Evaluating the Impact of Stakeholder-Academic Resource Panels

Robles-Schrader G, Serrato J, Fagen M

Northwestern University launched a new program called Stakeholder-Academic Resource Panels (ShARPs) in 2015, modeled after programs at Meharry-Vanderbilt and the University of North Carolina. These custom panels bring together 8-10 community stakeholders with familiarity with a research topic or community of focus, to offer feedback on cultural adaptations that can improve research relevance and feasibility. Researchers have a 2.5 hour session with stakeholders to review their project and request constructive feedback on a specific set of questions. At the end of the session researchers discuss opportunities for stakeholders to continue their involvement with the study, if so desired.

This poster will focus on ShARP evaluation activities aimed at measuring the sessions' effectiveness for multiple stakeholders at multiple time points. Researchers and community stakeholders assess the functioning of each session at its end. We then follow-up with researchers approximately 12 months after the session to assess longer term outcomes and change resultant from the ShARPs. Examples of intended immediate post-session changes include greater comfort level of researchers with community-engaged research, relevant community input on the study itself, and community-oriented changes to the research design. Longer term intended outcomes include culturally responsive adaptations that increase the relevance and feasibility of studies, new community members that understand and are engaged in research, and new partnerships between researchers and community stakeholders.

Our goal is to assess whether ShARPs provide increased opportunities for community input in research, and determine if they facilitate the development of new partnerships over time, thereby increasing community engagement in research.