Health Literacy Training for Healthy Start Participants
Kim Mears, MLIS, AHIP, Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library, Georgia Regents University

OBJECTIVE

- Describe the partnership between a librarian and the Enterprise Community Healthy Start (ECHS) program to provide training on accessing and evaluating quality health information resources
- The ECHS program aims to reduce low birth weight, preterm delivery, and infant mortality through improvement of infant health and women’s health before, during, and after pregnancy through two years post-delivery

SETTING

Burke County
Georgia

McDuffie County
Georgia

METHODS

- A tablet, flash drives, and NNLM brochures were purchased to support training
- Curriculum adapted from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (Nursing on the Net: Health Care Resources You Can Use)
- Training sessions offered twice during bi-annual consortium meetings held at the Burke County Public Library and the Thomson-McDuffie County Public Library
- Assessment of training sessions completed through pre and posttests and instructor evaluations
- Nurses in attendance awarded 1 hour of Georgia Nurses Association Continuing Education credit

RESULTS

- 54 participants, including nurses, community members, and case workers
- Pretest scores averaged 6.28 for Group A and 6.47 for Group B out of maximum of 11 points
- Posttest scores averaged 10.47 for both groups

CONCLUSIONS

- Partnerships between librarians and community programs can support the efforts of healthcare professionals to increase their information literacy skills, potentially resulting in improved health care for their clients and community

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHS-N-276-2011-00004-C with the University of Maryland Baltimore.