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Developing a Strategic Plan for Community Based Research in Springfield

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Learning from Project ACCCES



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Baystate
Health



University of
Massachusetts
UMASS Medical School

Project ACCCES

A Collaboration to Develop Capacity to Conduct
Community Engaged Research in Springfield

- Co-led by PHIWM and UMMS-Baystate IHDPS
- Leadership Team
 - IHDPS
 - PHIWM
 - Springfield HHS
 - Patient representative
- Multi-Sector Advisory Board



Funded through the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Key Learning: Language is Important

- What do “Community” and “Research” mean?
- For today:
 - Community means people who live, work and play in a geographic location
 - Research means a systematic investigation aimed at producing generalizable knowledge



Spectrum of Engagement

Traditional
Research

CBPR

Increasing Levels of Engagement



Project ACCCES - Creating our Partnerships

Dimensions of Success



Project ACCCES

Learning from Key Stakeholders

I wonder if this is
the last we'll see of
this researcher...
again.



This study will
be so helpful for
this community



Feeling Used

“My research experience has been positive and negative... many times research is done with community members and the information is used to inform the research, but the community does not see the value of the research... some of the individuals [researchers]... are really wonderful persons who do great research, but it troubles me when the community is used for the data and then nothing happens...”

- Community Organization Leader



Changing the Focus: Strengths and Opportunities vs. Deficits

“...there was... a... project... at XX Health Center... community members... could highlight... the challenges in the community or... the resources... When I look at this list, it doesn't really talk about... the positives... and that's an equally important part of the discussion...”

- Healthcare Provider



Project ACCCES

Creating the Partnership Structure

- Create clear structures for working together – Leadership Team, Advisory Group, Research Action Groups
 - Goals
 - Operating principles
- Meeting structure is critical!
 - Structures to ensure voice, power, mutually beneficial use of time
- Ongoing evaluation – plus/delta, evaluations



Project ACCCES

What has Been Achieved?

- 3 Research Action Groups
 - Maternal Child Health, Youth Mental Health and Substance Use
 - Grants: At least 4 grants received by partnerships and foundation developed through Project ACCCES
- Shared language, understanding and relationships
- Increased knowledge of important elements for creating successful partnerships
 - E.g. communication, process, structure

Sustainability has been a challenge – infrastructure critical to sustaining

