

AMCHP 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

March 3rd to 7th, 2007

Preconception Care:

Achieving Healthy Communities

CAROLINA REYES: --planning areas. These organizations come together and share resources. And it is amazing how many have known of each other but do not know what services they each provide. We are developing asset mapping within the regions, as well as having these organizations meet on a regular basis. We thought they'd meet every other month, they're meeting every month, developing action plans. And I'd give you a level of detail about that, but I can just say that it is tremendous to see the level of participation in this effort. We also held a strategic planning period for defining what are the systems changes that we collectively can galvanize support around. This was a nine-month process, where we brought together those networks of organizations working together to develop priority areas for systems change. We also met with leaders of the health plans, Department of Health, Department of Public Health, as well as Ec Admissions, who came together with the grassroots organizations over a two-day period to not only define the recommendations, but to come up with five that we said were doable within an 18-month period, and measurable, and then took six months to develop the action plans. And so we're in that process now of carrying out these action plans. This is the report that we've put together as part of the Town Hall, engaging communities. About 170 participants came together.

We had leaders of organizations who came, understood that there was a commitment to partaking in this process, signing memorandums and understanding, recognizing their role in our work to support women to have a reproductive life plan. These are our proceedings, and they are on our website, which I will give you. And we are working very closely with California's Preconception Care Council, as well as with the CDC to build on these recommendations and aligning forces. We know that the success of the work on the ground really has to do with aligning forces, state and nationally, and we're very, very excited about that.