Strategies for Engaging Community-Based Collaboration in Research

Doris Titus-Glover, PhD, MSN

Assistant Professor

February 15, 2024
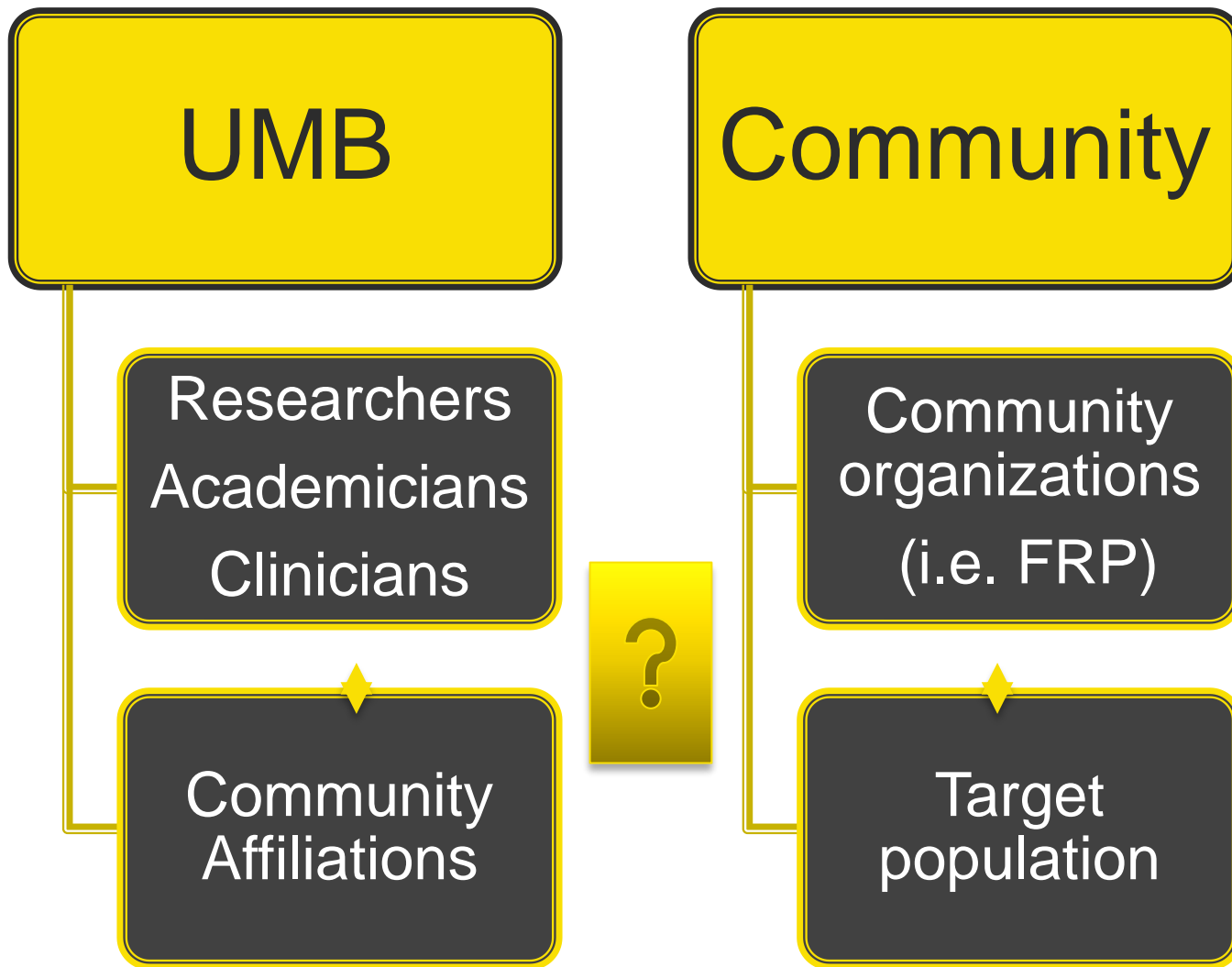
Objectives

- Describe strategies for community engagement and community-based participatory research.

- Describe lessons learned to improve recruitment and to effectively engage community partners in the research implementation process.

