

Examining Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research

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
- Wellesley Central Health Corporation:
Project Representative: Robb Travers
- 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 and working with funding agencies work to support partnership infrastructure and assess partnerships in proposals
- Training Working Group to develop and test a curriculum training module for partnerships on developing and sustaining CBPR partnerships.

To view project reports, presentations and other products, visit our website at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/researchprojects.html#ExaminingCommunityPartnerships> or contact principal investigator Sarena D. Seifer at sarena@u.washington.edu or 206-616-4305.