BRIDGE Project: Overview and Findings on Meaningful Engagement with Immigrant Communities in Research Projects

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Project Overview

- Immigrants and newcomers may experience challenges in health care access and specific health care needs.[1,2]
- BC Centre of Disease Control and immigrant service organization S.U.C.C.E.S.S. co-designed a Partnership Engagement Framework for building academic-community research partnerships involving immigrant communities.[3]
- We held two community engagement events with immigrants from the Chinese-speaking community in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, which helped to:
  - Pilot the Partnership Engagement Framework, and
  - Provide data on experiences of healthcare access, liver disease & hepatitis B.

Findings

Table 1. Partnership Engagement Framework

1 Establish shared interests and goals	Before agreeing to collaborate: • Identify interests and goals, in common and specific to each group • Assess capacity to contribute (e.g., expertise, strengths, time)
2 Building foundations and partnership	• Establish guiding values for partnership and consider how to apply • Consider capacity to achieve shared goals • Respect self-determination of clients, community organizations, and communities • Each organization sets own goals, makes decisions, self-advocates
3 Supporting the partnership	• Set out goals and each member's roles and responsibilities • Discuss appropriate compensation • Plan capacity building opportunities and apply for funding as needed • Process evaluation activities, such as ongoing group check-ins
4 Planning and coordination	• Involve community organizations and members affected in planning and conduct of research • Discuss project logistics (timeline, budget, meetings) • Outline roles and responsibilities, leveraging each organization's strengths and aligning interests and abilities with roles
5 Research design and implementation	• Clarify relevant group(s) for community engagement • Consider conducting needs assessment • Establish project goals and research questions • Establish research methods and process • Ensure project reflects guiding values and seek ethics approval
6 End-of-project activities	• Disseminate findings (e.g., presentations, reports, articles) • Share findings with research participants and community members • Take action to improve policy, services and health outcomes • Debrief the research project and discuss continuing the partnership

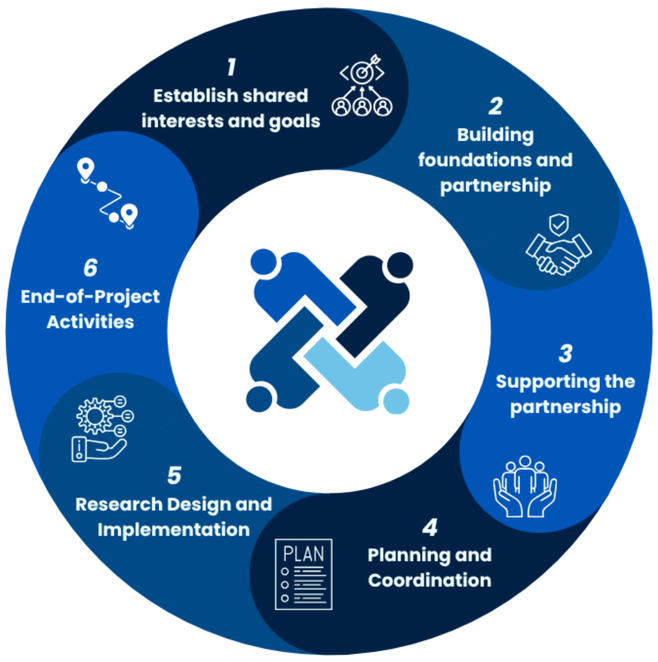

Figure 1. Overview of Partnership Engagement Framework

Figure 2. Application of Partnership Engagement Framework – Research Design & Implementation

Conclusions

The Partnership Engagement Framework co-developed in this project:

- Helped build capacity for community engagement with immigrants and newcomers
- Contributed to a successful Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant on public health and to additional health-related grant applications that are pending or in development.
- Provides researchers and community organizations with a resource for partnering on community-based research, especially with immigrants and newcomers.

References

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Acknowledgements

We respectfully acknowledge that the BC Centre of Disease Control and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., where this work was conducted, are located on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We are very grateful to all who participated in our community engagement events on liver disease and hepatitis B. We would also like to thank the following people who have made important contributions to this work: Abigail Cameron, Beatrice Cheung, Hin Hin Ko, and Jasmine Tam.

Funding: This study was funded by the UBC Centre for Disease Control (UBCCDC). RLM's work was supported by Canadian Institutes of Health Research (HIV-194093) and Michael Smith Health Research BC (grant number: RT-2024-03845). NJZ, director of UBCCDC and senior author, provided oversight of the study design; the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; the reporting of results; and the decision to submit the abstract to the conference.