

## Examining Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research

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On Behalf of the Examining Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research Group  
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### Project Description

This 2-year project began in fall 2002 with funding from the **Prevention Research Center Program Office** through a cooperative agreement between the **Association of Schools of Public Health** and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**.

The project aims to identify and synthesize what is known about community-academic collaborations in prevention research and develop and evaluate strategies to foster community and institutional capacity for **participatory research** at national and local levels. The project's ultimate goal is to facilitate approaches for effectively translating community interventions in public health and prevention into widespread practice at the community level.

### Project Partners

- CDC Prevention Research Centers  
National Community Committee  
*Project Representatives:* Ella Greene-Moton and Yvonne Lewis, Co-Chairs
- Community-Based Public Health Caucus  
of the American Public Health  
Association  
*Project Representatives:* Renee Bayer  
and Adele Amodeo
- Community-Campus Partnerships for  
Health (project coordinator)  
*Project Representatives:* Sarena Seifer,  
Jen Kauper-Brown and Annika Robbins
- Community Health Scholars Program  
*Project Representatives:* Diane Calleson  
and Renee Bayer
- Detroit Community-Academic Urban  
Research Center  
*Project Representatives:* Barbara Israel  
and Robert McGranaghan
- Harlem Health Promotion Center  
*Project Representatives:* Richard Mack,  
Jr.
- New York Urban Research Center  
*Project Representatives:* Sarah Sisco and  
Sandro Galea
- Seattle Partners for Healthy Communities  
*Project Representatives:* Kirsten  
Senturia, Alison Eisinger, and Gary Tang
- Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center  
*Project Representatives:* Kari Hartwig  
and Margot Zaharek

### Project Outcomes and Components

During the first year of the project (2002-2003), the Project Partners collaborated to examine and synthesize existing data they already had available on community partnerships for prevention research. The first year's activities yielded a report that,

- defines "successful community-institutional collaborations in prevention research";
- identifies factors that can facilitate and impede these successful relationships and outcomes; and

- presents recommendations and strategies that can build the capacity of communities, institutions and funding agencies to engage in successful community-institutional partnerships for prevention research.

## **Major Findings**

### Characteristics of Successful Partnerships

- Trusting relationships
- Equitable processes and procedures
- Diverse membership
- Tangible benefits to all partners
- Balance between partnership process, activities and outcomes
- Significant community involvement in scientifically sound research
- Supportive partner organization policies and reward structures
- Leadership
- Culturally competent and appropriately skilled staff and researchers
- Collaborative dissemination
- Ongoing partnership assessment, improvement and celebration
- Sustainable impact

### Barriers to Successful Partnerships

- When characteristics above are absent
- Funding mechanisms, policies and procedures
  - Limited funding sources
  - Funding agency requirements, definitions, timelines and reviews
  - Lack of funding and funding mechanisms that specifically support community as research partner

### Recommendations – The complete report from Year 1 outlines:

- Partnership-focused recommendations
  - At the level of the partnership (these are highlighted below)
  - At the collective level across partnerships
- Institution-focused recommendations
- Community-focused recommendations
  - At the level of the community partner
  - At the collective level across partners
- Funding agency-focused recommendations

### Recommendations at the level of the partnership

- Pay close attention to membership issues
- Develop structures and processes that help develop trust and sharing of influence and control among partners
- Provide training and technical assistance to partners
- Plan ahead for sustainability
- Pay close attention to the balance of activities within the partnership
- Be strategic about dissemination
- Invest in ongoing assessment, improvement and celebration

## **Year 2 Strategies**

During the second year of the project (2003-2004), the project partners have created two working groups which are designing and implementing two specific strategies for building community and institutional capacity for participatory approaches to prevention research:

- Policy Working Group to implement policy recommendations by developing collaborative relationships with funding agencies work with funding agencies to support partnership infrastructure and assess partnerships in proposals
- Training Working Group to develop and test two curriculum training modules (one for partnerships on developing and sustaining CBPR partnerships, and one for funding agencies and peer-reviewers on reviewing CBPR proposals).

### **Training Working Group DRAFT Outline for Curriculum Module 1**

#### **Unit 1: What is CBPR and why should we do it?**

- Definition
- Key principles
- Rationale
- When is CBPR not for you?

#### **Unit 2: Developing a CBPR partnership: Getting started**

- Identifying and selecting partners
- Process for getting to know partners and establishing trust
- Addressing expectations/responsibilities/accountability/partnership roles
- Developing mission statement and CBPR principles
- Process for decision-making and communication
- Process for setting priorities
- Establishing organizational structure/infrastructure

#### **Unit 3: Getting the work done**

- Process for resource allocation
- Understanding partnership lifecycles
- Revisiting expectations/responsibilities/accountability/partnership roles
- Addressing fiscal concerns and management of staffing
- Addressing issues of ownership and dissemination

#### **Unit 4: How to sustain a CBPR partnership**

- Process for establishing ongoing evaluation
- Weathering the change process
  - Conflict resolution
- Appreciation and celebration
- Timeline: How to negotiate short-term vs. long-term work

**To view project reports, presentations and other products, visit our website at:**  
<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/researchprojects.html#ExaminingCommunityPartnerships> **or contact principal investigator Sarena D. Seifer at [sarena@u.washington.edu](mailto:sarena@u.washington.edu) or 206-616-4305.**

## **Discussion questions**

### **For Renee and Yvonne, only**

1. What does the group think about what we presented? Does it make sense? Any general questions about the project
2. How valuable do they see these training modules to be? Would they attend?
3. Are there partnership issues they're having that don't seem to be covered in the training outline?
4. Are they familiar with any materials, readings, case studies, exercises, videos, that might be useful for this curriculum that we can review?