Venus Fromwiller
Get your rear in gear: A community-based colorectal cancer screening campaign
Coalition: North Coast
Organization: Columbia Memorial Hospital

The Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) Community Outreach Department has set a goal of increasing colorectal cancer screening rates to 80% by 2018. With the aid of the OCTRI Community Research Coalition Grant, we will investigate whether a broad community education campaign coupled with targeted outreach to patients of local primary care clinics is effective in helping us to achieve this aim. If we see a 6% or greater increase in screening rates during the one-year grant period, we will consider this multiple-strategy approach effective in increasing screening rates in our service area.

Brianne Kothari
Family finding: Relationships as pathways to better health and well-being for children and youth in foster care
Coalition: Central Oregon
Organization: Oregon State University-Cascades

Children in foster care have elevated rates of behavioral, physical and mental health problems (Clausen, Landsverk, Ganger, Chadwick, & Litrownik, 1998; Rubin et al., 2004), are at high risk for dropping out of school, and rarely attend college (Pecora, 2012). Enhancing foster children’s relationships with others may be the key to promoting better outcomes (Cushing, Samuels, & Kerman, 2014; McBeath, Kothari, et al., 2014; Perry, 2006). Yet the instability of foster children's home and school lives due to changes in living arrangements may threaten their ability to develop strong, positive relationships with caregivers, relatives and other supportive adults. Family Finding, a model developed by Kevin Campbell (familyfinding.org), provides methods and strategies to discover and engage family members and supportive adults for children in foster care. The Family Finding Program is recognized by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare as a program with high relevance for child welfare; however, its evidence-base is not yet rated due to insufficient research. The Family Finding program is currently being implemented in Deschutes County. The proposed project will unite university researchers with community agency partners in Deschutes County to expand Family Finding, examine implementation to inform continuous improvement, enhance data capacity, and provide pilot data regarding potential impacts on foster children's relationships with family members, health and well-being. Pilot data will be utilized to inform a larger (e.g. NIH) proposal for a more comprehensive study of the impacts of Family Finding on children’s health and well-being.

Stephanie Machado
Exploring risk factors and trends associated with low birth weight in Klamath County
Coalition: South Coast
Organization: Klamath County Public Health

Klamath County ranks 34 out of 34 counties in Oregon for health outcomes. This low ranking is primarily attributed to low birth weight prevalence, which is the third highest in the state. With 8.4% of infants in Klamath County born at a low birth weight, it is essential that public health officials explore the factors that influence this health outcome and develop county-specific evidence-based recommendations. The objectives of this research project are to 1) understand the biological, social, and environmental risk factors and trends associated with low birth weight in Klamath County and 2) provide evidence-based prenatal program recommendations for at-risk pregnant women in Klamath County. Through
multivariate analysis of Vital Record Long Form data from 2010-2015 Klamath County Public Health (KCPH) will determine which maternal risk factors are associated with low birth weight deliveries. KCPH will use this data, along with a review of the literature on prenatal programs, to inform the development of local evidence-based strategies to reduce low birth weight prevalence in Klamath Falls.

Florence Pourtal-Stevens
Collection of feasibility data on existing obesity prevention programs and built environments in Coos County
Coalition: South Coast
Organization: Coos County Health & Human Services

A significant proportion of Coos County's population is challenged with poor health outcomes associated with being obese, overweight and/or physically inactive. The project we are proposing is embedded within Coos County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which is a county-wide collective impact health improvement initiative led by a committee of multi-sector community partners. One of the five priority goals we identified in the CHIP is to prevent and reduce obesity by developing and implementing healthy eating and active living (HEAL) strategies, which is being worked on by the HEAL subcommittee of the CHIP. Current individual and community initiatives might be contributing to this CHIP goal, but there has been no overall assessment of the resources, programs, systems and environments that exist to tackle these issues. Therefore, the subcommittee's ability to identify effective and non-duplicative community wide health improvement strategies is limited. The purpose of our project is to fill this gap by conducting this much-needed countywide comprehensive assessment. This assessment is necessary to forward progress and will need to be completed by the CHIP committee regardless of financial support. The Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) Community Research Coalition grant is a great opportunity to get technical and financial support to help us improve the quality and outcomes of the assessment, and develop relevant strategies and supportive environments that will promote healthy eating and active living in the county.

Gracie Smith
The Fitbit wellness program
Coalition: North Coast
Organization: Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District

The Fitbit Wellness Program is a partnership between the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District, Providence Seaside Hospital and the Columbia Pacific CCO. Our project goal is to lower blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index (BMI) among the 45 project participants who are current members of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). To reach the goal, we are providing motivational support to increase the level of physical activity and a dietary education component. Each participant will be issued a wearable fitness tracker, which will help to provide important data to be used during our program evaluation. Health survey and blood chemistry data will be collected during both the pre-project and post-project phases, which will also be used to evaluate the program's impact on our goal.