



WELCOME to

*Get Engaged:
An ECHO to Increase Skills for
Community Engaged Research*

Funding Statement

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Created in Partnership with

Dartmouth SYNERGY Clinical and Science Translational Institute

Dartmouth Health Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity

Dartmouth Health Center for Rural Health Care Delivery Science

Dartmouth Learning Health System Embedded Scientist Training and Research Center

Dartmouth Health NNE Primary Care and Behavioral Health Post-Doctoral Research Training Program

Series Learning Objectives

After participating in this activity, learners will be able to:

1. Describe key principles, values, and practices of community-engaged research.
2. Conduct community-engaged research that provides positive experiences for community members and improves research design and outcomes.
3. Identify resources, colleagues, and community members to enhance their community-engaged research.

Series Sessions

Date	Session Title
4/2/2026	Ethical Considerations in Working with Communities
4/16/2026	Infrastructure for Working with Community Members
5/7/2026	Pre-research Engagement
5/21/2026	Research Implementation
6/4/2026	Analysis/Dissemination
6/18/2026	Spotlight on Methods

Ethical Considerations in Working with Communities

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Agenda

- Research Ethics
- Ethical Considerations in Working with Communities
- Key Principles of Community Engagement
- Community Engagement Tips



Research Ethics

- Respect for people
 - Informed consent
 - Privacy
- Beneficence
 - Promote well-being and minimize potential harm
- Justice
 - Fair distribution of burdens and benefits
 - Equitable selection of participants
 - Protection of vulnerable populations

Ethical Considerations in Working with Communities

- How do we know what may be harmful?
- How do we know what may be beneficial?
- How do we know what would be a fair distribution of burdens and benefits?
- How do we we know who is vulnerable?

Key Principles of Community Engagement

- Focus on community perspectives
- Community input is vital
- Ongoing engagement/Partnership sustainability
- Co-learning, co-capacity building, co-benefit
- Build on community strengths and resources
- Facilitate collaborative, equitable partnership
- Involve all partners in dissemination
- Build and maintain trust

Community Engagement Skills

- Listening
- Communication
- Sharing power
- Sharing control
- Sharing resources
- Being humble

Community Engagement Tips for Everyone

- Be clear about motivation and expectation
 - Explicitly articulate motivation
 - Explicitly articulate goals
 - Discuss limitations, parameters, requirements
 - Identify investments
 - Time
 - People
 - Space
 - Talk timelines
 - Identify outputs/products

Community Engagement Tips for Everyone

- Be clear about motivation and expectation
- Participate. Be involved. Stay in communication.
- Be generous. Be useful.
- Share: resources, decisions, credit
- Ask what is needed
- Build a relationship and stick with it

Community Engagement Tips for Researchers

- Real people, real organizations, real communities
 - Offer real help
 - Commit to real action
- Don't over-promise and under-deliver
- Don't say “yes” if you mean “no”
- Understand processes **before** you start
 - Ask questions
 - Have contingency plans

Thank you

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*Session 2, Infrastructure for Working with Community Members,
April 16, 2026*



Infrastructure for Community Engaged Research

Julie Bosak, DrPH, CNM

Cheri Bryer, CRSW

Overview of didactic section

- What are the dimensions to consider within the infrastructure domain for working with community members?
- How does a Community Advisory Board represent and influence these dimensions?

