

NAPCRG 52nd Annual Meeting — Abstracts of Completed Research 2024.

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Title

An Innovative Approach to Enhancing Community Health Collaborations: A Community Engagement Directory

Priority 1 (Research Category)

Participatory research

Presenters

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Abstract

Context

UT Southwestern utilizes community engagement strategies to improve health and integrate stakeholder priorities in clinical care and research. However, given the vast size of our medical center, many community engagement initiatives exist in silos and overlap in community areas creating inefficiency, inconsistency, and redundancy.

Objective

To implement an interactive community engagement directory (CED) consolidating community partners, investigators, research and clinical activities to optimize bidirectional communication and collaboration, facilitating relationship-building and trust.

Study Design/Analysis

Prospective evaluation design employs social network analysis to identify and visualize nodes of researchers, stakeholders, and community agencies that collaborate on projects.

Database

Our team built a SQL server relational database to house CED data and published a webpage using the Azure platform. Profile data describing community-engaged projects and the academic and community partners involved is published to the web and publicly accessible.

Population Studied

Academic institutions and community organizations (i.e., social service, clinics) serving medically underserved populations in the Dallas-Fort Worth region of Texas, USA.

Intervention/Instrument

The UT Southwestern Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program's Office of Community Health and Research Engagement serves as the broker and facilitator of connections generated by the CED.

Outcomes Measures

of investigators/learners; # of community organizations; # of studies/projects; % of partnerships translating to submitted/funded grants and publications; health topics/populations represented; diversity amongst users; perceptions among community partners

Results

The CED has been developed and tested. Next steps include a soft launch during which we will solicit feedback from researchers and partner organization members of our community health coalition, which will inform further refinement. Baseline outcome measures will be collected and reassessed yearly.

Conclusions

The CED will streamline the coordination of community engagement activities within a sprawling academic institution, expediting the translation of research evidence into the communities that need it most. Once fully refined, this model will be shared among CTSA consortium partners to help improve community-engaged translational science efforts on a larger scale.

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