Title: Samoan Cancer 101 Education Toolkit

Project Purpose: A collaborative partnership was formed between WINCART, the Cancer Information Service (CIS) Southern California Partnership Program, based at the University of Southern California (USC), Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, and WINCART community partners; the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and the Samoan National Nurses Association (SNNA) to adapt the CIS “cancer 101” educational tool to be culturally appropriate for all Pacific Islander groups specifically for the Samoan community, and to develop the Samoan Cancer 101 Education Toolkit.

Rationale: Nationally recognized in-language, culturally appropriate and culturally responsive cancer education curricula is lacking in the Pacific Islander communities. In response to this need, the WINCART partners (Pacific Islander communities of Southern California) have adapted and developed specific cancer site education materials and education sessions both formally and informally. In order to address the need to culturally appropriate cancer education curricula, WINCART community partners collaborated with CIS to adapt and develop a curriculum targeting the Samoan community of Southern California.

Implementation: The “Samoan Cancer 101” education tool focuses on general information about cancer and specific information about breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancers with adults ages 40 and older as the target audience. The education curriculum was adapted from the CIS Cancer 101 education tool. NCI’s Spirit of Eagles and NCI CIS Northwest Region developed the original science-based Cancer 101 which was the basis for our adaptation for the purposes of dissemination. This Cancer 101 tool was modified by a team of community and academic partners to reflect Samoan cultural nuances, language, word use and reading comprehension, cultural images, and intergenerational communication. Focus Group evaluation: A focus group of six Samoan adults, ages 18-and-older, assessed the usability, cultural appropriateness, cultural responsiveness and the overall effectiveness of the curriculum within the Samoan cultural context. Focus group members served the role of both participant and reviewer by participating in (1) the pre-and post education survey, (2) the education session and, (3) the focus group discussion on the effectiveness of the education tool.

Results: The focus group consisted of six Samoan women the majority of whom were over the age of 29 (83%), married or widowed (67%), and associated with a faith-based group (100%). Feedback from
the focus group includes; the need for the power point presentation and education session to be shortened to less than one-hour to allow time for pre-and post surveys, discussion, and question and answer sessions. The group expressed the need for more cultural imagines and slides on cultural beliefs such as “Aitu” (Spirit) and “Vailaau Samoa (Samoa medicine). The groups stated that myths about disease, especially cancer, play a strong role in how people address the need for prevention, screening and treatment of cancer. The group suggested that the education on myth strongly delineate between myth and fact so that there is no confusion for participants. One of the strongest points expressed by the focus group was that the educational curriculum must be rolled out to younger adults in order to plant seeds for positive health behavior, screening and treatment. Finally the group stressed the importance of reaching the Samoan community through the appropriate gatekeepers such as the community organization leaders and the church as the primary point of contact with the community.

**Lessons Learned:** The language used must be adapted to accommodate a wider audience with varying language skills especially in reaching older adults. Translation into Samoan is an essential part of adapting the curriculum, thus a second focus group will be held to review the translated materials. Appropriate images to explain concepts and stimulate interest are an additional change suggested by the focus group. One focus group participant expressed that “we did a presentation on cervical cancer and they had no idea what we were talking about. But once we put up a chart and said this is what it is and this is where it is located and they understood. We had to say it in Samoan and they understood”. Lastly, in order to add credence to the curriculum the group reinforced the use of partner organization logos and acknowledgement of participating entities to validate the source of the information and to allow community access to follow-up information if needed.

**Partners:** This collaboration included the Cancer Information Service (CIS) Southern California Partnership Program, based at the University of Southern California/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, WINCART and WINCART community partners; the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and the Samoan National Nurses Association (SNNA) on the adaptation and development of the Samoan Cancer Education Toolkit. In addition, the following individuals played key roles in developing the “Samoan Cancer 101” education tool; Seu Puaina (OSA/CSUF), Jacqueline Tran (OCAPICA), Tiffany Ng (CIS/CSUF), Sora Park Tanjasiri (WINCART), Sala Mataalii, Dorothy Schmidt-Vaivao, Genesis Lutu, (SNNA), Jonathan (Tana) Lepule (UPAC), Kimo Suafilo (Westminster), June Pouesi (OSA), and Ruth Peters-Pak (WINCART).

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