CRiSOL Projects: A series of Community-Academic Partnerships

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Latino Health Collective, Annual Retreat 2026

History and development

- Long-standing community-academic partnership
- Community organizations involved in the design of the project, grant submission, identification and hiring of LHW, study implementation, interpretation and sharing of the results
- Based on the Popular Opinion Leader (POL) model
- Trusted community members trained to:
  - Educate peers, dispel myths
  - Connect peers to services
  - Bring feedback to organizations
  - Modeling healthy behaviors

History and development and areas of work

CRiSOL 2019-2020

Focus:

- Substance Misuse, Violence, HIV/AIDS, and Mental Health ("SAVAME" Syndemic)

Reach:

- 9 Peer leaders (Lay Health Workers - LHW) at one Latino serving clinic.
- 825 education, counseling, or referral interactions with community members.

CRiSOL Contigo 2021-2022

Focus:

- COVID-19

Reach:

- 11 Peer leaders (LHW) at one Latino serving clinic.
- 1,026 individual and 9,470 group interactions with community members about vaccination, testing, risk-reduction measures, health care, and related topics.

CRiSOL Mente 2023-2028

Focus:

- Mental health

Reach:

- 6-9 Peer leaders (LHW) at two Latino-serving clinics
- 31,486 individual and 24,877 group interactions with community members about education, stigma reduction, and referrals for mental health and related topics.

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Esperanza Means HOPE

Esperanza Health Center

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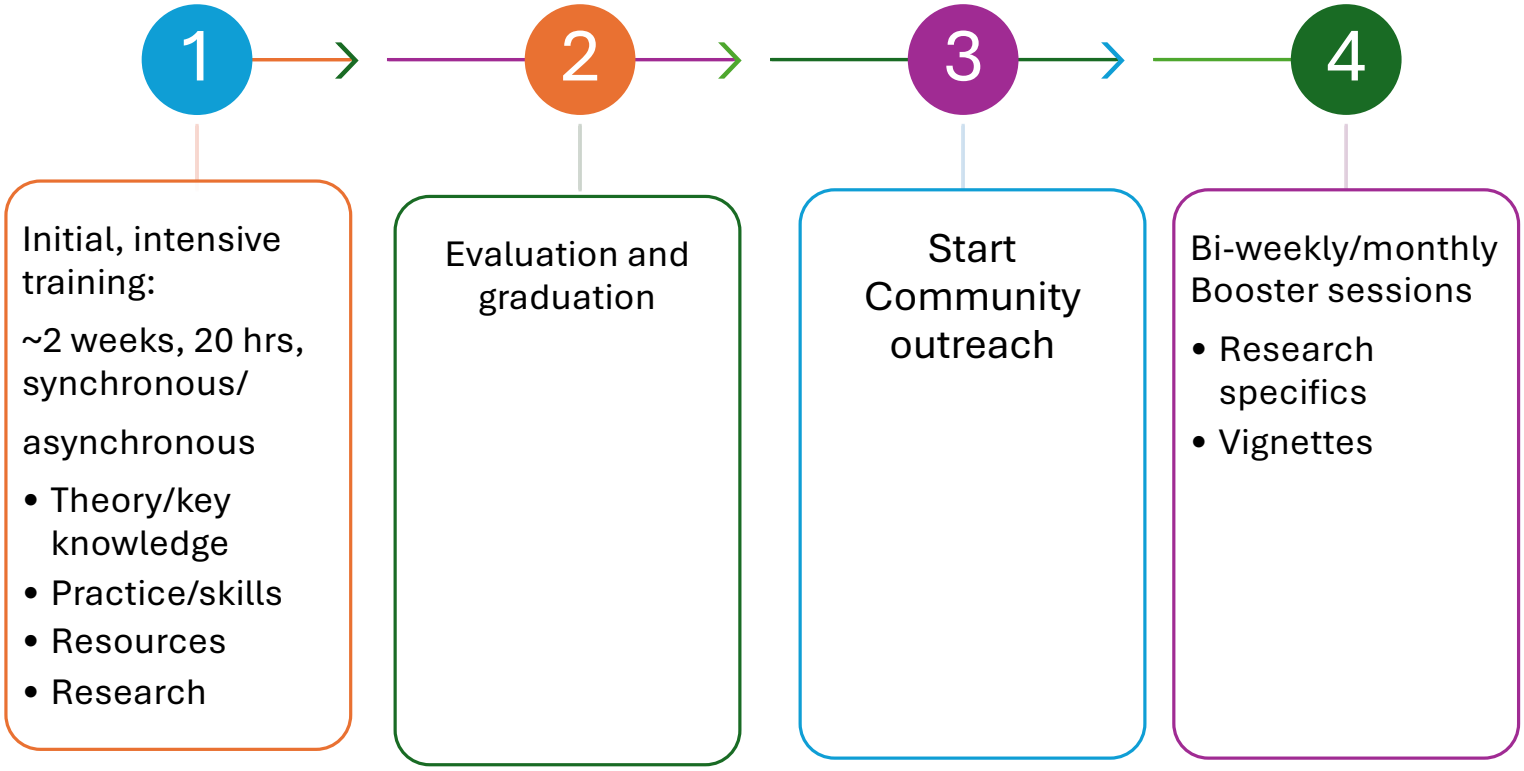
Programs and areas of work: Types of activities conducted by LHWs

- **Community outreach**: Screenings, Referrals, Linkages
- **Support clinic teams**: scheduling, follow ups
- **Health education:** including talks, radio shows
- **Mental health helpers**: Facilitating support groups

Training and organizational support



Full time coordinators on the academic side (at least 1 FTE)
Part-time coordinators on the CBO side

- **Evaluation**

- Individual activities log: type of interaction, outcome of the interaction, services/referrals, screening results.
- Satisfaction with the interaction from community members
- Group activities log: type of events, reach, characteristics

- **Funding and compensation**

- Started with a pilot project from Drexel University, Urban Health Collaborative
- CRISOL Contigo, a NIH-Supplement in COVID-19
- CRISOL Mente a 5 year NIH grant
- Compensation: reviewed with participating clinic, equitable, and equal across clinics in CRISOL Mente.

Lessons learned

- LHW programs: effective reaching individuals with needs and accomplish program goals.
- LHW great community research partners: understand the rigorous data collection
- LHW have a strong desire to learn new knowledge: mental health, COVID-19, resources in the community.
- LHW interested in develop new skills: leadership, research, how to conduct support groups, but also self-care, setting boundaries

→ sustainability and reach

- Challenges in implementation: coordination and supervision across clinics→ plan for this early on
- All LHW share a strong interest in their helping their community, but like all, we have different strengths and weaknesses→ power of team-work

Conclusions

- LHW-interventions, a model that can be adapted to address a variety of health issues
- LHW interventions may offer more sustainable and cost-effectiveness solutions to health inequities.

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Our wonderful team of community leaders and team members

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