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05. Community review boards

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VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL
CENTER



COMMUNITY REVIEW BOARDS

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SEPTEMBER 2011

MEHARRY-VANDERBILT COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH CORE
VANDERBILT INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
IN COLLABORATION WITH:



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Why do we need new models for community engagement?

Traditional research approaches to population research have often:

- ❑ Ignored the community's perspective on how research should be carried out in the community
- ❑ Been unclear about the relevance of the research to the respective community
- ❑ Failed to share results and interpretation of the research with communities
- ❑ Created an environment of mistrust

Definition of a CRB

The Community Review Board is a guidance session for researchers interested in working in a community setting.

Community members serve as experts who will provide feedback to enhance the design, implementation, translation and dissemination of community engaged research.

How the CRB Model Was Created

- VICTR Studio Model
- Input from Community Advisory Council
- Testing models for community engagement – partnership with University of North Carolina

What is a Community Expert?

- ❑ Member of the population or community of interest and/or has extensive knowledge of population or community of interest
- ❑ Recognized leader or advocate
- ❑ Good verbal communication skills
- ❑ Good listening skills
- ❑ Desire to learn about research

Who are Community Experts?

- Recruited from neighborhood resource groups, community based organizations, and relationships with faculty and staff members.
- Experts represent many walks of life
 - Ministers
 - Retired Physicians
 - Neighborhood Association Leaders
 - Community Organizers
 - Private sector employees

The Process

Researcher requests Community Review Board through StarBRITE, VICTR's portal for CTSA resources.

Preparation

Navigator and facilitator coaches Researcher on presentation

Navigator recruits, orients Community Experts

CRB Meeting

Facilitator states ground rules, sets tone.

Researcher gives brief presentation on project, poses specific questions to Community Experts.

Facilitator moderates discussion

Follow-Up

Researcher receives detailed CRB summary.

Community Experts are informed of resulting changes in project.

Longer term – share study findings with Community Experts

Benefits of a Community Review Board

What are the benefits of participating in a CRB?

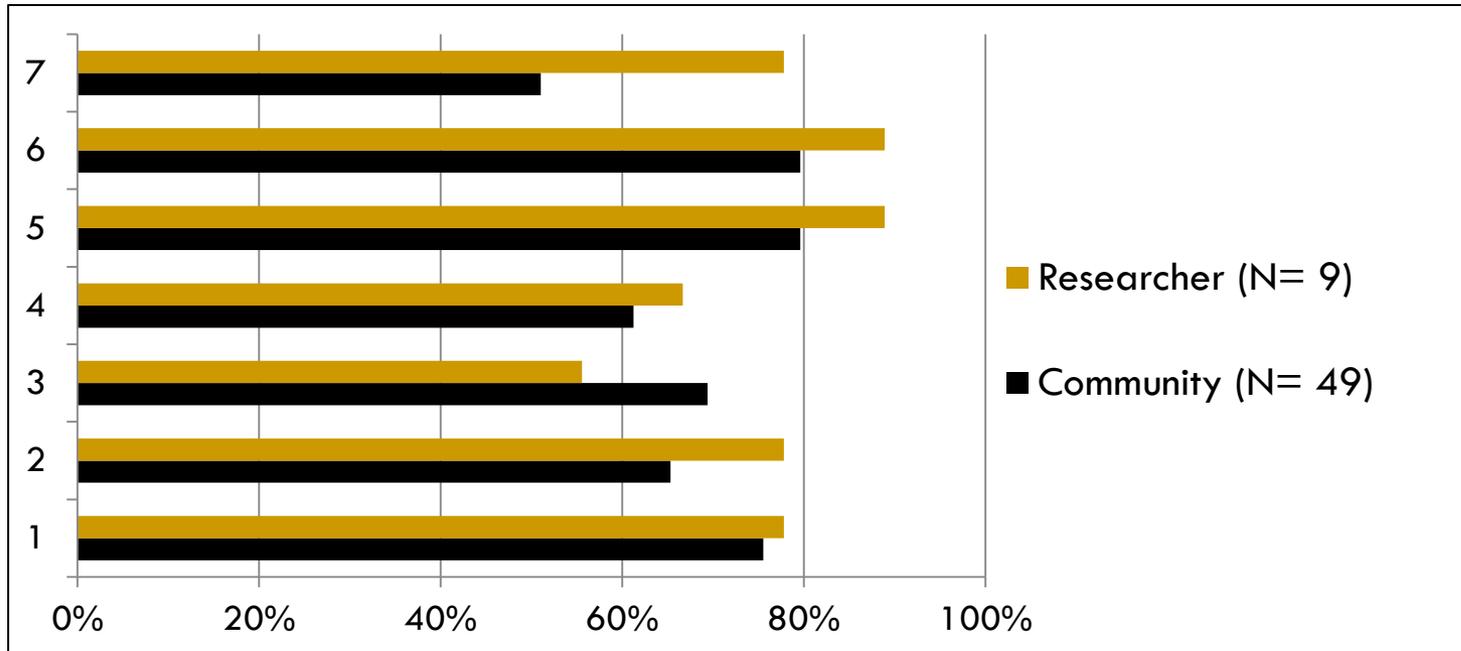
- Access to community experts from various settings, without the complexity of scheduling multiple meetings
- Immediate feedback at various stages of the development of the protect, protocol, program or application
- Opportunity to build a relationship with community partners and deepen the understanding of the community of interest
- Immersion into the cultural nuances and possible historical issues
- Assessment of the feasibility and appropriateness of the project for the community

Impact of CRBs



Researchers have received advice on building trust, addressing barriers to accessing care, barriers to participating in a study, recruitment materials, informed consent, participant compensation and retention initiatives.

Feedback



1. Increased researcher's understanding of community
2. Increased researcher's sensitivity to the community
3. Feedback on feasibility of project
4. Feedback on appropriateness of project
5. Ideas on recruiting
6. Ideas on community outreach
7. Ideas on dissemination

Researcher Experience – CRB Evaluation

“This was wonderfully helpful to me as PI. I was so fortunate to meet the experts who attended and hear their frank and very helpful ideas. “

“I was very impressed by my experience with the Community Review Board. They put together a great studio for us.”

“The service is very valuable and an important component will be getting the VU and Meharry scientific community to be aware of such a service. Indeed, I think even individuals not engaged in community based research per se would benefit from these sessions.”

Researcher Experience – Focus Group

- Learned a lot about stigma and barriers
- Learned about motivations and why people might sign up
- The group was useful because they had social capital in communities
- Helped dispel misunderstandings about research
- Used (Expert's advice) to reshape protocol.
- Helped dispel misunderstandings about research
- I almost wish I had it 4 to 5 months earlier

Community Expert Experience

“I believe it would be very helpful for researchers to hear those who do not consider that the problems or subject of the research, really has anything to do with them.”

“Professionals, which includes researcher, need to be taught how to culturally and sensitively engage, and listen to non-professionals.”

“I learned a lot today about how research works. I think that what we shared will be very helpful.”