- Gain knowledge about mutually beneficial factors for sustaining community interest

UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

CBPR APPROACH

Forming a CBPR Partnership

Assessing Community Strengths & Dynamics

Identifying Priority Public Health Issues & Research Questions

Maintaining, Sustaining, & Evaluating CBPR Partnership

Disseminating & Translating Research Findings

Designing & Conducting Etiologic, Intervention and/or Policy Research

Feeding Back & Interpreting Research Findings

UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Background

- Women's needs are significantly more pronounced during addiction recovery.[1]
- Recovering parenting women with opioid use disorder (OUD) experience high relapse rates.[1,2]
- Less than half of treatment[1] programs specifically target the needs of women.
- Recovery Interventions focus on individual screenings and symptoms treatment
- Concurrently, addiction impacts individuals and communities negatively.
- Overdose deaths among new mothers tripled from 2018 to 2021

Mutual collaboration of researchers and community partners is needed

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Obstetric Practice & American Society of Addiction Medicine. Opioid use and opioid use disorder in pregnancy (ACOG Committee Opinion No. 711.

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Research Questions

1. What are the recovery support capital factors (personal, family and social support and community) that would strengthen the recovery process for parenting women with OUD?

2. What are social determinants of health-related barriers and facilitators to sustained recovery?

Our Study

Objective

- In this study, we focused on exploring perceptions of capital support (personal, family, community and social support) factors to sustaining recovery in parenting women.

Design

- Mixed qualitative/quantitative study design with community-based participatory research approach.

Eligibility Criteria

- Includes: Parenting women with children (< 10 years); English-speaking: prescribed recovery medications; diagnosis of OUD; and treatment with the Family Recovery Program.

Our Study Aims

AIM 1: To explore the lived experiences of low-income parenting women with opioid use disorder to deepen understanding of the recovery support capital factors associated with sustained recovery.

AIM 2: To examine whether high recovery support capital is associated with sustained recovery among low-income parenting women with opioid use disorder.
.

Preliminary Data Analysis
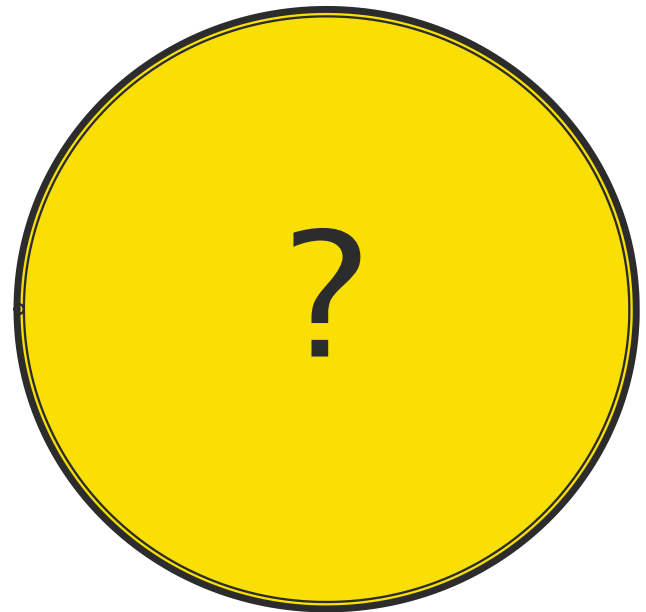
Forming an Academic-Institution Partnership

Environmental Scan– scoping the landscape to find a partner, includes finding local programs through google, reaching out to colleagues and participating in webinars to find program leaders.

Assessed data for a deeper understanding of the community demographics, infrastructure community leaders and members, resources and skills

Conducted a windshield survey of the neighborhood to guide our understanding of underlying and existing environmental factors.

What else is out there to help families?

FRP's Mission and Vision Statement

Strengthen. Engage. and Equip.

We **strengthen** families affected by substance use disorder and other forms of trauma.

We **engage** families in a holistic array of behavioral health services.

We **equip** families with the necessary skills to aid in becoming self reliant.

Vision Statement:
Investing in and rebuilding thriving families.

Introducing Monique K.

Embracing Our Community Partner

PARTNER SHIPS

The study fosters a unique academic–community partnership

Guided by experiences from our community partner, the Family Recovery Program (FRP)

All aspects of planning and implementation were targeted and delivered through culturally–appropriate messaging

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Community Receptiveness

To ensure community receptiveness, prior to designing a methodology, we met with our community partner to understand the needs of the communities served, from their perspective.

