

**CBPR: Session II**  
**Methods for Establishing a**  
**Collaborative Research Project**



*The Institute for  
Community Research*



**C**

collaboration, collective,  
communal, creative,  
consensus, care, common  
cause, cooperation,  
coworkers and colleagues,  
co-creation/co-production,  
community-focused

**B**

bidirectional, bridging,  
beliefs/values, benefits,  
beauty, both, brokered

**P**

partnership, people, practical,  
potential, problems, praxis,  
programs, popular, projects,  
priorities

**R**

reciprocal, responsive,  
relations, reciprocity,  
rigorous, relevant,  
results, resources,  
reactions, real-time,  
residents





# **DEFINING COMMUNITY (REVIEW)**

- **Place and People**
- **Self-identified**
- **Shared experiences, ideas, history**
- **Many sub-communities**
- **How communities transcend borders and are connected geospatially**



# **WAYS OF APPROACHING COMMUNITIES (REVIEW)**

- **Map (“mental”, social, geographic, drive through, walk through)**
- **Find other(s) who have worked and done research in the community**
- **Volunteer**
- **Participation in public activities, attend public events**
- **Go to places where people gather – basketball courts, senior centers, libraries.**
- **Engage support of community members – “gatekeepers” and others, informal leaders**
- **Find/connect with one or a network of community organizations (CBO) with interest in the topic or population**
- **Phone books and advertisements, local papers**



# What does “Partnership” mean ????

## (Review)

- Working together
- Sharing
- Mutual gain – Win/Win
- Common goals
- Commitment
- Equitable contributions
- Recognition of mutual expertise
- Communication about sharing ideas and perspectives
- Building relationships
- Honesty/Transparency
  - Be clear about your goals
  - Discuss their goals
  - Recognize what you can offer
  - Recognize what you represent as a researcher
  - Recognize your own biases



# Community and Positionality

- **Communities are complex; constantly changing, diverse in composition, needs, opinions etc. ; multisectoral.**
- **Positionality is relational. It all depends on who we are and who we are talking to.**
- **In the context of complex, changing, and multisectoral communities, awareness of positionality of researchers in relation to community partners may mitigate problems of power differential and biases.**



# Positionality

- **Relational**
- **Based on actual or perceived identity**
- **Recognition of and negotiation of difference**
- **Sources of difference (which often but not always involve power differential)**
  - **Power (e.g., in access to resources, political control, etc.)**
  - **Race/ethnicity**
  - **Class/socio-economic status/education**
  - **Culture (cultural knowledge, language)**
  - **Age / generational differentials**
  - **Geography/place of origin**
  - **Discipline, field etc.**
- **Recognition and negotiation of similarity**



# Negotiating Positionality

- **Based on perceived and “actual” features of identity**
- **A two-way street**
- **Concept derived from power imbalance in research (or service) relationships**
- **But can apply to any situation in which there are significant differences between parties that can affect their relationships.**
- **Relevant to researchers who are often elite in class, ethnicity/race in relation to communities, but seeking parallel partnerships.**
- **Requires recognizing, discussing and repeatedly resolving the realities of perceived and actual differential social capital among all partners.**



**What factors might affect your own  
positionality?**

**What can you do in relation to these factors  
when working in the community?**



# Transformations Generated by CBPR

- **Individual** (researcher, individual partners)
- **Group** (any group of researchers and others working together)
- **Social-structural** (relationships among organizations, in a bureaucracy)
- **Community** (changing a policy or regulation; mounting a campaign; creating a new institution; regulating housing access)
- **These transformations can be linear, systemic and/or ongoing**



# Who are Partners?

- **University faculty and students**
- **Clinic/hospital school personnel**
- **Community residents**
- **Community based organizations**
- **Other partners as appropriate, such as:**  
Service providers; research institutes; Private Voluntary Organization, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs); informal community groups (PTAs etc.); hospitals and schools; local and state agencies; public housing; museums and cultural centers; universities; ethnic and national groups; cities; funders; the media, etc.



# Methods of Finding Partners

- **Partners may be individuals, or organizations or both.**
- **In the early stages of partnership – introducing the utility of research and partnerships to as many organizations as possible related to your interests. It takes time and negotiation of positionality.**
- **Expanding partners – introducing work to a new partner**
- **Be open to multiple research priorities that emerge from discussions with partners**
- **Learn about potential partners and CBOs etc. in the community and avoid those that might not work out.**
- **Understand what other community partners might be brought to the table.**
- **Explore with presentations of data and information.**



