Background

Our team of 4 medical students, 2 nursing students, and 2 faculty preceptors implemented a medical records program on Batey 18 in an effort to provide the batey residents with a copy of their own medical histories, and also as unique opportunity to get to know this vibrant community. Through patient interviews, focus groups, key informant interviews, mapping, and follow-up of previous patients, we were able develop a clear understanding of this community’s needs and how our past efforts have affected the community.

Methods

• Medical Records:
  o Designed by Dr. Olga Valdman with key stakeholder input
  o Community members invited to receive medical records
  o Stations: 1) Check-In 2) Vitals 3) Interview/Education
  o All information completed, except for consult notes
  o Incomplete or unclear health history discussed with Dominican provider, selected data input into database for population health management
  o Door to door survey to determine rate of retention of previous records completed in March of 2015

• Mapping:
  o Garmin eTrex 20x handheld GPS device was used to acquire static coordinates, measures of area, and route tracing
  o Living quarters, latrines, water sources, showers, and community resources were geolocated

• Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning Meetings:
  o Two meetings in August to organize logistics and method for the PHC
  o Three meetings in September to decide objectives and methods for the PHC

• Key Informant Interviews (KI):
  o Encienda La Luz (Dominican NGO): meeting and tour
  o Promotora (Health Promoter) of Batey 18
  o Administrator of Guaymate Health Clinic
  o Tour of Batey 18

• Focus Groups:
  o Discussion of objectives of medical records program and methods for implementation
  o Discussion of team vision for the UMMS Spring Break trip and reflection on the PHC week

Results

Geographic Survey:

• Raw data and mapping platforms available for analysis, including health informatics overlay
• Population estimates between 500-1000 in the ‘off season’ for access and utilization rates
• 81 houses, 20 apartments
• 3 chlorinated water sources
• 2 shower stalls
• 1 school, 1 church, 1 company store, 1 company water pumping facility, 1 basketball hoop
• 33 latrines
• 2 chlorinated water sources
• 1 toilet
• 1 water well
• 1 community pavilion, 1 defunct water pumping facility, 1 basketball hoop
• Population estimates of 81 houses, 20 apartments
• 33 latrines
• 3 chlorinated water sources

Key Informant Interviews:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informant</th>
<th>Key points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotora of Batey 18</td>
<td>Very passionate about caring for the batey on which she was born and raised</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrator of Guaymate</td>
<td>Government funded, lack autonomy of resource distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batey 18 Tour with Head of Security</td>
<td>Follow-up required with Dr. Estevez to determine “wish-list” of donations and supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encienda La Luz (Light a Candle): Meeting</td>
<td>Clinic lacks resources, personnel, and equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encienda La Luz (Light a Candle): Tour</td>
<td>Batey 18: about 100 houses, 2 families each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encienda La Luz (Light a Candle): Tour</td>
<td>Central Romana provides insurance for male workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encienda La Luz (Light a Candle): Tour</td>
<td>Clinics in Batey 18 don’t have the ability to provide drugs to patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encienda La Luz (Light a Candle): Tour</td>
<td>UMass hopes to incorporate this HTN program into our other three “adopted” bateys (Batey 22, Higo Clara, and Tacones)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Future Directions

Based on our findings and observations during the PHC, we have several recommendations aimed towards sustainability of future D.R. trips:

- Increase collaboration with COSACO and La Romana Batey Coalition, which are Dominican and North American groups, respectively
- Reduce medication list to target conditions prevalent on our “adopted” bateys
- Focus treatment efforts on a few chronic conditions such as hypertension, GERD, and diabetes.
- Create a central database of all information for improved institutional memory
- Create core group of preceptors who can establish longitudinal relationships with community leaders, COSACO, and La Romana Batey Coalition.
- Improve student and preceptor education before arriving in the D.R.

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References


