

# Examining Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research

## Project Fact Sheet ~ November 2004

### Project Description

This 3-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-institutional 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
- 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
- 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 Representatives:* 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 Activities**

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

- Policy Working Group worked 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 developed and tested a curriculum training module for partnerships on developing and sustaining community-based participatory research partnerships.

### **Year 3 Strategies**

In the third year of the project (2004-2005), the project partners are working to disseminate and promote the project's Training Curriculum for Developing and Sustaining Community-Based Participatory Research Partnerships, and to continue promoting and disseminating project findings, recommendations and products. Activities include delivering the curriculum in multiple formats including a training institute for partnership teams, a series of teleconferences and a workbook with an accompanying CD-ROM.

**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](mailto:sarena@u.washington.edu) or 206-616-4305.