Peer Leader Navigators (PLNs)
Create Positive Ripples Across Anchorage

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INTRODUCTION

- For the last several years, diverse cohorts of Peer Leader Navigators (PLNs) have been trained on how to find reliable health information on the internet, improving their health literacy.
- Following their training, the PLNs provide outreach and peer-to-peer learning in their communities.
- Standard quantitative evaluation of the PLN training and outreach has been reported every year.
- This year, the PLN program evaluation included a “Ripple Effects Mapping” (REM) exercise with two groups of PLNs.

BACKGROUND

The PLN program is a part of The Anchorage Health Literacy Collaborative (TAHLC), a collective of many agencies and organizations. TAHLC works to improve health literacy in underserved populations, such as immigrants who do not speak English as their first language.

RIPPLE EFFECTS MAPPING

The Ripple Effects Mapping (REM) is a facilitated conversation around program impact at the intrapersonal, interpersonal, and community levels (University of Minnesota, 2017). An adaptation of REM was used to collect qualitative data for the program evaluation, including the confidence level of the PLNs (intrapersonal) and PLNs’ communities’ health literacy around specific health topics (interpersonal and community level).

OUTCOMES

The REM exercise qualitatively identified the positive effects the program has on the PLNs and how the PLNs have positively affected the health literacy of their immediate network as well as the larger community of Anchorage.

The PLN program contributes to these areas of health literacy:
- Peer-to-peer learning in community health
- The role of technology in community health
- Strategies for collaborative work around health literacy
- The potential role(s) of adult learners of English as community health workers and health literacy advocates

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