Abstract

Employing Transformative Communication Spaces to achieve community-based collaboratives for health equity and social justice in Chicago

Jennifer Felner, PhD, MPH[1] and Jeni Hebert-Beirne, MPH, PhD[2]
(1)San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, (2)University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, Chicago, IL

Community-based participatory research ("CBPR") approaches have become increasingly popular for addressing social and structural inequities leading to health disparities in historically marginalized communities. The specifics of the CBPR process and its many challenges, however, are often not well explicated in current scholarship. Consequently, consumers of this information must infer which processes occurred and to what extent these processes yielded successful project-related outcomes, and promoted equity among community and academic research partners. As such, there is a clear need to describe the specific processes involved in CBPR and strategies employed to overcome challenges and setbacks in the research process. In this presentation, we will explicate our use of Transformative Communication Spaces ("TCS") towards the development of two community-based research collaboratives for equity and social justice in Chicago. Through vignettes from these projects – one in collaboration with residents in a Mexican immigrant enclave and the other with queer and transgender youth of color accessing social services on the city's Northside – we will highlight the ways in which TCS allowed our research collaboratives to authentically address issues of structural racism, heterosexism, cisgenderism, and health, and overcome several complex challenges. Additionally, we will explicate our use of TCS to shift power away from the academy and into the community towards the goal of achieving a truly community-*based*, rather than community-*engaged* research process.

Advocacy for health and health education Public health or related education Public health or related research Social and behavioral sciences