Building the capacity of faith-based communities to engage in health research initiatives

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How it all began ....

“A community advocate and faith-based partners focused on the promise that PCOR (patient centered outcomes research) holds for underserved communities and joined an activated faith-based partner seeking social justice in healthcare and answers to its community health status”  – Regina Greer-Smith
Why Research Ministry?

“...there is value in matching conversations to congregants' interests that leads to education”

“..informed congregations lead to greater levels of health awareness and education”

“So we can activate our own research that will benefit our communities and be part of a partnership that is meaningful real and faith based”

“...doing this enables research that we think needs to happen...”

“We identify the research that needs to take place rather than [researchers] coming to us and saying, ‘we are doing research on this’"
Guiding Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Principles

- Partnership
- Co-Learning
- Reciprocal Relationships
- Trust, Transparency, Honesty

Southland Ministerial Health Network and Academic Partner Planning Meeting Dec 2013
Pathway to Engagement: Stage 1

Alliance of Researchers in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) Seed Grant Funding

Outcomes

- 501c3 status for Pastors4PCOR: GLUE
- Mission Statement: GLUE
- Advisory Board Terms of Reference/ MOU: GLUE
- Advisory Board Meetings: PROCESS
- Pilot of survey and community asset mapping tools: SKILLS
- Eugene Washington Award grant proposal: SUSTAINABILITY

2nd Annual Community Day of Research and Engagement (May 2 2015)
Developing “Research-Ready” Communities
Pastors4PCOR’s Mission

“To increase the participation of underserved communities of color in comparative effectiveness research and patient centered outcomes research through the design, development and implementation, reporting and dissemination of research.”

We will achieve this by:
✓ Partnering with researchers from academic research centers;

✓ Fostering relationships to build a robust research infrastructure in the church communities; and

✓ Building the capacity of faith-based communities to engage in health research.
Pastors4PCOR (P4P) Development Process

**Forming**
- Transitioning decision making to board.
- Developing working roles

**Storming**

**Norming**
- Partnership rules for working together are in place.
- Board is self directed.

**Performing**
- Focus on reaching goal as a group – delivering an event

Meetings to discuss project aims/objectives, journey of engagement norms for working
Things we learned together while developing P4P

**Successes**
- Open lines of communication
- Working relationships
- Complement of skills and personalities
- Finding funds to sustain project
- New partnerships

**Challenges**
- Time
- Getting to know each others processes and infrastructure
- Mapping the geography of faith based communities
Pathways to Engagement: Stage 2

Eugene Washington Award timeline

April 2015

- Recruiting
- Training program

September 2015 - 2016

Next

March 2017

Outcomes

- IRB exempt status: PROCESS
- Project Information sheet and contact with pastors: PROCESS
- MOU for church partners: GLUE
- Five Step Training Program for Research Ministry Ambassadors: SKILLS
Pastors4PCOR: Engaging faith-based communities

Guiding Principles

• Partners commit to open and honest communication

• Major decisions are made inclusively and information is shared

• Partners communicate study back to their own communities in meaningful and usable ways
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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Board Role</th>
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<td>Bishop, Triedstone Baptist Full Gospel Church</td>
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<td>Turner III</td>
<td>Advisory Board Co-Chairman</td>
<td>Senior Pastor – New Spiritual Light Church</td>
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<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Total Resources Development Corporation-Triedstone Baptist Full Gospel Church</td>
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<td>Buehler Center for Aging, Health &amp; Society, Feinberg School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Healthcare Research Associates, LLC S.T.A.R. Initiative</td>
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Short Distances to Large Gaps in Health

Life expectancy at birth (years)
- Shorter
- Longer

Red Line
Green Line
Orange Line

1 mile

81 YRS Lincoln Park
85 YRS Loop
72 YRS East Garfield Park
79 YRS Gage Park
69 YRS Washington Park

Follow the discussion
#CloseHealthGaps

Faith based communities
Illinois and Cook County data
Life expectancy data Chicago
Health Factors
Health Outcomes

Road map to healthy communities

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Things we learned together about engaging communities with research

**Successes**
- Support from pastors
- Growing confidence of learners
- Learner enthusiasm and engagement
- Community based IRB certification
- New partnership opportunities for individuals and churches

**Challenges**
- Time for support and mentoring
- Difficult for participants to attend every step
- Finding time when everyone can attend meetings
- Engagement research is time consuming
- Research is temporary and no substitute for health services
Contact Information

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Thank you for listening to our journey!

Pastors4PCOR Research Ministry Ambassadors and Project Team

Q & A