Met with Executive Director (ED), staff and parents who dropped in with questions.
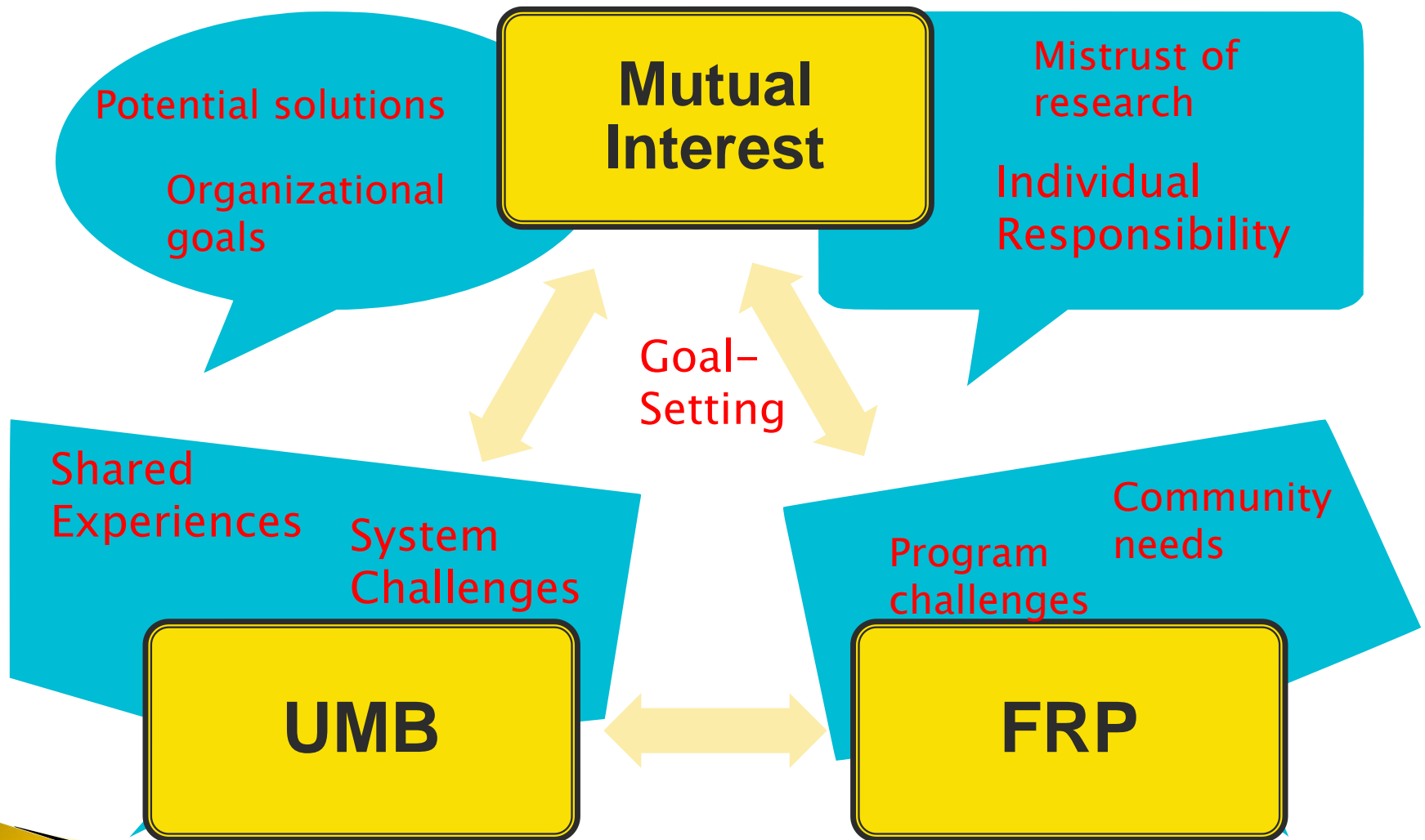
An Inclusive Research Team

Academic credibility, visibility and inclusivity increased through UMB data collection training.

Research team

- UMB nursing student was hired as the coordinator. - gained research experience
- Two research assistants were recommended from the community
- All team members received UMB training

Research Planning

Building Unity of Purpose			
Developed and refined research questions and research processes	Revised title and objectives through the lens of the organization and community	Refined interview script and determined interview format as best fit.	Refined background demographic questionnaire for more relevance

UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Research Implementation

During the implementation phase, the research team assisted with focus group interviews and administered surveys.

▸ A mutual decision ensured surveys can be read to participants to avoid misunderstandings.

▸ The team practiced interview techniques and performed role plays with ineligible residents.

