknowledgements

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One Fire Associates, LLC

- Providing quality and culturally grounded evaluation, research, capacity building, and community mobilization for health and social service agencies and organizations to promote the quality of life for the people being served.
Community-Based Participatory Research

“If you look at our data…”
Community Member, Tulsa, OK
What is CBPR?

- **Empowers** the community to solve their own problems using local knowledge
- **Creates** equal partnership between scientists and the community
- **Builds** local capacity for evaluation so the community can do it themselves
- **Involves** the community in all levels of evaluation
- **Integrates** evaluation into the community’s context and events
- **Values** youth and families as experts on their own lives and their community
It’s Our Evaluation!
In the beginning....

- **Native American Health Center**, Oakland, CA
  - System of Care community
  - Service to Science

- **Fresno American Indian Health Project**, Fresno, CA
  - Circles of Care

Acknowledgments:
- Sacramento Native American Health Center
- **National Council of Urban Indian Health**
10th GONA was Recognized as Effective, San Francisco Bay

Staff and Community Voices

- We know GONA works and it is effective. We know who these youth are and we can tell you what’s changed for them.
- People think GONA is a fun cultural event, and it is not recognized for how it heals.
- It is difficult to justify GONA to funders as the value of the intervention is unknown.
2011 Circles of Care in Fresno

- FAIHP was awarded a Circle of Care and planned to use GONA as a community mobilizing and strategic planning tool, but they never held a GONA before.
- National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) partnered FAIHP with NAHC to support peer-to-peer learning in GONA implementation.
- They began to develop a GONA evaluation process and protocol together with support from a researcher at the national organization.
National Partner

- The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIIH) started tracking the evaluation work and created a **GONA toolkit** for Urban communities, among other initial surveys and products.

- NCUIIH Research staff also supported data cleaning analysis and reporting for the first two GONA evaluations that occurred in 2012 and 2013 through supervision of interns in the DC metro area.
GONA Collaborative
Year 1 (2011-2012)

NAHC
Oakland

System of Care
(SOC–5 years)

10 Years of
GONA
Implementation

Requesting
Evaluation
Support for
GONA

NCUIH

Worldview:
Strength-based
Relational
Holistic
Youth-Friendly

Planning
Calls:
Outcomes
Methodology
Assessment Tools
Trainings

FAIHP
Fresno

Circles of Care
(COC–3 years)

Preparing for
First GONA Ever

COC Special
Activities
Needs
Assessment
Process
Evaluation
GONA Process
GONA Collaborative
Year 2 (2012-2013)

NAHC

Service to Science Technical Assistance Support

NCUIH

Continued Work:
Pre-, Post-, 6-month follow-up

Planning:
Revised tools
Times Series
GONA Fidelity
Pilot Testing Trainings

FAIHP

GONA Process Evaluation—CQI

COC Special Activities:
Personal Balance Tool/Pilot Process Evaluation GONA Process
GONA Collaborative
Year 3 (2013-2014)

NCUIH

Service to Science Funding Support

Continued Work:
Pre-, Post-, and 6-month follow-up

Planning:
Revised tools
Retrospective Study Planning
Pilot Testing
Trainings
IRB Application

NAHC

FAIHP

GONA Process Evaluation—CQI

COC Special Activities:
Personal Balance Tool/Pilot
Wraparound Pilot
Process Evaluation
GONA Process
State Partner

In 2014

- Data was transferred from NCUIH to the California Consortium of Urban Indian Health (CCUIH) with a data sharing agreement for the collaborative as all participating organizations were located within the state of California.
Research Partner

Also in 2014

- The principal investigator moved to a position at One Fire Associates and began to exclusively concentrate efforts on capacity building for the GONA Collaborative.
GONA Collaborative
Year 4 (2014-2015)

No targeted funding

CCUIH

Data Sharing Agreement, Working with Lead Researcher One Fire Associates

Planning:
Refined protocols for data entry, cleaning and analysis at CCUIH; hiring and supervising interns

NAHC

FAIHP

Ended Circle of Care and began System of Care
GONA Collaborative
Year 5 (2015-2016)

CCUIH/One Fire
- Support research capacity building for the larger Collaborative at NAHC and for each of the sub-grantees

NAHC
- NAHC using Garrett Lee Smith grant to implement GONA statewide
- Setting up structures, processes and protocols for implementing GONA across multiple sites

GONA Collaborative Sub-grantees
- FAIHP, Fresno
- SDAIHC, San Diego
- UAII, LA
- SNAHC, Sacramento
- IHC, Santa Clara
- Friendship House
GONA Collaborative
Year 6 (2016-2017)

- Completed IRB
- Began Data Collection for Formal Study
- Revising Fidelity Tool
- Mentoring student for masters thesis

NAHC

- Using CRDP funds to implement GONA study statewide
- Coordinated project activities, and NAHC research staff supported capacity building

CCUIH/One Fire

GONA Sub-grantees for study

FAIHP, Fresno
SDAIHC, San Diego
Community Advisory Groups

- Youth and Adult community advisory groups have played a critical role throughout the GONA Collaborative. These groups have provided collective guidance on evaluation plans, tools and interpretation of data.

- For Example
  - Fresno Youth Council (Youth, Fresno)
  - Blanket Weavers (Adults, San Francisco)
History of Funding

The GONA Collaborative evaluation activities had little targeted funding from 2011 until 2017 when the State of California awarded a grant to NAHC to serve as the administrator of the funds to formally study the GONA outcomes across multiple participating urban Indian health organizations.
A small grant of $30,000 was awarded to the Collaborative in 2014. These funds were used to develop a GONA Fidelity Tool and to build the plans and IRB application for a GONA Retrospective Study.

Shortly after, Service to Science was not refunded by SAMHSA and the Collaborative received no funds to implement the study that was developed.
It’s Our Evaluation!

- In the last year two new urban communities began GONA’s and collection of evaluation data
  - San Diego American Indian Health Center
  - United American Indian Involvement, LA
- GONA youth alumni also supported a panel presentation showcasing GONA outcomes at the Red Vision Conference
It’s Our Research!

- In the last year, the Collaborative was successfully able to make the heavy lift of moving an evaluation study to a formalized research study using funding through the California Reducing Disparities Act (CRDP).
- Currently, NAHC and FAIHP are providing data for the study.
GONA Collaborative of the Future

- Working on first publication of GONA outcomes expected to be submitted for review in summer of 2018. Will include a GONA transition age alumni as an author.
- Working to increase youth and community driven presentations of the data through local, state, and national forums.
- Continuing to collect and analyze data for the longitudinal study
  - Generate additional publications and products highlighting GONA effectiveness and best practices.
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