

Community-Based Participatory Research Technical Assistance Workshop: Leap into the Community

February 29, 2008

Closing Remarks by Dana M. Sampson, NIH/OBSSR:

Today's *Leap into the Community* technical assistance workshop offered a wealth of information for those seeking to effect patient care, outcomes, and sustainable health behavior change in the community through CBPR. This research is rapidly becoming an important approach throughout academic and community research organizations. It is an essential tool for action-oriented and community-driven public health research.

While CBPR is an essential tool, it is also underutilized. The primary barrier to full implementation is the general lack of knowledge on CBPR, its purpose, methods, and outcomes. Additionally, as discussed today, supporters of this research face challenging issues in the areas of funding, time requirements, and partnership capacity and readiness. Specifically, critical barriers include:

- Poor community incentives and capacity to conduct CBPR;
- Lack of academic incentives and the need to develop capacity for researchers and community-based organizations to partner in CBPR projects; and
- Inadequate funding.

By considering the information afforded during this workshop, you will be able to strategically address these barriers and effectively employ community-based participatory research. Doing so will enable you to enjoy the following benefits:

- Investigators and community members will jointly hone in on the most significant health behavior change to be addressed
- Unique research projects and group relationships are formed
- Mutual appreciation between science and community ensues; and
- Researchers and community members alike find benefit from outcomes.

Note that the information presented throughout the day is accessible on the CBPR Scientific Interest Group website, where it will remain for future reference. Similarly, the webcast and podcast are being archived and therefore, will be available for viewing after the event concludes. The archived webcast will appear on the same URL as the live event, but under "Past Events", and then under "Conferences". The archived podcast will take approximately one week to appear on the same URL,

under "Podcasts". The archived recordings are free of charge and will not expire, so feel free to take full advantage of them.

Remember, your NIH Program Officials are here to aid in the funding announcement process. However, please be certain to maximize the efficiency of your communication with us. Prior to contacting us, you should read the **complete** announcement (not just the summary) and then clearly develop your thoughts and inquiries for submission to the appropriate Program Officer. This is very important as it makes the best use of everyone's limited time.

Additionally, please be patient and maintain reasonable expectations. I cannot stress this enough. Understand that we will respond to your requests as time permits, however, rapid turnaround times are not always possible. Bear in mind that you will never be the only person interested in any given NIH funding opportunity announcement. Further, we will never have a single announcement to which we are assigned. Our jobs are multi-faceted and consist of multiple projects. Therefore, we will do our very best to respond in a timely manner, and we usually do. But actually expecting same-day responses, for example, is not reasonable. While some of us may be able to provide same-day or next-day service in certain instances, that should not be expected as it is not feasible most of the time for most of the program officials.

Ultimately, interested parties should a) read the full announcement in its entirety and formulate your questions before contacting us, and b) exercise patience and maintain reasonable expectations when requesting our response. The latter will prepare you for successfully partnering.

You are now prepared to take advantage of the growing interest in community-based participatory research. There is increased interest in research that aims to improve the health of disadvantaged populations including low-income, minority, and rural. While conventional research has often proved unsuccessful in these populations, CBPR offers numerous opportunities to improve the health and well-being of these communities. Hence, you are encouraged to act on the information learned today. Make this Leap Year your year to engage in CBPR. We are looking forward to your applications to the current CBPR funding announcements as well as those issued in the future.

That concludes today's event.

Thank you to the live and virtual audiences for participating in this technical assistance workshop, and a special thanks goes to all of today's presenters from across the country and from across the campus. Some of you traveled great distances to be here and it is appreciated. I am confident everyone will leave having learned something. Best of luck to all in your efforts to become CBPR practitioners and federally funded grantees! Thank you.