Infrastructure Domain

Stage for decision on aspects of study and planning logistics

Dimensions of Infrastructure

- Governance
- Power Balance
- Team Roles
- Compensation

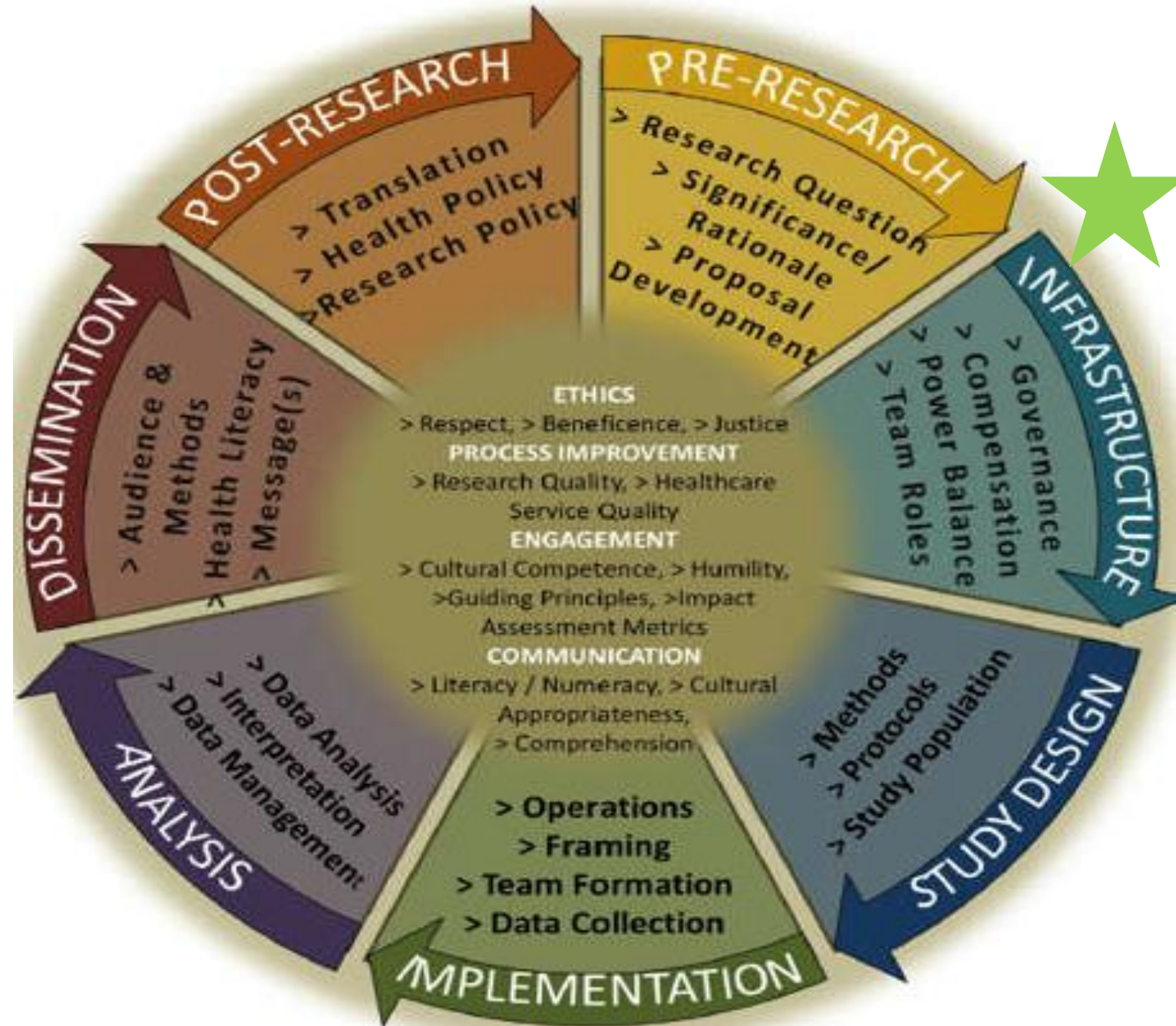


Fig 1 from Stallings S et al., Health Expectations 2019

Governance

- ❖ Defines rules, roles and procedures that ensure adequate oversight and describe decision making

Power Balance

- ❖ Identifying areas of imbalance and strategies to diminish it

Team Roles

- ❖ Identify different roles within the study team

Compensation

- ❖ Decide on how research participants will be compensated

Consumer Advisory Boards (CABs)

- A CAB is a group of individuals that represent your target research population- often individuals from community organizations that serve your population and/or individuals from the population.
 - “bridge the gap between the community and researchers to increase the relevance of the research” (Lawrence & Stewart, 2016)
- Two main structural decisions about your research methods
 - What level of engagement (how much influence) will the CAB possess
 - At what point in the research process are they formed

How does a CAB differ along the continuum of engagement?



