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Connecting Community to Research: A Training Program to Increase Community Partnerships in Research

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Presenter Information
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Keywords
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Connecting Community to Research: A Training Program to Increase Community Partnerships in Research

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Background
- Community Engaged Research (CEnR) emphasizes the need for community members to partner with researchers in order to address health disparities.
- We created the Connecting Community to Research (CCR) training program to provide opportunities for community members who reflect our diverse population to learn more about partnering in CEnR.

Purpose
- To increase the number and diversity of community members who are informed about, ready and willing to engage in the research process.

Training Development
- From July to December 2015, we partnered with a 12-member Advisory Board of community engagement professionals to design a training to introduce community members to CEnR.
- The CCR training was adapted from existing Tufts University CTSI curriculum, Harvard Catalyst curriculum, and a CDC storytelling template.
- Loco-regional projects were identified and presented to trainees as opportunities to engage with researchers after trainings.

Training Program
- Original Goals:
  • 6 trainings over 9 months
  • Various community settings
  • At least 60 community members trained
- Training sessions:
  • 1-2 hours
  • Didactic and interactive components
  • Group size from 3-65 trainees
  • Designed for trainees with little to no prior knowledge of research

Lessons Learned
- Training curriculum must be flexible to adapt to:
  • the size and research experience of group
  • accessibility to technology
  • time constraints
  • Ample time should be devoted to Storytelling to allow participants to both work through and share their stories.
  • A quarterly newsletter functioned as an important way to keep all trainees informed of current opportunities to partner with researchers.
  • A one-time training does not cultivate lasting partnerships between community members and researchers which takes time to establish.

Conclusion
- This introductory level awareness training generated positive results.
- The results demonstrate that additional trainings, with varying levels of skill development, may be needed to further empower community members to engage as partners in research.

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Tufts University CTSI
Harvard Catalyst CTSI
UMass CCTS

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Boston University CTSI Community Engagement
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TRAINING

Activity | Objective
---|---
Advocate vs. Researcher | Explain the roles of advocates and researchers Understand how research can be used to address a community need
What is Research and Why Do We Do It? | Overview of the Scientific Method and Community Engaged Research
Storytelling | Convey how storytelling can effectively influence research
Opportunities | Provide regional opportunities to participate as a research advocate

Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race of Participants</th>
<th># of trainees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th># of trainees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>18-39</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>40-59</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-90</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluations
- 94% understood how research could address a community concern
- 82% understood how to use their stories to inform research
- 53% intended to participate as an advocate in research

Outcomes
- 2 trainees joined Institutional Review Board
- 2 became advisors on Patient Advisory Groups
- 2 became proposal reviewers
- 39 trainees signed up to receive quarterly newsletter