

## **West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well-being**

### **External Qualitative Research Team Progress Report**

**October 5, 2009**

*Linda Spatig, Paula Flaherty, and Tracy Wasinger*

#### **Research Plans/Timeline for this Year**

During the current and upcoming quarter we are continuing to generate new state and community-level data. For the remainder of this last year of the SPF SIG project, our research team will be engaged in analysis, interpretation, and writing based on our research over the entire six-year period.

#### **Data Collection and Analysis**

In addition to observations at a variety of state and community-level meetings and events, the main source of our new data, generated during the summer and fall of 2009, is a series of focus group interviews with SPF SIG-funded local community coalition members. We plan to conduct focus groups with a total of ten to twelve coalitions, including some from each of the state's four regions. In these focus groups, we are asking participants first to reflect on and discuss their experiences with their coalitions in the past—identifying strengths and successes as well as challenges and concerns. Also, we are asking them to discuss what they have learned—as individuals, coalitions, and communities—as a result of their experiences with this project. After discussing past successes, concerns, and changes, we are asking focus group participants to reflect on the project with an eye to the future. We are asking them to speak about what they believe is needed—in terms of human, social, and fiscal capital—in order to sustain and build the prevention work in their communities. Since the focus groups are still taking place, we will not report any findings at this time.

#### **Dissemination of Findings (Presenting and Publishing)**

*Eyes on the Process.* We have received encouraging feedback from the *Journal of Community Development* about our article on the state partnership's planning year. Based on peer review, the journal editor has asked us to revise and resubmit the article. We are currently in the process of revising the manuscript and plan to resubmit by the end of November.

*Share the Vision.* We are participating in the upcoming Share the Vision conference by facilitating a workshop session entitled "Using Qualitative Research to Evaluate Community Change." The interactive workshop will provide community practitioners an opportunity to

learn and discuss qualitative evaluation research and its potential value to local programming efforts.

*Cataloging of Prior Qualitative Research Reports from SPF SIG.* With assistance from PRC staff, we are in the process of making all of our quarterly reports (aka “Notes from the Field”), as well as several longer reports and documents we have produced such as *Eyes on the Process*, more widely available. For quarterly “Notes from the Field,” about 20 in all, we are creating a brief listing of topics addressed within each particular report. In that way, potential readers will be able to locate reports that address items of interest to them. The “Notes from the Field” and longer documents will be posted on the Prevnet website. The intent is to share these resources with stakeholders within the state, as well as with other state and federal partners.

*Getting (it) Together: Collaborative Community Change.* During the final two quarters of the year, we will turn our attention to a meta-analysis of our data from the longitudinal study of the project as a whole. Using data from the past two years, we will modify the data-based model of community change we constructed during the fourth year of our study of the WV Partnership and the SPF SIG project. We will present a final report—in the form of a publishable manuscript featuring the *Getting (it)Together* model—to the WV Partnership at the last quarterly meeting of this fiscal year.