Continuum of Engagement

Outreach

Consult

Involve

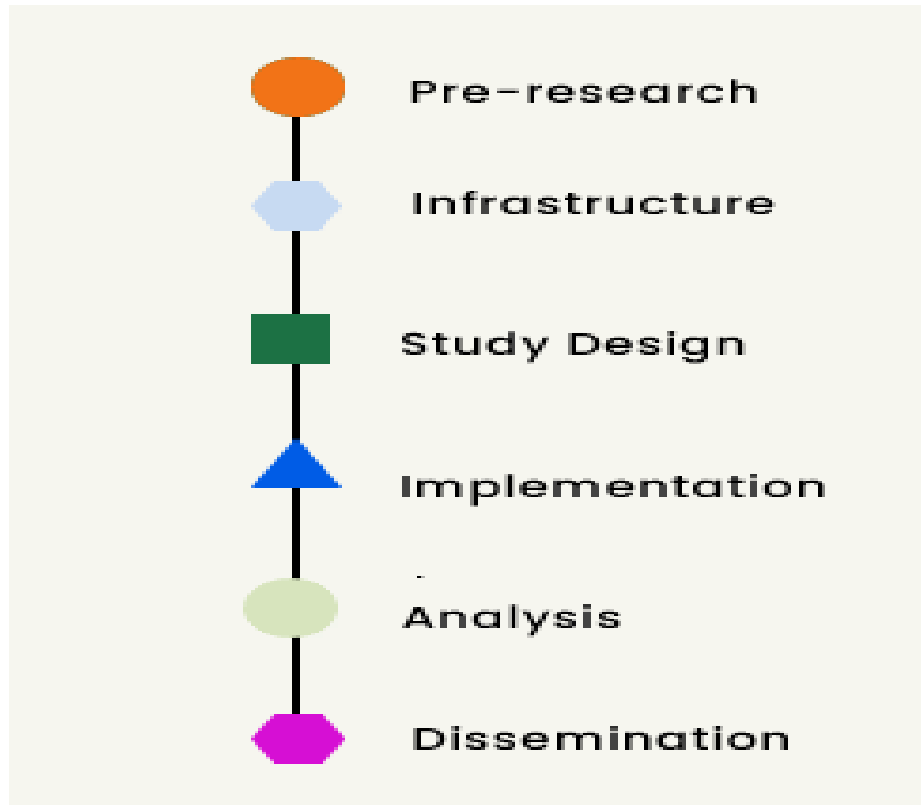
Collaborate

**Shared
Leadership**



Advisory Board

What stage of the research will the CAB be formed?



Considerations for level of engagement and phase of involvement for your CAB

- ❖ What type of research are you doing?
 - ❖ Clinical trial versus translational community based implementation

- ❖ What is the “readiness” status of you and your team
 - ❖ Do you have relationships and history within the community
 - ❖ Do you have at least one champion with a pre-existing trusting relationships?
 - ❖ Is this a new research area or geography so you are starting from scratch?
 - ❖ What is your bandwidth and budget for supporting a CAB?

Governance

- What are the structures and processes that define the CAB and its influence over the larger study.
- Important to be as clear as possible up front
 - A well defined governance structure protects community interests
 - Ideally you create some version of a charter and group norms
 - How are decisions being made?
 - Consensus?
 - Who has the final decision power?
 - Is it different dependent upon the content of the decision?
 - Financial versus choice of language or recruitment strategies

How does a CAB differ along the continuum of engagement?



