Women’s Health Improvement Network

Project Summary & Goals

*Nuestra Clínica del Valle* (NCDV) collaborated with the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) and a multitude of health and human service providers on a pilot project called WIN—Women’s Health Improvement Network. The purpose of this project was to provide mammograms and follow-up care for low-income, high-risk women, age 40 and older living in Hidalgo County *colonias* to detect and treat residents with breast cancer. CCHD *promotores* provided outreach, assessment, case management (service coordination), and follow-up services for any clients needing follow-up care.

Project goals were:

- To provide free mammograms for high-risk women living in colonias in Hidalgo County
- To connect women with abnormal mammograms with follow up care, coordinated by promotoras
- To improve health outcomes for women living in colonias

Principal Investigator

Julie St. John

Project Dates

2008-2009

Communities Involved

Hidalgo County

Funders

Hidalgo County

Partners

*Nuestra Clínica del Valle*
Dr. E. Linda Villarreal
Advance Medical Imaging
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance
Knapp Medical Center
Mission Regional Medical Center
Rio Grande Regional Hospital
South Texas Health System
Edinburg Regional Medical Center
Hidalgo-Starr Medical Society

Outcomes

- Of the original 250 women who received a screening mammogram, 31 needed additional follow-up services.
- An additional 1,104 new clients (NCDV clients who needed breast follow-up care) were added to the WIN project in January-April 2009; of those, 214 needed follow-up beyond the first procedure.
- Five WIN clients were diagnosed with malignant breast cancer (and one confirmed case of lung cancer), and they were referred to appropriate services for treatment.

A total of 1,719 Hidalgo County residents received assistance through the WIN project (initial screenings and those receiving actual procedures and follow-up care).