Team Communication

Ongoing constructive communication

- Ongoing weekly meetings, progress updates and an open communication strategy ensured the team learned the tenets of recruiting, documentation, and implementing protocols.
- Ensured consistency of quality checks
- *Consistency and structure were mainstays.*

Building Blocks for Capacity Building

- The study created a sense of continued collaboration with the community beyond the current research.

- Building a unity of purpose

- Inclusivity for credibility and visibility – We are all in this together

- Increased confidence of research assistants with each training milestone achieved.

- Developed skills through role-play and interview technics

- Case Managers were aware of the study and promoted it to their clients (no coercion). Referrals were made to other agencies and programs.

UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

LESSONS LEARNED

Impact of Protocol Changes

▸ Negative impact of study extension

▸ Shifting team focus

▸ Limited recruitment .

▸ Decreased enthusiasm during COVID era

▸ Constrains in budget

(i.e. Research Assistant 4/hours a week per study budget/school calendar)

Unredeemable Gift Cards

Gift cards disbursed could not always be redeemed due to lack of updated email addresses or lost passwords.

Program Restrictions and Enrollment

▶ House telephones shared by program residents created a wait situation. Only one participant could be enrolled at a time and participant time was limited to one hour. Additionally, whenever the house phone was broken, recruitment stalled.

Participants Lost To Follow-up

Several participants were lost to follow-up due to complaints of the surveys being too long. The study was unable to reconnect with these individuals.
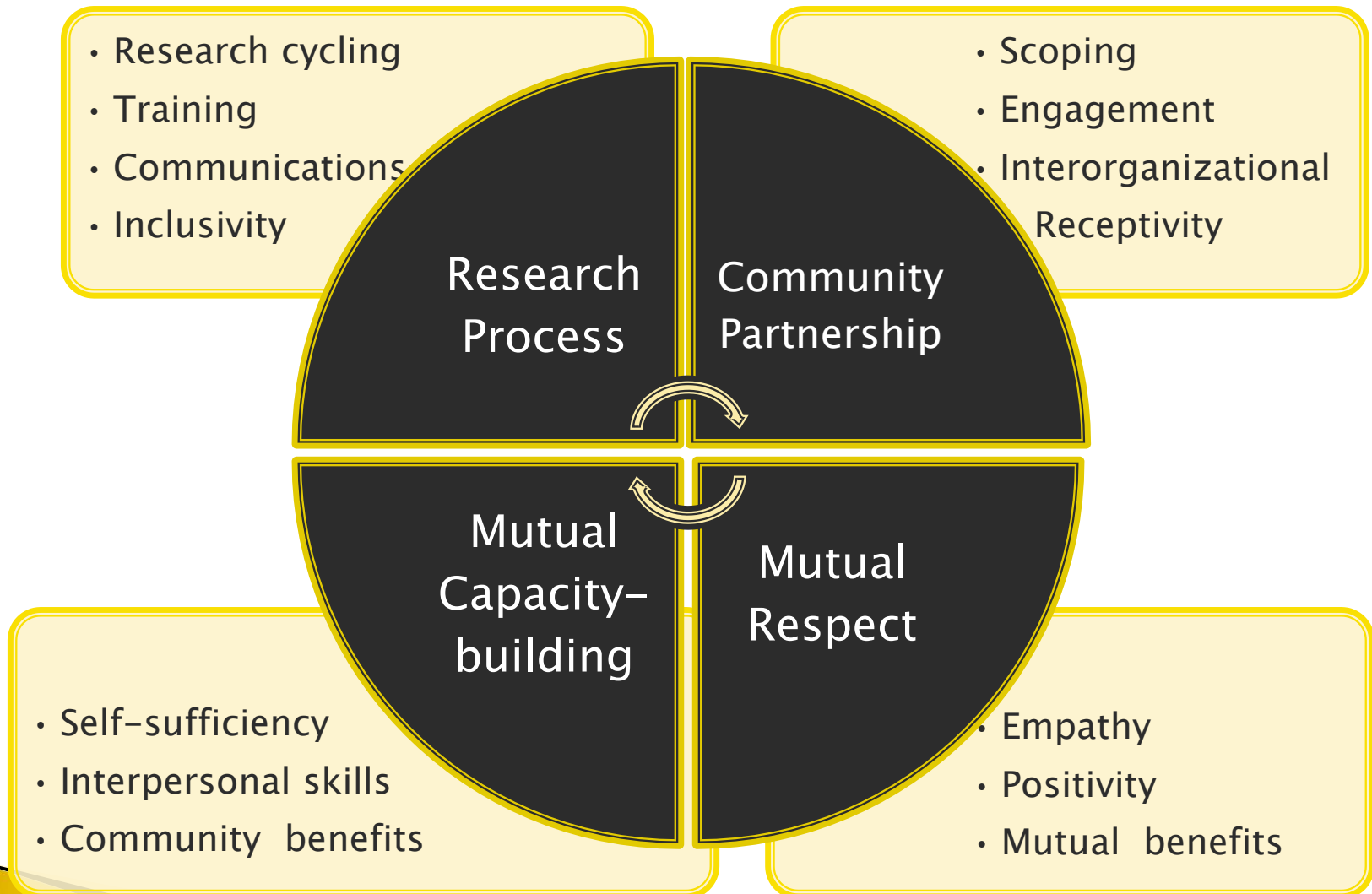
New Gains in Skills

