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## Health Literacy Dallas

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# Health Literacy Dallas

# Overview

- Description of Issue
- Past Work
- Current Efforts
- Future Projects

# What is Health Literacy?

- Health Literacy is how patients understand, use, and obtain health information

# What is Cultural Competency?

- Cultural Competency is effectively communicating across cultures
- Strong emphasis on broad definition of cultures – including race, age, gender, socioeconomic background, language, ethnicity, etc.

# What is Clear Health Communication?

- It is an environment in which health information is communicated in a health literate and culturally competent fashion
- Focused on medical professionals as well as patients
- Systematic changes necessary

# Where We Have Been

- Survey Pilot Study
- Website Creation
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Staff Expansion
- Board of Directors creation
- Spoke at SAHLI conference 2009
- Spoke on OWH Region VI Expert Panel
- Community health Fairs



# Where We Are

- Research Studies
- Intern Program
- Poster presenter at SAHLI 2010
- Speaker at Literacy Texas Conference
- Adult Education for Pregnant Teen Program
- United Way Council
- Creation of Health Literacy Texas

# Research

- Medical Professional Aware of Patient Communication Issue
  - < 5 yrs exp. = 4.8% Agree
  - 20+ yrs exp. = 66.7% Agree or Strongly Agree
- 60% staff claim difficulty in cross cultural communication
- Medical Professional Believe Patient Does Not Properly Follow Instructions Often or Always
  - < 5 yrs exp. = 4.8% stated “often”
  - 20+ yrs exp. = 64.3% stated “often” or “always”

# Research

- Medical Professionals Felt Better Communication Could Improve Patient Health
  - < 5 yrs experience = 61.9% Agree
  - > 5 yrs experience = 100% Agree
- 57.1% of staff with less than 5 years experience claimed no cultural competency training in last year, despite having had training

# Where We Are Going

- Expansion of HLT
- Main phase of research
- More contributions to published works
- Expand adult education program
- Develop into regional leader
- Expand research project to other institutions
- Expand intern program

# Health Literacy Texas

- Statewide coalition
- Members from across Texas and across several fields
- Interns dedicated to expansion
- Focused on information sharing and networking
- Following model of other successful state programs

# Questions?

- [www.healthliteracydallas.org](http://www.healthliteracydallas.org)
- [www.healthliteracytexas.org](http://www.healthliteracytexas.org)

