**FACILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES – PROJECT 1**

**ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT**

**Office of Community Health and Research (OCHR)**

OCHR is a multidisciplinary department that focuses on patient-centered research, community programs, training, and policy to address rural and urban health disparities. OCHR initiatives integrate clinical- and community-based research with interprofessional education and service learning on the UAMS Northwest campus. The OCHR addresses needs identified by Arkansas patients and family members, and all work is based on principles of community-based participatory research. OCHR has a team that includes 30 project managers and research support professionals. OCHR offers unique resources that will help facilitate the success of this study, including a community engagement core and a methodology core. The community engagement core within the OCHR is committed to nurturing productive partnerships with a broad group of academic and community stakeholders that are committed to using a collaborative approach to prevent chronic disease and improve health equity among diverse patient populations. The community engagement core includes 3 full-time project managers and coordinators and 2 community co-investigators. The community engagement core works closely with community members and helps keep community stakeholders engaged in all phases of the project. The community engagement core will help coordinate and support effective communication between the community, investigators, and study staff. Community engagement core communication strategies are based on a commitment to transparency and inclusive dialogue. The methodology core consists of 6 highly qualified academic and community investigators that provide ongoing methodological support and expertise in health literacy, data management, biostatistics, engaged research methods, implementation research, social network analysis, and qualitative methods. Methodology core team members will work with investigators to help ensure rigorous methods and measures by developing and evaluating key approaches and methods used in the study (recruitment, consent, data collection, implementation, Institutional Review Board [IRB] compliance, and evaluation). The team works closely with patients and family members to plan studies that include relevant and meaningful variables, and they help implement strategies that protect study participants and communities from unintended harms and stigma. The OCHR contributes to Project 1’s success by providing: 1) an existing infrastructure with shared cores and highly qualified staff to support the project; 2) academic and community investigators with experience conducting large multi-site trials; and 3) strong collaborative relationships with national and regional community stakeholders that will help plan, implement, evaluate, and disseminate the proposed study.

**Center for Implementation Sciences (CIR)**

CIR was created as a joint entity between the Colleges of Pharmacy (COP) and Medicine (COM) at UAMS in 2014. The work of the CIR has expanded into the College of Public Health and the College of Nursing. The CIR is a national leader in implementation sciences, and its goals are to: 1) develop and test strategies to facilitate uptake and sustained use of evidence-based practices across a wide range of contexts; 2) support integration of evidence-based practices in UAMS Programs and community; 3) evaluate the effectiveness of promising practices while preparing for their future implementation by simultaneously documenting barriers and facilitators to implementation; and 4) nurture the development of investigators, residents, and students interested in implementation and implementation science. Dr. Curran, Director of the CIR, will lead Aim 2 of Project 1, and the CIR has additional faculty resources to support the evaluation as needed.

**Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention (CCOP)**

CCOPserves as an anchor for the development of a comprehensive pediatric obesity program at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and enables a better understanding of the origins of pediatric obesity, leading to the development of interventions focused both on preventing and reducing obesity and associated complications such as hypertension and diabetes. CCOP and its affiliated investigators (Drs. Selig and Thompson) will contribute to Project 1’s analysis and dissemination efforts.

**Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center (ACNC)**

Established in 1994, the ACNC is 1 of 6 National Human Nutrition Centers funded through, and cooperating with, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Agricultural Research Service and is the second of these centers devoted to children. Under the leadership of Sean Adams, PhD, the ACNC is not only advancing its cutting-edge studies of how maternal-child nutrition and physical activity impact the fundamental properties of the body, but also is applying that knowledge to human health. The ACNC uses state-of-the-art procedures, equipment, and facilities to determine how early-life exposures to dietary factors, physical activity, and obesity can affect physiology (including brain and behavior), bone, body fat and body composition, metabolic organs and gastrointestinal tract, cardiovascular system, and others. ACNC and its affiliated investigators (Drs. Selig and Thompson) will contribute to Project 1’s analysis and dissemination efforts.

**UAMS Center for Health Literacy (CHL)**

The UAMS CHL is dedicated to improving individual, provider, systems, and community health literacy at the local, state, and national levels in order to improve health outcomes and population health. The CHL provides services and training, research, and policy initiatives to improve literacy on the individual, organization, community, and health systems level. The CHL works with healthcare providers, health agencies, individuals in communities, and researchers throughout the region. The CHL will contribute to Project 1’s success by providing expertise in developing materials that use understandable language and concepts.

