

Community Partner Workgroup Orientation Conference Call
December 11, 2007

Call Moderators

Susan Gust, GrassROUTES, MN
Ann-Gel Palermo, Harlem Community & Academic Partnership (HCAP), NY
Kristine Wong, Program Director, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, WA

Call Participants

Josefina Alvarez, Northwestern University , IL
Rodna McClinton-Brown, Community Health, Stanford University, CA
Angelina Cahalan, St. Anthony Foundation, CA
Martha Anne Carey, Azusa Pacific University, CA
Sally Fawcette Carter, Faith, Hope & Charity, Inc., PA
Heather Deegan, Center for Health Promotion Studies, Alberta, Canada
Kelly Goonin, North Carolina A&T State University, NC
Chris Heaney, Community-Academic Liaison, University North Carolina, NC
Mitasha Hardavan, New York University, NY
Beverly Robertson Jackson, Georgetown Medical School
Denise Keller, Princeton University, NJ
Zeida Kon, Texas Public Health Training Center, University of Texas, TX
Jim Maloney, Community Leadership Center, University of Georgia, GA
Ilda Montoya, Mount Auburn Hospital, MA
Lisa Moy, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, WA
Starla Officer, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, IN
Alice Park, Seattle Indian Health Board, WA
William Powers, Midwest Consortium for Service Learning & Higher Education, NE
Cheryl Prelow, Texas Health Resources, TX
Delphi Reese, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC
Christine Thompson, Search Canada, Alberta, Canada
Molly White, University of Michigan Medical School, MI
Makayla Zulugalespie, Community-Academic Liaison, University of Michigan, MI

Meeting Highlights

Introduction

- Ann-Gel provided a brief overview on the history and vision of the Community Partner Workgroups.
 - With guidance from a planning committee of community leaders, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) convened a Community Partner Summit (CPS) in April 2006. A diverse group of 23 experienced community leaders engaged in a dialogue that emphasized lessons learned and generated recommendations and action steps.
 - Many of the actionable recommendations from the CPS centered on the idea that community partners involved in community-higher education partnerships need to have greater opportunities for growing and sustaining connections with other community partners. The purposes of these

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connections would be to increase capacity, offer deeper support in this important yet challenging work, and support partnerships in their effort to truly prioritize systemic, social change.

- Ann-Gel highlighted the 2 active workgroups' activities.
 - Mentoring: Submitted a proposal to develop a online mentoring network and toolkit
 - Policy: This workgroup works to incorporate the insight of community partners into initiatives will support the development of community-based research. Currently National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Human Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) are trying to determine the best way to engage the community. The policy workgroup responded to NIH's request for public input on their peer review process, as well as and NIH's National Center for Research Resources' Strategic Plan (NCCR; http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/strategic_plan/). Also several policy workgroup members serve on the public advisory committee which reports to the NIH director.
- Susan discussed how the creation of a mentoring network is important to prevent the feeling of isolation/disempowerment among community partners, as well as to motivate social change. The mentoring workgroup seeks advance the work of colleague's work and avoid "reinventing the wheel."
- She highlighted that community partners are invested in projects for reasons other than funding, they are motivated by the desire for social change. And in many CBPR scenarios the power imbalance will always be an issue.
- Susan cited CCPH as a key player in advancing CBPR concepts and principles. She articulated that CCPH provides consistent structure and support to advance the cause of CBPR.
- Kristine articulated that CCPH supports all types of partnerships, including service-learning and broad-based coalition building, in addition to community-based participatory research partnerships. CCPH's role is to support the efforts of the Community Partner Workgroups, while leadership and direction are determined by the members. With the consent of the workgroup members, CCPH has handled the logistics of conference calls and facilitates the workgroups' efforts. She highlighted CCPH's website located at www.ccpb.info . The next workgroup meetings will be announced on the community partner listserv. She mentioned that the Executive Summary of the Community Partner Summit Report is available on the CCPH website (http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/pdf_files/FINALCPS_Executive_Summary.pdf). The full report will be released soon. A poster was developed during the summit to highlight the community partner perspective. Copies of the poster can be obtained from CCPH (email kristine@u.washington.edu) for use as a discussion tool.

Question/Answer

- Starla Officer mentioned that grants are available through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Community Outreach Partnerships (COPC). She asked if there had much communication or interaction with them. Kristine said that Mr. Ed Lucas in Chicago has been an active participant. She said that Karen White would be

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a good contact. Additional information is available on the Office of University Partnership website at www.oup.org.

- Chris brought up the issue that many community organizations may not have internet capacity and therefore would not be able to readily access the materials which are being distributed online. He also asked about grants to increase the capacity of community organizations. Susan reaffirmed Chris' point and highlighted the importance of face-to-face mentoring. Ann-Gel said that the hope was to replicate the partner summit on a regional and local level to create face-to-face relationships. Chris commented that he would like to be involved in developing a local summit in his region.
- Rodna explained that she is new to her position at Stanford University and that she has a community background. She is struggling with how to initiate a paradigm change within Stanford University, which would be more open to CBPR. Ann-Gel said that Rodna holds a pivotal role in inciting change. Many federal organizations are requiring CBPR and Rodna can cite this trend. Susan agreed that many governmental organizations want true CBPR and not just lip-service. She suggested developing a faculty learning circle to congregate like-minded individuals and build momentum within the academic community of Stanford.
- Ilda explained that she has found that communities do not understand what "research is." She asked if there were training materials and if any had any experience in educating the community. Ann-Gel said that HCAP hosts a seminar series led by members of a partnership (including the principle investigator) on different aspects of research. She said that training is also done informally by partnering up an experienced community member with a new community member. Kristine cited that research on communities of color and vulnerable populations will not translate unless the community is actively involved in the research. She cited the policy workgroups' testimony (found at http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/pdf_files/CPS_policy_response_NCRR_Strategic%20Plan.pdf) for the NCRR Strategic Plan (http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/strategic_plan/). Kristine mentioned that CCPH is collecting community partner case stories on the CCPH website and encouraged groups to send their stories.
- Martha mentioned that she is a former federal grants officer and she felt that many community people did not understand the breadth of the programs already being offered by the government.
- Kristine reiterated that the Community Partner Workgroups and Listserv were targeted for community partners and community-academic liaisons only, so as to provide a much-needed space for these groups to support each other in their work, as well as share strategies and resources. The workgroups are considering having a "topic of the month" during the workgroup conference call—taking 15 minutes during the call to explore a specific topic. She encouraged everyone on the line to invite their community partners to participate in the next workgroup orientation meeting, and join the Community Partner listserv. Minutes from this call and future workgroup conference calls will be posted on the listserv.