▸ Research assistants led focus groups engaged participants, and learned how to "give voice" to community concerns and strengths

▸ Research Assistants maintained a research lens as they reviewed materials
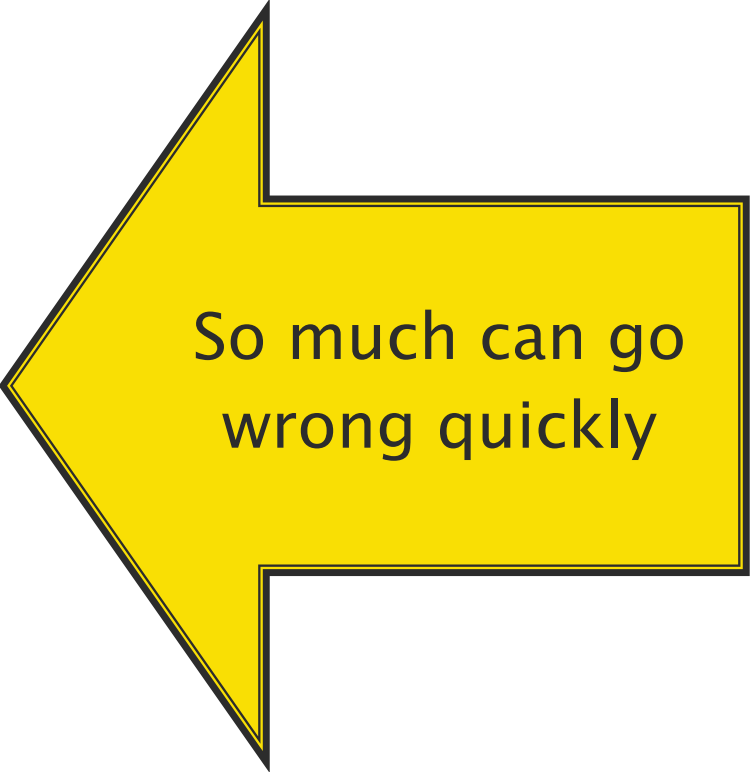
UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Advancing Strategies