# What Is Required for a Good Partnership?

- **Overlapping goals/common cause**
- **Mutual recognition that research is important to further the cause**
- **Ability to dialogue about issues and problems**
- **Organizational stability**
- **Mutual respect for knowledge and methodology**
- **Communications and negotiation skills-flexibility**
- **Agreements about personnel policies**
- **Some overlap in organizational cultures**
- **Cost and other resource sharing**
- **Willingness to build on organizational strengths**
- **Broad-based administrative infrastructure and decision-making group**



# What Makes a Good Research Partnership?

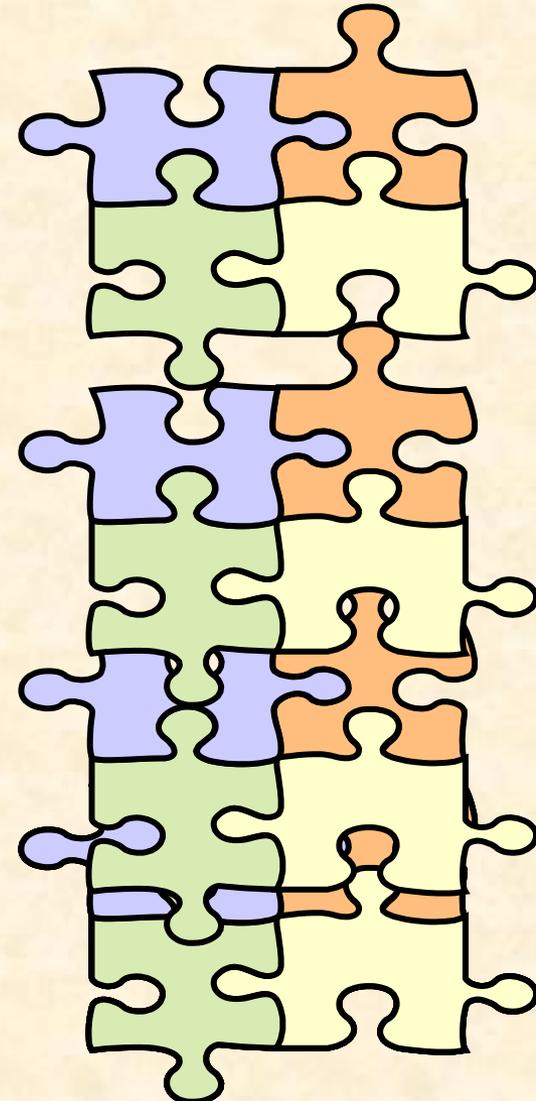
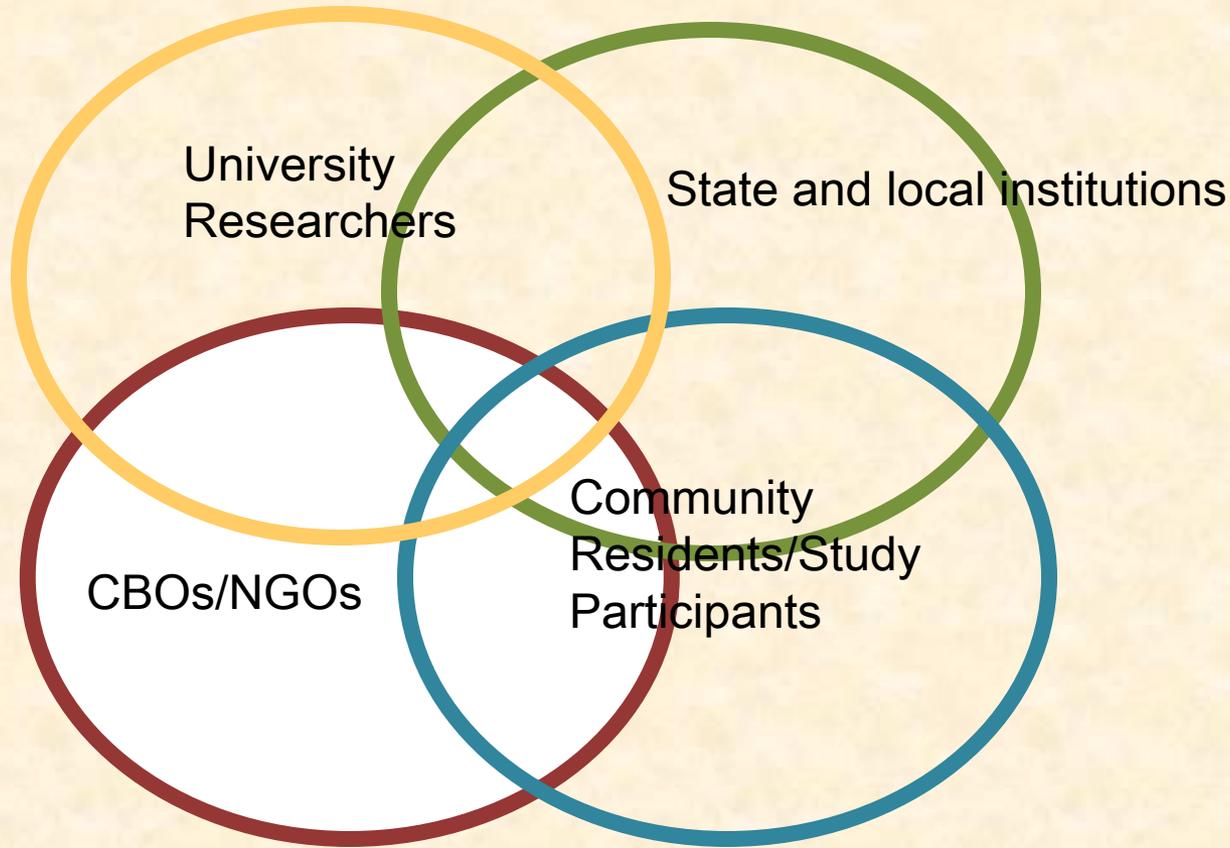
- Experienced researchers and research experienced community groups
- Valuing scientific and community knowledge
- Flexibility in negotiating questions, methods, processes and results
- Reciprocal learning
- Commitment to full joint engagement in research cycle
- Research infrastructure
- Questioning providers/partners
- Dedicated inquiry time
- Rewards for discovery of intervention gaps
- Agreements on joint publication, and research use (education, service improvement, advocacy for policy changes)
- Negotiating administrative challenges