Continuum of Engagement

Outreach

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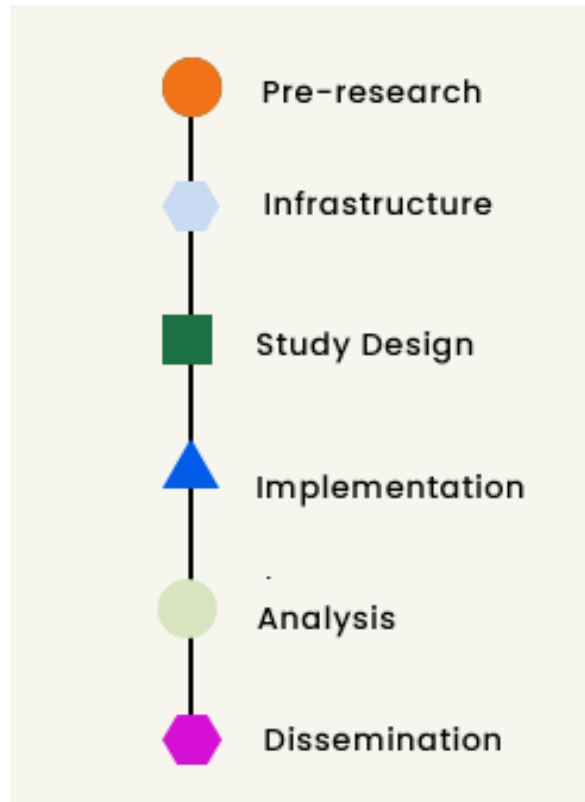
Shared
Leadership



Advisory Board

Consulting role

CAB members provide input and perspective on different aspects of the research



Research question and area of focus, budget

Support ideas for recruitment and utilize my social network

Provide input on findings and how to present them in a way that makes sense to “regular people”

CAB as an consulting role

- Examples of a Consulting role
 - CAB for a study on methadone and integrated OB and Mental health care-
aim of study to increased understanding of co-located versus separate
services
 - Typically input on language and framing of a topic to ensure it isn't
stigmatizing, correct style of communication (use of words) that are easily
understood by community members
 - Less frequent meetings, providing input, responding to current work

Benefits of a having a CAB

- For the study team- ideally learn the value of having the lived expertise at the table
 - Feels initially like some researchers are unsure/uncomfortable with what an individual with lived expertise might offer, but often open up and realize that everybody can learn from each other.
- Personal development for a community members
 - Builds confidence in knowing my perspective is important
 - Knowledge and relationships can create professional opportunities
 - Opportunity to have on an impact and help others

