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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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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

Increasing Levels of Engagement

CBPR

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower Driven / Led

Provide information

Obtain community perspectives

Work with community ensure concerns & aspirations considered

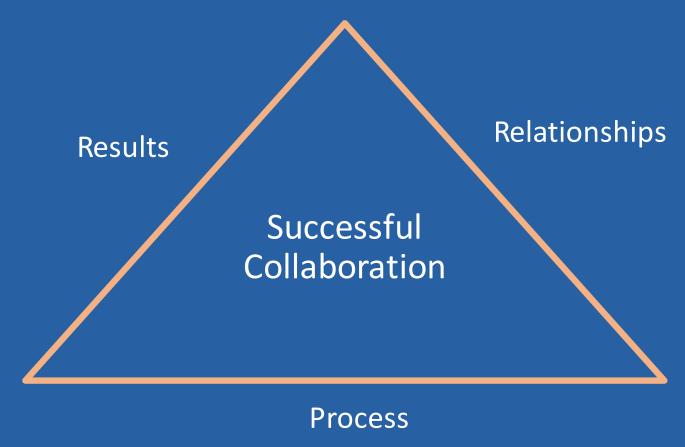
Partner with community

Decisionmaking in community hands Support community led projects

^{*}Adapted from International Association for Public Participation, 2014

Project ACCCES - Creating our Partnerships





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



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



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