Writing a Successful Community-based Participatory Research Proposal

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Objectives

• Identify key components of CBPR

• Describe steps in developing a CBPR proposal

• Suggest solutions to challenges
What is CBPR?

“A collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community with the aim of combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and eliminate health disparities.”

Writing a Collaborative Proposal

• Develop the idea together
• Identify the most appropriate RFP or funding source to respond to
• Write a preliminary outline of your ideas
• Identify who will be PI, multiple PIs, Co-I, and who will submit the proposal
Writing a Collaborative Proposal

• Determine the writing process (written by multiple individuals, written by a few, reviewed by all, reviewed by a few, etc.)

• Identify your timeline and review process for the partnership (who or what does the proposal need to go through before being submitted)

• Work out the budget

• Finalize the proposal
Example – CBPR Team

• Partners:
  • Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV)
  • Kalihi Palama Health Center (KPHC)
  • University of Hawaii School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene (UHSONDH)
  • Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC)
  • Waikiki Health Center (WHC)

• The Idea

• Meetings to Discuss:
  • Which “cultural” group?
  • Who, what, when, and where?
  • Do we have the resources?
Which “cultural” group?

- CHCs as “community”
- Group with the largest sample vs. group consuming the most resources.
- Each CHC chose the group to work with:
  - Chuukese (KKV)
  - Native Hawaiian (WCCHC)
  - Filipino (Ilocano) (KPHC)
  - Women who work in the sex industry (WHC)
Who, What, When, Where

- Who will be involved in the project, who will recruit, who will do the interviews?

- How many people will need to be at the interview?

- What will the interview consist of? Are we doing group or individual interviews?

- When would we do this, what will be the sequence of events? Will the interviews run concurrently or sequentially?

- Where will the interviews take place?
Do we have the resources?

- **Interpreters:** 2 groups require interpreters and translation; in-house or outsource?
- **Staffing:** Will existing staff be involved in recruitment or conducting interviews?
- **Space:** Do we have a space to conduct the interviews?
- **Time:** How much time was this project going to take (away from existing duties).
- **Expertise:** Understanding IPV, conducting individual interviews and focus groups, research process.
The Writing Process

- Each CHC provided the information for the description of the sites.
- The sample, setting, design evolved out of our discussions.
- All partners were invited to contribute to any section of the proposal.
- The UHSON took the lead on the proposal.
- Guiding questions for the interviews were a challenge.
Challenges & Solutions – Partnership Related

- Stability of the research team
  - Developing trust on the research team

- Finding a common time to meet
  - Much was done over email
  - Met at as central a site as possible
  - Agenda was developed and sent out ahead of time for input
  - Team members provided input to the best day/time to meet

Challenges & Solutions - Methodology

• Limited application of study
  • Tailored study to the needs, priorities of the partnership. (Ex: variables of geography, length of residency, and ethnicity)
  • Ethnic groups that consume the most resources or present a high incidence of IPV

• Human subjects training
  • UH provided training to CHC staff and other health centers.
Challenges & Solutions – Broader Issues

• Difference in mission between UH & CHCs
  • Mission statement was developed:
    To move community needs and concerns forward with participation, action, and research through a trusting and respectful long-term commitment between the University of Hawaii School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene and the community health center partners of Kalihi Palama Health Center, Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and Waikiki Health Center.
Challenges & Solutions – Broader Issues

- Maintaining the momentum
  - Manuscripts, pilot funding, revisions to proposal
- Inflexible institutional rules to promote equity and share power
  - Advocate for developing capacity/rules consistent with CBPR
Challenges & Solutions – Broader Issues

• Interpretation & translation
  • Consulted with other researchers to reduce cost and identify reliable processes and people.

• Mandates from current funding sources to implement procedures not yet developed for specific populations.
  • Research project provides an opportunity to identify appropriate services
References