Common challenges with the consulting role

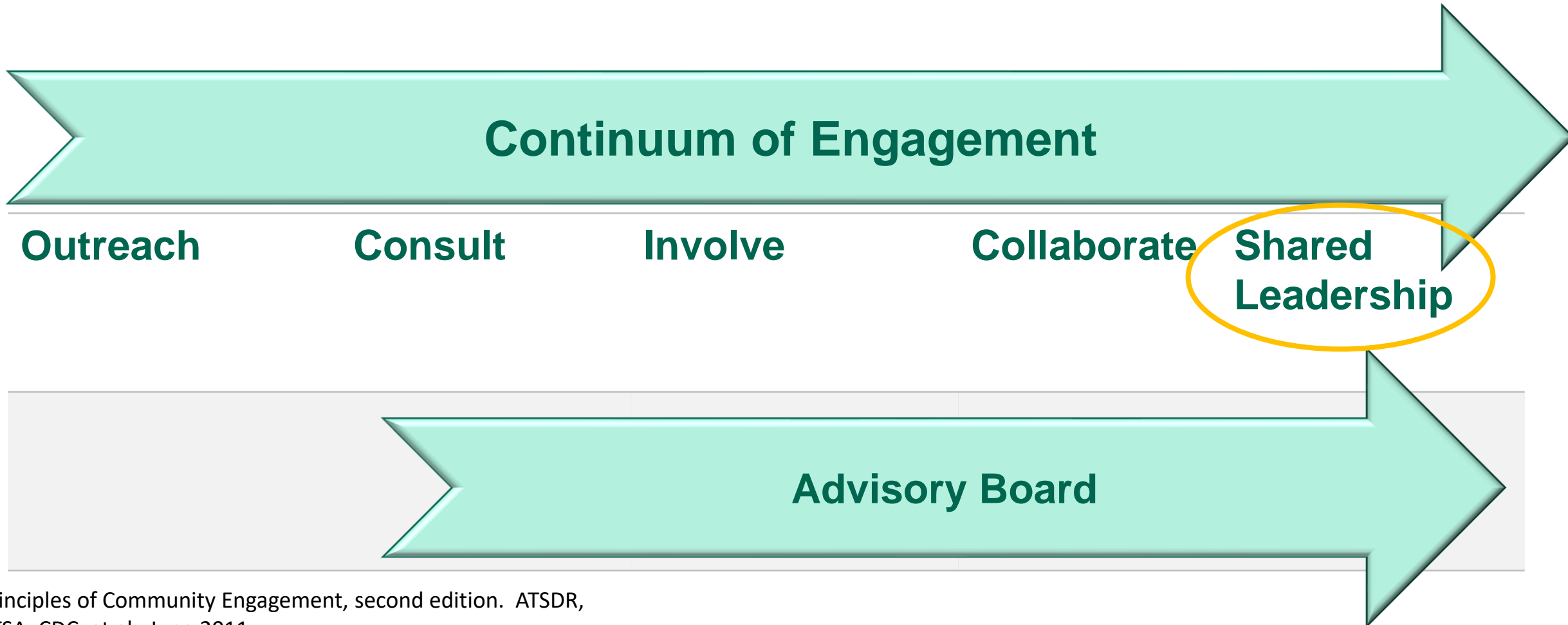
- Feeling exploited or seeing that with others
 - Inadequate **compensation** for your time
 - Compelled to tell your story because of the compensation and power balance
- It is re-traumatizing every time and ensure you offer extra support, protected space

Common challenges with the consulting role

– **Power Balance (imbalance)**

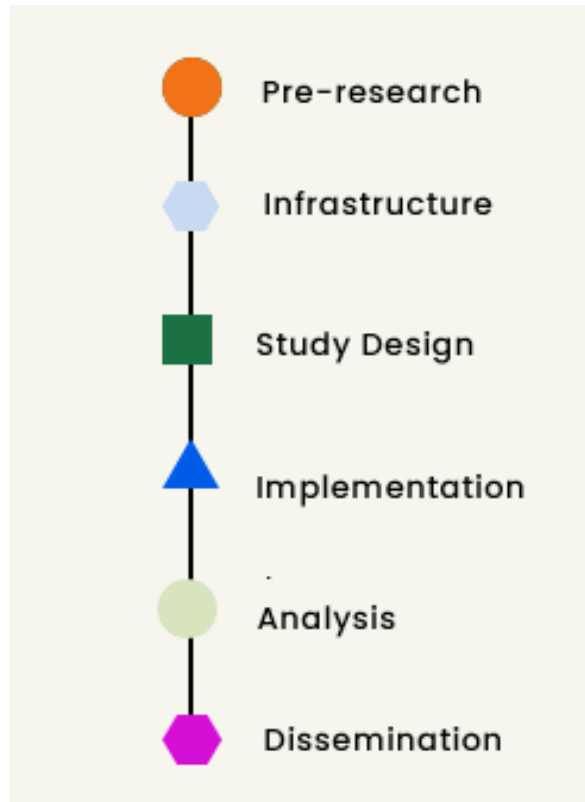
- Ensuring that full study team respects and honors the patient and/or community voice
 - Not simply just meeting the criteria of the study or checking a box
 - If there isn't a baseline respect you can feel "used" to only recruit
- The importance of the interpersonal respect and reactions in every interaction
- "I don't want to hear from you, I want the provider's input"

How does a CAB differ along the continuum of engagement?