**Partner Resources**

**Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)**

ACHI is a health policy organization that is administratively housed within UAMS. Since its inception in 1998, ACHI has become widely recognized as a reliable source for local and national health and health industry information. This includes providing critical data, analyses and strategies that drive decisions and shape health policy. ACHI has served as a major contributor and trusted health policy leader in statewide efforts to improve the health of Arkansans and to drive innovation and efficiency for the state’s health care delivery system. ACHI's mission is to be a catalyst for improving the health of Arkansans through evidence-based research, public issue advocacy, and collaborative program development. Over the years, ACHI has served as a central convener and change agent for health improvements across the state. ACHI’s activities are centered in 3 areas of focus that influence the health of Arkansans – population health policy, access to quality care, and health care system transformation – with supporting infrastructure of health data and research. ACHI houses a dedicated staff of 40 database developers, data and research analysts, policy analysts, and operations support staff. Through its relationship with UAMS, ACHI researchers also have access to subject-matter experts in a wide variety of clinical and research methodology spheres. ACHI houses the state BMI data warehouse that will be used in Project 1’s Aim 1.A.

**Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative**

Northwest Arkansas Service Cooperative helps the schools provide students with a world-class education by providing schools with shared programs, services, professional development and collaboration in a more effective and efficient manner than schools could provide independently. The co-ops of Arkansas have served as the implementation support agents for new state initiatives by providing extensive professional development and capacity building necessary for implementing state efforts to improve student achievement. Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative serves 16 public school districts and 6 charter schools, providing services and supports such as Math/Science/STEM/Literacy/Computer Science specialists, Early Childhood specialists, Novice Teacher Mentoring, Gifted and Talented assistance, and Special Education services. Northwest Arkansas Service Cooperative will provide administrative support to schools participating in Project 1 and be responsible for disbursement and administration of school stipend funds for Project 1.

**Arkansas Department of Education (ADE)**

The ADE provides leadership, support and service to schools, districts and communities so every student graduates prepared for college, career, and community engagement. ADE is transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education. ADE maintains the ADE Data Center, a collection of data systems, data tools and informational reports for educators, policy makers, teachers, parents, school districts, and anyone interested in official data from the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). ADE Data Center will provide important, updated information on school enrollments and demographics throughout Project 1.

**Arkansas Department of Education Child Nutrition Unit (CNU)**

CNU administers the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program, the Afterschool Snack Program, the Seamless Summer Program and the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grants in the public schools in Arkansas. CNU provides technical assistance, training, monitoring, and processes claims for reimbursement of federal funds used in the operation of local school nutrition programs in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations. CNU will work with the Project 1 research team to facilitate ongoing access to foodservice departments and workers in the study schools.

**University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) is the major education and research facility of the University of Hawai'i system, and the largest institution of higher learning in the State. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a Category 1 research university. Hawai‘i's cultural diversity and physical setting provide a unique forum for research. Hawai'i is the most culturally diverse state in the nation, where no ethnic group holds the majority. According to the 2010 Census, the ethnic population of Hawai'i is comprised of Native Hawaiians (22%, including those of mixed ancestry), Japanese (17%), Caucasians (21%), Filipino (12%), Chinese (3%), Micronesian (1%), and people of other Asian and Pacific Islander populations (5%, excluding those of more than one race). Twenty-two percent are non-Hawaiian, mixed ethnicities. Furthermore, the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population was one of the fastest-growing race groups between 2000 and 2010. A second feature is the State's geography. Hawai'i, an island state, is the only state in the nation located in the tropics. The State of Hawai'i is made up of 8 major islands: O'ahu (with the capital and urban center of Honolulu), and the rural neighbor islands, which include Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Ni'ihau, and Kaho'olawe (uninhabited). The state is remote; it is over 2,300 miles from the nearest landmass and is one of the most geographically remote places on Earth. These cultural and geographical features provide investigators with unique research opportunities that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has the following resources that can be leveraged to successfully meet the Aims of Project 1.

**College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) – Dr. Novotny:** As the originating body of the only public institution of higher education in the state of Hawai‘i, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) has had major impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of the people of Hawai‘i for over 105 years. Committed to providing knowledge and service and improving the quality of life for Hawai‘i’s citizens, CTAHR has educated thousands of students, helped hundreds of businesses, facilitated informed decision-making by government and community leaders, and enhanced the lives of many of Hawai‘i’s people and communities. CTAHR faculty and staff have effectively served a broad range of stakeholders through its academic, research and extension programs. The UHM CTAHR research stations provide special application to our cultural and tropical environment, to build international leadership in tropical foods, lifestyles and health. *Research stations, community partnerships and university resources provide for opportunity to link research, instruction and extension for improved food and nutrition systems to prevent child obesity.* Further, the University of Hawai‘i is linked through this land grant base throughout the US Affiliated Pacific Region, as exemplified in the Children’s Healthy Living (CHL) Program led by Dr. Novotny. Additionally, CTAHR maintains 22 research stations, totaling 1312 acres, across the state. Land at these stations is used for community gardening, food and agricultural education and active play activities, and other obesity preventing and community strengthening activities.

