Mar 3rd, 8:00 AM

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

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*Et al.*

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Community Engaged Method

A Training Program to Increase Community Engagement

Original Goals:
- 6 trainees signed up to receive quarterly training
- 82% understood how to use their stories to inform research
- 6 trainees joined Institutional Review Board
d- 2 became proposal reviewers
- 39 trainees signed up to receive quarterly newsletter

This introductory level awareness training functioned as an important way to keep all trainees informed of current opportunities to partner with researchers.

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.

Acknowledgments
Our 12-member Advisory Board
- Boston University CTSI
- Tufts University CTSI
- Harvard Catalyst CTSI
- UMass CCTS

Funding
- Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Eugene Washington Engagement Award contract# 1195-BMC
- Boston University CTSI Community Engagement
- NIH/NCATS 1UL1TR001430

Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Race of Participants

Outcomes

- 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

N=100 with 7 trainings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocate vs. Researcher</td>
<td>Explain the roles of advocates and researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is Research and Why Do We Do It?</td>
<td>Understand how research can be used to address a community need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>Convey how storytelling can effectively influence research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities</td>
<td>Provide regional opportunities to participate as a research advocate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Age Range of Participants by Gender (N=82)

- Men: 18-39: 12, 40-59: 2, 60-90: 9

Evaluation

- 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

Opportunities

- 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

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.
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