Shared governance

CAB members as part of the decision making along the continuum



Research question and area of focus, budget

Collaboratively create approach and possibly lead recruitment

Co-create findings based on initial analysis

CAB shared leadership governance structure

Academic institution

Core Study Team
Principal investigator
Project staff

Daily oversight of
research Manages

- Grants administration
- Fiscal administration
- Project human resources



- Collaborative design of methods
- Collaborative oversight of implementation
- Co-creates analysis of data and dissemination plan
- Financial and strategic collaborative decision

- Clearly define decision making by collective consent scale

Advisory Board

Comprised of
community members
with a range of
expertise

Decision-making Process: **Strive for Consensus:** Levels of Agreement

1. Enthusiastically agree
 2. Yes, I agree
 3. I have minor reservations and generally agree. I will actively support the decision of the group
 4. I have major reservations and would like more dialogue before moving forward
 5. I do not support this idea. I do not think it is in our best interest to move forward
- **Discussion rule:** Discuss, try to resolve reservations >3.
 - **Decision rule:** If everyone is a 3 or lower, 'good enough' & move forward. If not, work to consensus a second time

Understanding and managing the power imbalance?

- Recognize that one will **always** exist especially if the academic institution provides the finances and holds the research grant
- **Will look different dependent upon your research community and CAB membership**
 - Community organization staff and/or leadership
 - Do you have a mix of stakeholders including community members, patients and organizational leadership
 - Who is your population?
 - With historically marginalized population such as pregnant women in recovery extra attentiveness needed

Steps to manage the power dynamic and create meaningful participation

Must intentionally work to create a more equitable and collaborative relationship – this takes extra time, energy and effort of the full study team

- Up front assessment of the dynamic
 - Where are the inequities, biases, discrimination, racism, rank and privilege amongst your CAB and on your study team
- Thoughtful selection and conversations with your academic colleagues
 - Are they willing and able to “release power”
 - Do they truly see the community voice as an expert or is this just “best practice” so tolerate it

Power Dynamic

- Choice of facilitator- culturally responsive approach
 - Ideally someone from the community that has already built trust with many of the members
- Study team keeps openness and curiosity with ALL questions and/or dissent
 - Watch tone, body language, follow up

Strategies to building trusting relationships

- Creating **TIME** to build relationships
 - Facilitator between meeting check-ins to answer questions, explain content, build confidence
 - Create space in the meetings for small breakouts
- Smaller task focused groups that mix study team and CAB members
- Orient to content -provide detailed, digestible materials to level the knowledge base

How do you get started if you have never created a CAB?

- Ideally this happens prior to a grant application
- Identify champions in your target community and start engaging with them preferably through a “warm hand off”
 - Thoughtful about how you hold space in the community
 - You are not the expert, the community members are the experts
 - Listen more than you talk, be curious
- Be fully transparent about your needs, timeline etc.
 - Better to have the hard honest conversation then avoid it

Forming your CAB

- Will it be remote or in person?
 - Impact of participants availability
 - Remote diminishes barriers as long as all participants have access to technology and internet
 - Harder to build trusting relationships when fully remote
- How large of a geographic area are you covering?
- What is the cadence of meetings?
 - How do you determine time – do you cater to normal work hours or evenings?

Small details that make a difference

- Building trust – be clear and then do what you say
 - Clear expectations on timing, location, amount of time needed
 - Clear on compensation – how it will be provided, when it will be provided.
 - All the steps to the process (W-9) and long the process takes and then be reliable (ex. Gift cards mailed or electronic?)
 - Things that might seem small to us are consequential to participants such as a delay in a \$50 honorarium
- How are you addressing barriers to participation on the CAB and in the work
 - Childcare, gas money, compensation, support participation at conferences



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Thank you.

Any Questions?

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