



Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Transforming Communities & Higher Education

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE CALL SERIES: BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH

Setting Up & Running a CBPR Department in a Community Agency: The Access Alliance Experience

Wednesday July 15, 2009

12:30-2 pm pacific time / 3:30-5 pm eastern time

AGENDA & SPEAKER BIOS

- 10 minutes* Welcome, overview of agenda & introduction of speakers
- 45 minutes* Presentation
- 30 minutes* Discussion and audience Q&A
- 5 minutes* Closing comments

This call is focused on the organizational systems and supports needed to do community-based participatory research (CBPR) in a community agency setting. On the call, participants will learn about setting up and running a CBPR department within a community agency. The call will feature speakers from Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services in Toronto: Yogendra Shakya, PhD, Director of Research and Evaluation; and Rabea Murtaza, Research Coordinator (see their brief bios below). In addition to this handout, please also refer to the slide presentation and Access Alliance Research Department 2008 to 2009 Report (separate PDFs). If you have any questions about the call, email CPH at ccphirb@u.washington.edu

Access Alliance was established in 1989 with four ethno-cultural communities coming together in response to their identification of significant barriers to services for immigrants and refugees. As it celebrates its 20th year anniversary, Access Alliance has established itself and become recognized as a Centre for Excellence in Community-Based Research on Newcomer Urban Health.

But this did not happen overnight...

In 2000 Access Alliance started re-defining its mandate by undertaking ongoing needs assessments and looking at its role within the sector of immigrant and refugee serving agencies and other community health centres in Toronto. At that time, the Board of Directors directed the organization to prioritize the most disadvantaged immigrants and refugees. Since then Access Alliance has developed indicators of disadvantage to help it define those immigrant and refugee groups who face the most barriers to services. Its current strategic priorities explicitly include providing leadership through advocacy and

research. The organization is committed to increasing knowledge and enabling action for addressing social determinants of health that affect newcomer and racialized groups.

The Research Department of Access Alliance was established in 2004. Over the past 5 years, it has been involved in a large number of projects both as principal investigator and as a collaborating organization. The Research Department strives to be a leader in innovating and promoting CBPR dedicated to empowering newcomers and racialized communities to be active partners in research and to become agents of change for promoting health equity. It conducts research from an anti-oppressive, anti-racist perspective and its projects tend to focus on racialized groups and health access. It also works on increasing the capacity of community organizations, academics and other stakeholders to work collaboratively with community members on CBPR projects.

Learn more about Access Alliance and its Research Department online at:

www.accessalliance.ca

www.researchforchange.ca

Speaker Bios:

Dr Yogendra B. Shakya is the Director of Research at Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services. His research interest includes social determinants of newcomer health, racialized health disparities, neoliberal globalization, and community based research. At Access Alliance, he currently leads several CBPR projects investigating key determinants of health of immigrant and refugee communities (from racialized backgrounds) including research exploring income security, access to healthcare, discrimination, linguistic barriers and mental health. Dr Shakya is also an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Health Promotion program of Dalla Lana School of Public Health at University of Toronto.

Rabea Murtaza is a Research Coordinator at Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services. A feminist, anti-racist and queer-positive community worker and facilitator, she has worked for over ten years in the areas of youth engagement, youth and newcomer employment services, peer counseling, crisis counseling, research and magazine publishing. She studied Physics and Political Science with a minor in Globalization Studies at McMaster University and Social and Political Thought at York University, focusing on situated, relational, praxis-based feminist pedagogies and epistemologies. Rabea is a writer and works to create inclusive, radical, productive and fun spaces for people to learn hands-on skills, interpret, connect and explore new possibilities. At Access Alliance, Rabea coordinates research projects focused on mental health issues. She is also the Training Lead for the agency, and is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of research training activities.