F1.2: Partnership Readiness for Community Based Participatory Research

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Abstract: Academic and community partners increasingly recognize the importance of participatory approaches to address the complex health disparities impacting marginalized communities. The use of community based participatory research (CBPR) to address these challenges is dependent on partnerships with diverse academic and community institutions. Our experiences demonstrate that a key factor in developing sustainable CBPR products is the partnership "readiness" to conduct CBPR. The use of a dyadic lens to assess each partner and the partnership dyad's readiness to conduct CBPR has not been systematically investigated. The purpose of this study was to address the following research question: What are the dimensions and key indicators necessary for readiness to engage in CBPR from both the partner and partnership dyad perspectives?

Method(s): Our study used qualitative methods guided by an 8-member advisory board. Academic and community investigators conducted six key informant interviews and four focus groups with academic and community partners. All sessions were digitally recorded and transcribed verbatim. For the initial analyses, matrices were developed from pre-identified domains of readiness (i.e., Community Readiness Model). Codes were entered and assigned to each matrix. Further analyses ensued with an in-depth analysis of transcripts, involving development of hypotheses and expanded coding schemes. Major concepts were identified, categorized, and synthesized from the analyses.

Results: Preliminary results reveal readiness to conduct CBPR involve the following dimensions: 1) engaged leadership (individual, organizational, and dyadic); 2) climate (mutual trust, collaborative, shared values and decision making) 3) relevant knowledge (contextual, experiential, constructed); and 4) resource provision (time, money, people, and skills). Final analyses will be completed by Fall 2009.

Discussion & Conclusions: This study addresses a major scientific gap in our lack of understanding of CBPR readiness from both the partner and partnership dyad perspectives. The final results will inform a new tool development (Partnership Readiness for CBPR), training mechanisms to enhance readiness among CBPR partners, and further research that enhances CBPR processes and products.

Abstract History: This abstract has been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting. A poster was presented in 2008 of the overall research methods and plan- no results were disseminated.
Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

FDA Disclosure:
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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