Principles and Methods of Community Based Participatory Research

presented to

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Uni-directional approach to civic engagement

“...Leverage knowledge resources of the university to address problems in the community...”
Interplay between University and Community Resources

University: (intellectual and human capital, academic legitimacy; recognition and prestige; etc.)

Community: (experience addressing social issues, understanding the local culture; legitimacy among community members, etc.)
“Democracy is about learning to work with others across difference as co-creators of public work”

- H. Boyte and N. Kari
CBPR is a collaborative research approach that is designed to ensure and establish structures for participation by the three groups involved in the project - communities affected by the research, representatives of organizations, and researchers – in all aspects of the research process to improve health and well-being through taking action, including social change.
Housing Complex
Computer Lab
Essential elements of CBPR

- Participation (differing forms of expertise)
- Action
- Iteration
Essential Elements of Community Participation

- Refine the analytic framework and key questions at the beginning of a project
- Share power and resources
- Own the means of knowledge generation and the results of the study
Project-Based Research Cycle

Diagnose
Evaluate
Implement
Prescribe
Phases of Research Cycle

- **DIAGNOSIS**: identify conditions/problems/needs that provide a change opportunity

- **RESEARCH**: Determine the scale, range, and/or causes of the problem.

- **PRESCRIBING**: identify means to address the problem

- **RESEARCH**: Determine methods that may be applied to this community
Phases of Research Cycle

IMPLEMENTATION - deliver services to address the problem

RESEARCH – Advocacy campaigns, community theatre/art performance, oral histories

EVALUATION – measure impact and effectiveness of project

RESEARCH – Assess methods, outputs, and outcomes
Exercise: Where are we in the Cycle?

**Independently (5 minutes)**

Read the accompanying sheet – Where are we in the Project Cycle?

Rank the statement that most closely describes your assessment. Or add your own statement as appropriate.

**Discuss (10 minutes)**

Agreements and differences in rankings.
Steps in Project Based Research

- Choosing the question
- Designing the methods
- Collecting the data
- Analyzing the data
Nine Principles of Community Based Projects
(Minkler, Wallerstein)

- Recognize community as unit of identity
- Utilize community assets
- Create equitable partnerships
- Develop co-learning and capacity
- Balance research and action
Nine Principles (cont’d)

- Focus on **local solutions** in general context
- Encourage systems development thru iteration
- Disseminate in various forms for differing audiences
- Realize that community partnerships are long term!
Exercise: How participatory are we?

Discuss (15 minutes)

Read the accompanying sheet on principles of CBPR.

In terms of where you are (or where you plan to be), how well does your design match these principles?
Final thought

The Locus of Knowledge Generation has moved off campus!