

## Celebrating Our 40+ Years: A History of the Center for Community Health and Development

### KU Work Group established – 1975

The KU Work Group's consistent mission: promoting community health and development through collaborative research, teaching, and service. Original name, Community Technology Project. Founding Director, Stephen Fawcett (pictured, circa 1975).

### The early years - 1975 – 1980

Some early work examined how behavioral instruction could help prepare people to take action to bring about community change.

### Layering of interdisciplinary influences – 1980

With the addition of new members, projects, and partners, the Work Group absorbs and reflects the influence of multiple disciplines.

### The independent living years - 1980 – 1989

Use of the Concerns Report Method helps set the agenda for research and action with people with disabilities.

### Evaluation and technical support for Foundation projects – 1990

The KU Work Group supports multiple community health and development initiatives including: Kansas LEAN, Project Freedom, the School Community Sexual Risk Reduction Project, and rural health efforts (of the Kansas Health Foundation); neighborhood improvement efforts in Kansas City (with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation); and community development efforts in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago (with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation).

### Renaming of the group - 1/1/1990 - 1/30/1990

"KU Work Group for Community Health and Development" is adopted as a name that better reflects the mission. Shortly thereafter, the Work Group joins KU's LifeSpan Institute.

### Pioneering community measurement - 1990 – 1999

The Work Group develops and tests methods for reliably measuring community/ system change as intermediate outcome of collaborative action.

### Developing the Community Tool Box - 1995

The KU Work Group and partners begin development of the CTB with initial grant support from the Kansas Health Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 20 years later, this 7,000 page, open source "box of tools" reaches nearly 6 million unique users in over 230 countries.

### CDC book – 1995

The CDC publishes a book on the Work Group's community measurement approach as applied to evaluating cardiovascular disease prevention initiatives.

### Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professorship – 1995

In support of the KU Work Group, Dr. Stephen Fawcett is named inaugural Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor of Community Leadership, Department of Applied Behavioral Science.

### Ongoing participatory evaluation services – 1996

The Work Group begins offering participatory evaluation services, with support from an online system for documenting and evaluating community efforts. Revenues from this and other services help assure sustainability.

### Evaluation support for substance abuse prevention initiatives – 1996

The Work Group begins its longstanding contribution to the prevention infrastructure for the State of Kansas.

### Kansas Community Leadership Corps - 1998 – 2004

Director Jerry Schultz leads an engaged scholarship program preparing undergraduate students to take action in their home communities.

### 25th Anniversary of the KU Work Group - 2001-04-27

The Work Group celebrates 25 years of contributing to community health and development.

### IOM framework for collaborative action – 2003

The KU Work Group's framework for community action is adapted and published in the IOM report on the "Future of Public's Health in the 21st Century."

### Ongoing WHO Collaborating Centre designation – 2004

The Work Group is initially designated as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Community Health and Development. Re-designated multiple times.

### CDC violence prevention - 2005 – 2011

The KU Work Group provided technical support and evaluation for CDC violence prevention initiatives.

### Training curriculum completed – 2006

The robust, 16-module Community Tool Box training curriculum is completed and becomes available to trainers and instructors who teach skills for community health and development.

### Social determinants of health – 2007

Initial learning on social determinants began with Dr. Fawcett serving as a visiting scholar in WHO's Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion and Department of Equity, Poverty, and Social Determinants of Health at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Expanding engaged scholarship - 2008

Service learning is strengthened through the faculty appointment of Professor Jomella Watson-Thompson, KU Work Group Associate Director for Community Research, to KU's Department of Applied Behavioral Science.

### Evaluation of underage drinking prevention initiatives - 2008 – 2011

In partnership with Kansas communities, the KU Work Group conducted a multi-site evaluation of community initiatives.

### NIH grant to address health disparities - 2008 – 2014

The KU Work Group received a grant from the National Institute of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities, to use participatory research methods to reduce health disparities in chronic diseases among the Latino population in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

### Distributed leadership – 2010

Dr. Jerry Schultz named as Co-Director of the KU Work Group.

### [Growing global work – 2010](#)

The KU Work Group's global efforts increase dramatically in recent years; including engagement with partners in Peru, Colombia, Spain, Lebanon, Ghana, and the WHO Regional Offices of the Americas and Africa. Pictured here, Fawcett's enskinment in 2014 as Development Chief of the Binduri District in northern Ghana.

### [NIH National Healthy Communities Study - 2010 – 2016](#)

The KU Work Group leads the community measurement aspect of the national Healthy Communities Study, funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI/NIH). This large study, involving 130 communities and 5,000 children, examines associations between community programs/ policies and markers of childhood obesity.

### [CDC Reach funding - 2010 – 2017](#)

The Work Group provides technical support and participatory evaluation of Latino Health For All Coalition efforts to reduce health disparities with long-time community partners in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

### [Evaluation of Together on Diabetes initiative - 2012 – 2017](#)

The KU Work Group serves as the national evaluation team for this \$20 million, multi-site effort to reduce health disparities related to diabetes.

### [Academic Health Department partnership - 2013 – 2017](#)

With Dr. Vicki Collie-Akers' leadership, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development create a partnership called the Academic Health Department, the first in Kansas and one of only a few in the country.

### [Monitoring WHO's Ebola response effort - 2014 – 2015](#)

With WHO AFRO partners, the KU team implements a participatory monitoring and evaluation system as part of case studies about what it takes to bend the curve in two Liberian counties.

### [UN presentation on sustainable development goals - 07/02/2015 - 07/02/2015](#)

Christina Holt presents the Community Tool Box as a resource for supporting citizen engagement in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals; in a session at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

### [Fawcett retires from Work Group director role - 08/13/2015](#)

After 40 years, founding Director Stephen Fawcett transitions into semi-retirement as a senior advisor in the KU Work Group. Rima Afifi, American University of Beirut, shares, "Stephen Fawcett is one of the rare people I have met that is truly committed to creating a better world with justice and equality, a world that values the humanity of every individual and focused on strengths and assets of individual, organization, and communities. He works for justice and dignity, and works to ensure that voices of those marginalized all over the world are heard." Steve leaves an enduring legacy in the Work Group and its projects.

### [Vincent Francisco named Co-Director - 08/14/2015](#)

Coming back to KU after 11 years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Vincent Francisco becomes KU Work Group Co-Director and Kansas Health Foundation Professor in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Stephen Fawcett shares, "An internationally recognized leader, he brings deep experience in the science and practice of community health improvement. His passion for discovery and application will help the KU Work Group have an even greater impact in its next 40 years."

### [IOM Obesity Evaluation Toolkit - 08/25/2015](#)

Stephen Fawcett and Christina Holt consulted with the Institute of Medicine on creation of an IOM Obesity Evaluation Toolkit that “mashes up” resources from the Community Tool Box to support implementation.

### [Celebrating 40 years - 09/01/2015](#)

We are: the generations of people who have joined together to contribute their talents to this common purpose.