# Types of Partnerships

- **Voluntary**
- **Subcontractual – sharing financial resources**
- **Researcher + existing/previous partners**
- **Researcher + new partners**
- **Researcher + constructed or existing networks, consortia, alliances**
  - **Strategic alliances (vertical)**
  - **Networks of clinics or AIDS serving organizations (horizontal)**
- **“Community Advisory Boards”**

# Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships





# **Partnership Principles: Developed by the Community Research Alliance (CRA)**

- I. Involvement of all partners in the research process**
- II. Respect for and commitment to the community where research takes place**
- III. Relevance and benefit of the research**
- IV. Effective communication among research partners**
- V. The ethical conduct of research**
- VI. Recruitment in community settings**
- VII. Capacity-building, resource sharing and sustainability**



# **University requirements in the face of CBPR**

- **Individual Researchers-PI status**
- **Committee, administrative and publication requirements**
- **Must comply with institutional regulations on salaries, appointments**
- **Teaching schedule**
- **May not be trained to work with communities**
- **Have little free time (especially medical faculty)**
- **Not familiar with community culture**
- **Racial/ethnic/privilege distinctions**



# University –CBO/NGO research priorities and needs

## Community residents/informal groups concerns

- Unfamiliar with University/research environment
- Have negative views about research exploitation or ill effects
- Have little opportunity to discuss research with knowledgeable people they trust
- May have experienced institutional discrimination, eviction or loss of cultural resources
- Have limited power to negotiate with university
- Don't understand research language

## Community Organization (Research) Priorities

- Solving a problem
- Identifying contexts affecting QOL
- Demonstrating inequities and injustices
- Identifying gaps through comparison
- Ensuring cultural survival
- Accessing resources
- Improving services
- Building bridges across socio-cultural and political barriers
- Link to specific constituencies
- May need research capacity building



# Stages of Partnership/Collaboration

- **Initiation**
- **Negotiation**
- **Implementation**
- **Evaluation**
- **Re-negotiation/continuation**



# Evaluation of our Partnership Efforts

- Was the research partnership “value-added”?
- Was there enough goal overlap among parties?
- Were relationships positive?
- Was resource sharing sufficient?
- Were there inequities?
- Was the methodology appropriate
- Were the data “good enough”?
- Were the results important – did they contribute to science and community/partner advancement
- Was there parity in publications
- Is there sustainability of methods, outcomes, effects, relationships



# When Is It Time to End a Partnership

- **Insufficient resources**
- **Structural inefficiencies**
- **Conflicts around differences in organizational policies**
- **Unresolved issues over resource allocation**
- **Competition over funding sources**
- **Gossip and backbiting that worsens**
- **Funding ends**

# How to end a partnership without burning bridges





# Sharing Research Products and Benefits

- **Relationships**
- **Data (datasets or summarized findings, models, etc.)**
- **Materials (e.g., interventions/protocols, dissemination materials, tools for using data or improving outcomes, etc.)**
- **Presentations**
- **Publications**
- **New Research**



# Next Steps Discussion

- **What do you need to do to move your community research plans forward?**
- **How can you begin or expand the process of community partner identification and partnership building?**
- **What concerns top your list for moving forward and avoiding pitfalls.**
- **Ideas about funding options**

# Citations

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