Developing & Sustaining Partnerships for CBPR

APHA Continuing Education Institute
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Learning Objectives

- Discuss & understand key steps in developing and sustaining CBPR partnerships
- Discuss & analyze how these steps and examples apply to their own situations
- Identify common challenges faced by CBPR partnerships & suggested strategies/resources for overcoming them

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Topics

- Definition and key components of CBPR
- Identifying and selecting partners
- Establishing trust through communication and decision-making
- Using evaluation for partnership improvement
- Addressing resource issues
- Resources to support ongoing learning and work
Participant characteristics $n=36$

- **Experience with CBPR:**
  - 17% 1 - beginner/novice
  - 33% 2
  - 39% 3
  - 8% 4
  - 3% 5 – experienced/able to teach others

- **Current involvement with CBPR:**
  - 58% yes, 42% no
Participant characteristics  n=36

- Predominant work setting:
  - 61% urban
  - 28% rural
  - 11% suburban
Getting grounded in CBPR

- What CBPR is
- What CBPR is not
What is Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)?

“A collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings”.

--W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2001)
What is Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)?

“A partnership approach to research that equitably involves, for example, community members, organizational representatives, and researchers in all aspects of the research process; with all partners contributing their expertise and sharing responsibility and ownership to enhance understanding of a given phenomenon, and to integrate the knowledge gained with interventions to improve the health and well being of community members.”

Rationale for CBPR

- recognition that “traditional” research approaches have failed to solve complex health disparities

- Community members are increasingly demanding that research address their locally identified needs
Rationale for CBPR (cont.)

- Significant community involvement can lead to scientifically sound research
- Research findings can be applied directly to develop interventions specific for communities
- This approach generates greater trust between communities and researchers

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Principles of CBPR

- Recognizes community as a unit of identity
- Builds on strengths/resources within community
- Facilitates collaborative partnerships in all phases of the research
- Promotes a co-learning & empowering process that attends to social inequalities
- Involves a cyclical & iterative process
- Addresses health from multiple perspectives
- Disseminates findings & knowledge to all partners
Common problems experienced by communities in research:

- Irrelevance to the community
- Poor methodology (waste of resources)
- Research is not given back
- Communities feel over researched
- Communities feel coerced
- Communities feel researched upon rather than partners in the process
- Communities are lied to
- Insensitivity to community concerns or issues
- Benefits to community are minimal
Ethical issues to consider in CBPR

- Are we raising expectations?
- Who is the research for?
- Who benefits from the research?
- What are the risks for communities?
- Be clear about who will benefit and how
- "Power relationships" among researcher partners and communities of interest
- Is self-interest and opportunism driving the agenda?
- Does your research team have the skills (e.g., cultural competence, listening, sharing power)
Examining Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research

Goal: To build the capacity of communities and institutions* to engage in participatory approaches to prevention research

* colleges, universities, health departments

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Project Partners

- APHA Caucus on Community-Based Public Health
- CDC Prevention Research Centers - Michigan, New York, Yale-Griffin
- CDC Prevention Research Centers National Community Committee
- CDC Urban Research Centers - Seattle, Detroit, New York
- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
- Community Health Scholars Program
Project Goals in Year 1

- Identify and synthesize lessons learned
- Identify key factors that can facilitate and impede successful community-institutional relationships and outcomes
- Develop recommendations to foster community and institutional capacity for participatory approaches to prevention research at national and local levels
Project findings from year 1

- Trusting relationships
- Equitable processes and procedures
- Diverse partners
- Leadership
- All partners benefit
- Supportive reward structures
- Science enhanced by community involvement
- Balancing process and action
- Ongoing partner development
- Sustainable impact
- Collaborative dissemination
- Ongoing assessment, improvement and celebration
Project Goal in Years 2 & 3

- Implement and evaluate one or more strategies to foster community and institutional capacity for participatory approaches to prevention research at national and local levels
Priority Issues in Years 2 & 3

- Policies that support partnership planning & infrastructure
  - Objective: Facilitate ability of funding agencies to support partnership infrastructure and assess evidence of authentic partnerships in proposals
  - Work with funding agencies to develop reviewer guidelines & training, sample RFP language, etc.
  - Met with Federal Interagency Working Group on CBPR
  - Recommended peer reviewers for federal CBPR funding announcements
Priority Issues in Years 2 & 3

- Building and sustaining community-institutional partnerships for prevention research
  - Objective: Develop and test an evidence-based training curriculum for emerging and established partnerships
  - Develop curriculum modules that can be used in a variety of formats and settings
  - Offer workshops and institutes
  - Disseminate in binder and CD-ROM formats
Outline of Training Curriculum

- **Unit 1:** What is CBPR and why should we do it?
- **Unit 2:** Developing a CBPR partnership: Getting started
- **Unit 3:** Getting the work done
- **Unit 4:** Sustaining a CBPR partnership
Small Group Topics

- #1 Identifying and selecting partners
  Kari and Yvonne

- #2 Establishing trust through communication and decision-making
  Maurice and Martin

- #3 Using evaluation for partnership improvement
  Robert and Sarah

- #4 Addressing resource issues
  Princess and Sarena
CBPR Listserv

- Join a growing online community of over 2,200 people who are passionate about CBPR!
- Subscribe at www.ccph.info