**UHM - Department of Human Nutrition Food and Animal Sciences (HNFAS) HNFAS/CTAHR Food Lab – Dr. Novotny:** Agricultural Sciences III houses the laboratory and teaching components of the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences at UHM. The building contains teaching and research laboratories, an experimental kitchen, taste panel and sensory evaluation rooms, food processing facilities, a computer laboratory, state-of-the-art classrooms, and graduate student cubicles with ample computer access, faculty offices, and conference and seminar rooms. The main office of the HNFAS is housed in the Agricultural Sciences Building (30,000 SF), with office space for the program’s instructional, research and extension faculty, along with standard communications facilities, including server, internet access, email, fax, shredder and telephone. The HNFAS department provides technical support for computer and network services, as well as administrative and fiscal support. Dr. Novotny maintains a team that includes 1 fiscal/administrative staff, 1 computer support staff, a data manager, a program manager and project specific staff.

**John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) – Dr. Novotny:** The mission of the JABSOM is to educate students to become outstanding physicians, scientists, and other healthcare professionals, and to conduct research and community service of specific interest to our region and community. JABSOM does not have an associated University hospital. JABSOM has afforded its departments with exemplary institutional commitment including staff support, world-class facilities, and financial resources. One example is the large teleconferencing facility, designed to accommodate over 25 individuals, housed on the second floor of the Medical Education Building called the Access Grid Room. The Access Grid Room is fully equipped with high definition and 3-dimensional imaging simulations. Using a combination of 3 high-end projectors, displays of 3-D images can be visualized. This facility is capable of connecting to the internet for high bandwidth communication and supports virtual reality simulations. The Medical Education Building also offers access to classrooms, conference rooms, a computer lab, health sciences library, and an auditorium.

**Computing:**JABSOM has computer systems and software with both wired and wireless network access, email, and high-speed internet capability. The computer systems include wired and wireless internet access, video teleconferencing, and extensive on-line library resources available through the Health Sciences Library on the Kakaako campus. Computer labs are available in the Medical Education Building as well as access to simulations and a grid access facility. Housed on the second floor of the Medical Education Building, the Access Grid Room is capable of high definition and 3-dimensional imaging simulations. The Access Grid Room is capable of connecting to Internet2 for high bandwidth communication and supports virtual reality simulations. A Polycom two-way interactive video system sent over the internet, regular telephone lines, or ISDN is available for teleconferencing between collaborating institutions.

**Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) for Project 1**

Project 1 is guided by a standing stakeholder advisory board (SAB) for UAMS’s Office of Community Health and Research that includes educators, parents, community advocates, health care providers, and local and state government/policymakers. As board members have done for previous projects, the SAB will help to ensure successful implementation, relevance of the research, and future dissemination for Project 1. The SAB has representation from the communities served and from regional and national organizations that will help disseminate and sustain the intervention. These long-term partnerships are strong and sustainable. Meetings are held quarterly. Subcommittees meet more frequently.

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| **Table 1. Stakeholder Advisory Board Members** |
| **Name** | **Organizations** |
| Loy Bailey | Arkansas Department of Health (Benton County) |
| Robin Thomas | Arkansas Department of Health (Washington County) |
| Lisa Busch | Department of Human Services (DHS) |
| Marsha Witt | Economic Opportunity Agency (EOA) Head Start |
| Anita Iban | Faith in Action Research and Resources Alliance (FARRA) |
| Trace Henley | Health Partners |
| Dr. Lisa Low | Mercy Medical Center |
| Kent Eikenberry | NWA Food Bank |
| Elizabeth Bowen | NWA Regional Planning Commission |
| Leo Chavarria | Pastores Unidos |
| Debbie Rambo | Samaritan Community Center |
| Kathy Freeman | Washington Regional Medical System  |
| April Brown | Marshallese Educational Initiatives |
| Eldon Alik | Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Consulate |
| Caroline Ceola | The Jones Center |
| Elizabeth Hernandez | American Heart Association |
| Marsha Layer | Springdale School District |
| Melissa Ralston | Bentonville School District |