

Community Leaders' Guidance for Researchers on Building and Maintaining Relationships for Successful Community Engaged Research Projects

Presenters/Community Faces of Utah Collaborative

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Thematic Area Methods of Engaging Underrepresented and Underserved Populations in Research

Abstract

The *Principles of Community Engagement* (CDC, 2011) provides guidelines for community-researcher collaborations. However, the practical, detailed descriptions of how these principles can be enacted are often not included in publications, particularly from a community point of view. To address this gap, members of the Community Faces of Utah (CFU) will share their insights and lead discussions on how researchers and community members can build relationships that lead to successful, collaborative research projects. Formed in 2009, CFU is a community-university-health department transcultural collaborative located in Salt Lake City, UT. Members include the leaders of five communities that face health disparities—the Best of Africa (African), Calvary Baptist Church (African American), the Hispanic Health Care Task Force (Hispanic/Latino), the National Tongan American Society (Pacific Islander), and the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake (American Indian/Alaskan Native) community organizations—as well as the Collaboration and Engagement Team of the Utah Center for Clinical and Translational Science, and a representative from the Utah Department of Health. In this session, CFU members will first share who they are and how they work together as an egalitarian group to achieve congruence when making decisions while recognizing each other's way of life and accepting these differences with respect and appreciation, and honoring and valuing the expertise and viewpoint each person brings to the group. Participants will then rotate among five tables where CFU members will discuss "how to" approaches for each of the following critical stages in the collaboration process: (a) Identifying key community leaders, (b) approaching community leaders, (c) preparing for and facilitating partnership meetings, (d) conducting community engaged research projects, and (e) maintaining interest and commitment. CFU members will share practical information related to the topic, impart lessons learned about developing successful collaborative working relationships, facilitate a discussion on that stage of collaboration, and provide a handout with key principles.

Learning Objectives

- 1) Identifying key community leaders
- 2) Approaching community leaders
- 3) Preparing for and facilitating partnership meetings
- 4) Conducting community engaged research projects
- 5) Maintaining interest, commitment and sustainability

Session Schedule

- 1) 15 minutes
 - CFU introduction – who we are and how we work together
- 2) 75 minutes (Five rotations, 15 minutes each)
 - The participants will be divided into 5 groups; each group will rotate among 5 tables
 - Each table will address one of these topics:
 - Identifying key community leaders
 - Approaching community leaders
 - Preparing for and facilitating partnership meetings
 - Conducting community engaged research projects
 - Maintaining interest, commitment and sustainability
 - Table conversations: A CFU member will share practical information related to the topic; impart lessons learned on how to encourage a healthy balance of interest, tolerance and self-achievement, making it possible for group members to interact equally and fairly; respond to questions; and facilitate a discussion on the topic, during which attendees can share their experiences of what has worked well or challenges they have faced.

Relevance of this Session to Community Engaged Research

Community leaders are essential collaborators in community engaged research projects. Our perspectives will provide guidance for researchers on how they can most effectively build relationships and collaborate with communities on research projects.