

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

February 29, 2008

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

Good Morning, Everyone! Today is February 29th - a special day, for a special event. To both our live audience and virtual participants, welcome. Thank you for joining us for *Leap into the Community*, a technical assistance workshop on community-based participatory research, also known as CBPR.

CBPR is an applied approach that enables community residents to more actively participate in the full spectrum of research with a goal of influencing change in community health, systems, programs or policies. 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. Researchers partner with the community to develop models and approaches to building communication, trust, and capacity, with the final goal of increasing community participation in the research process. This collaborative approach to research equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings.

So why focus on CBPR? And why now? Community-based participatory research is increasingly recognized as a vital missing link needed to bridge the gap in the U.S. health care system between biomedical research, everyday medical care, and improved health outcomes.

The advantages of CBPR are plentiful: most notably joining partners with diverse expertise to address complex public health problems; improving intervention design and implementation by facilitating participant recruitment and retention; and lastly, it possesses the potential to translate research findings to guide the development of further interventions and policy change. Ultimately, it benefits the researchers and community alike through the knowledge gained and actions taken.

CBPR is relatively new at NIH. The Institutes and Centers are progressively supportive of community-based participatory research releasing more than 25 CBPR-related funding announcements during 2000 and 2008 with the support of 15 of the 27 Institutes and Centers. Other Federal HHS agencies have demonstrated strong support for this research, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). So if you are interested in either learning more about CBPR, establishing a partnership to engage in

CBPR, or if you have a desire to become a CBPR NIH grantee, you've come to the right place.

I planned this technical assistance workshop for you! My goal is for all participants to leave with valuable information and insight into community-based participatory research. The general purpose is to provide you with a clear understanding of what CBPR is and what it is not. Also, to help you identify funding opportunities at the National Institutes of Health as well as share pertinent information on surviving the review process and obtaining NIH funding for this research. Further, you will receive guidance on how to prepare responsive applications to the three CBPR Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) released on January 16, 2008 by my office, the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

To this end, I have arranged for NIH Program Directors and Chiefs, fellow members of the NIH CBPR Scientific Interest Group, Director of the HRSA Shortage Designation Branch, and two pairs of successful CBPR partners to present throughout the day.

The opening session will offer grant writing tips and specific recommendations for first-time applicants. It will also explain CBPR and its presence at NIH. The second session will discuss lessons learned from previous CBPR Funding Opportunity Announcements including critical issues in research proposals on community-based participatory research. The third session specifically covers CBPR interventions and the PA-08-074 funding announcement including effective interventions and examples of successful CBPR applications to NIH. The fourth session discusses HRSA's medically underserved areas & populations designation guidelines. Additionally, you will be briefed on how best to navigate the designation application and renewal processes which relate to the PAR-08-075 & 076 funding announcements. Finally, the closing session features two separate pairs of established partners. One pair will highlight what it takes for community-based organizations and academia to successfully partner to conduct CBPR and the benefits of these efforts. The second pair will discuss conducting CBPR in rural areas offering a description of the unique challenges associated with this work and advice on how best to overcome them.

Today's technical assistance workshop raises awareness about - and highlights the relevance of - CBPR while offering guidance on conducting it. Following this event, you will be fully equipped to leap into the community. All of today's presentations have been made available to you on the CBPR Scientific Interest Group's website, which is accessible directly from the webcast. Please feel free to print copies, follow along, and take notes.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the Founders of the trans-NIH CBPR Scientific Interest Group: NCI's Shobha Srinivasan, NIMH's Carmen Moten, and NHLBI's Jared Jobe. Thank you for working diligently to establish an official home

for CBPR at the National Institutes of Health. That leads us to the opening session entitled, "Look Before You Leap", which features the current leadership of the CBPR Scientific Interest Group: Bill Elwood, Jeff Evans, and Paul Cotton. Gentlemen, let's begin.