Project C.O.A.C.H.:
Counseling Others About Contacts and exposures with HIV
Study Aims

• To characterize the perspectives and experiences of three groups of people regarding Partner Notification for HIV among Men who have sex with men:
  • Medical Case Managers,
  • Disease Intervention Specialists, and
  • Men who have Sex with Men

• To identify actionable opportunities for improving Partner Notification implementation in Connecticut.
Community-Based Participatory Research Approach

“. . . collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities." 

-WK Kellogg Foundation
Developing Our Partnership

- Met regularly and in person
- Frequent communication outside of the meetings
- Agendas, Meeting Summary
- Defined Roles and Responsibilities Early and Revisited
- Close Follow-Up: Continuous Re-engagement
- Discussed Compensation of Team Members Early
- Developed and Conducted the Project Jointly at each Stage
- Created Opportunities for Mutual Learning
- Mutual Respect
- Common Project Goal and Dedication
Academic – Community Partnerships: Lessons Learned

Challenges
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Benefits
+ + + +
Benefits

Academic Perspective

• Relationships

• Translation into Action

• Opportunity for ongoing collaborations

Community Perspective

• Research capacity building

• Community partnerships

• Data, knowledge and experience to use for grant proposals

• Staff training opportunities

• Improved CBO Management perspective on clients
Lessons Learned: CBPR

• Listening to the Community for Opportunities

• Importance of engaging stakeholders early and fostering the relationship

• Value of multidisciplinary team

• Time, time, time

• Range of potential project products

• Personal reward and opportunities
~THANK YOU~

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