**POSTER #5**

**ENHANCING MEDICAL HOME SERVICES FOR CHINESE AMERICAN CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**

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**BACKGROUND:** Chinese immigrant families of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) face tremendous challenges in accessing appropriate health, education, and support services due to cultural and systemic barriers. This study examined the impact of a pilot program for Chinese American CSHCN.

**METHODS:** A mixed-methods approach consisting of focus groups (N=17) and pre- and post-surveys (N=23) was employed to assess change in parental knowledge, skills, stress level, as well as satisfaction with monthly support group meetings. Community needs assessment was conducted with pre and post surveys with community based organizations serving CSHCN (N=23).

**RESULTS:** Parents reported increased knowledge and skills to care for their CSHCN, being more confident when dealing with challenges, actively seeking community resources, and constantly striving for self-improvement. Analysis of Parent Stress Index—Short Form (PSI—SF) responses found that parents experienced a statistically significant decrease in total stress level. Findings from community partnership surveys indicate strong identification with goals of the partnership, increased knowledge of community resources available for CSHCN, and building of collateral contacts from other members of the partnership.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Findings from the pilot program informed the development of a three-year initiative to increase parent capacity, to cultivate a sustainable partnership with community organizations, and to promote advocacy efforts. This pilot study highlight the important role of parents as key partners in improving quality of care and coordination of their children’s health needs. As a trusted entity in the community, Community Health Centers have the ability to be a leader in service coordination and parent activation for vulnerable communities.

**CONTENT CATEGORY:** Patient care

**KEYWORDS:** *Medical Home, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Family Engagement, Community Collaboration*