- Research cycling
- Training
- Communications
- Inclusivity

- Scoping
- Engagement
- Interorganizational Receptivity

Research Process

Community Partnership

Mutual Capacity-building

Mutual Respect

- Self-sufficiency
- Interpersonal skills
- Community benefits

- Empathy
- Positivity
- Mutual benefits
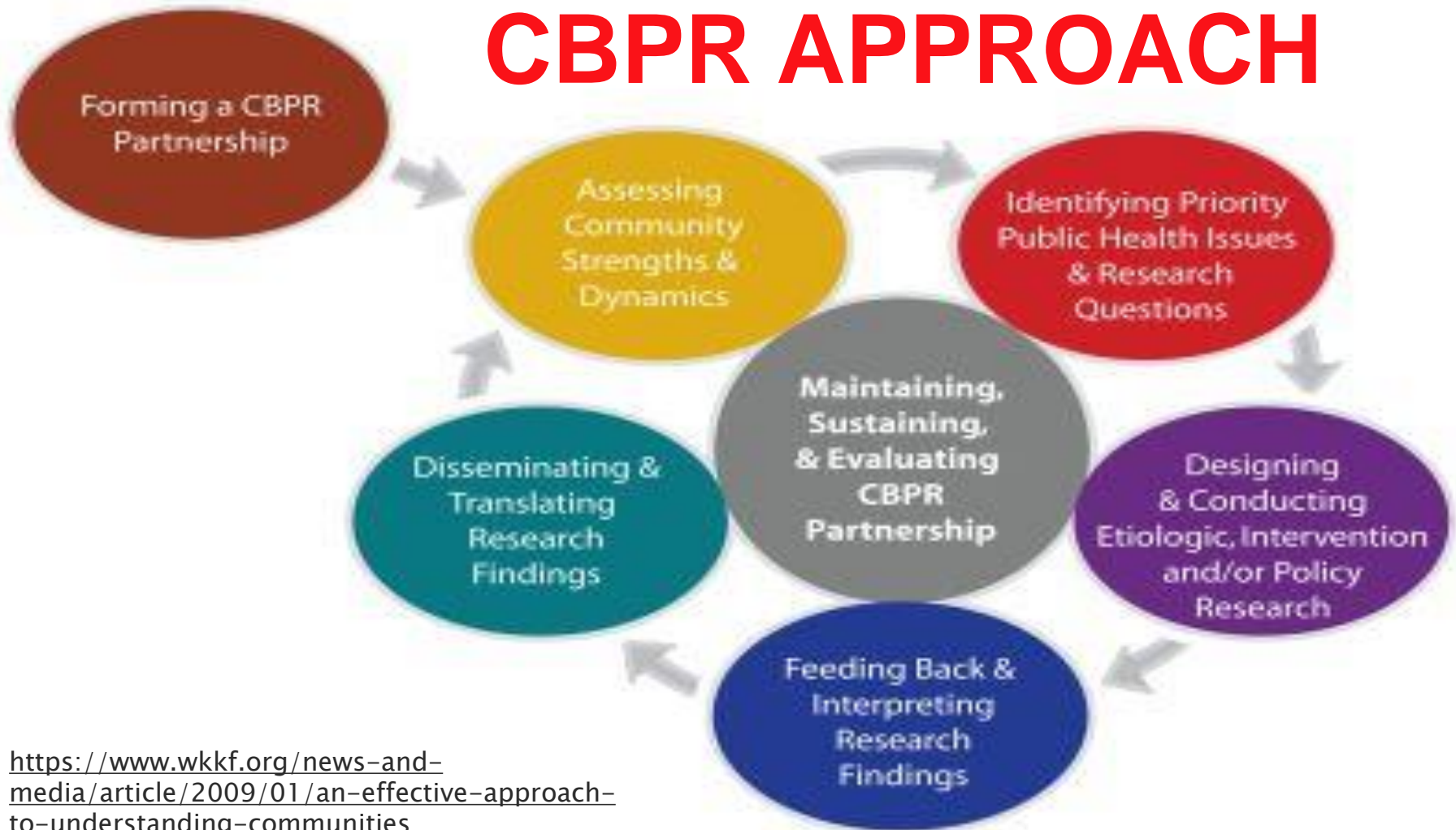
Our Future Collaboration

A plan for continued collaboration includes:

- Meeting to discuss the findings
- Getting feedback from the community
- Discussing future sustenance and proposal writing plans
- Disseminating research findings with the FRP ED as a co-author
- Continuing to collaborate on future presentations and webinars.

UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

CBPR APPROACH

Forming a CBPR Partnership

Assessing Community Strengths & Dynamics

Identifying Priority Public Health Issues & Research Questions

Maintaining, Sustaining, & Evaluating CBPR Partnership

Disseminating & Translating Research Findings

Designing & Conducting Etiologic, Intervention and/or Policy Research

Feeding Back & Interpreting Research Findings

https://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media/article/2009/01/an-effective-approach-to-understanding-communities

A Day in the Community

References

1. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Obstetric Practice & American Society of Addiction Medicine. Opioid use and opioid use disorder in pregnancy (ACOG Committee Opinion No. 711.

2. W.K Kelloggs Foundation. An effective approach to understanding communities.

3. https://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media/article/2009/01/an-effective-approach-to-understanding-communities

4. Green CA. Gender and use of substance abuse treatment services. Alcohol Res Health. 2006;29(1):55-62.

5. Brady, T.M., and Ashley, O.S., eds. *Women in Substance Abuse Treatment: Results From the Alcohol and Drug Services Study (ADSS).* DHHS Pub. No. SMA 04–3968, Analytic Series A–26. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, 2005.

6. Mandell K, Werner D. Guidance to States: Treatment Standards for Women with Substance Use Disorders. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, 2008. https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/womenstxstandardsguideline.pdf. Accessed November 10, 2020.

7. Collier AY, Molina RL. Maternal Mortality in the United States: Updates on Trends, Causes, and Solutions. Neoreviews. 2019;20(10): e561-e574. doi:10.1542/neo.20-10-e561. https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/womenstxstandardsguideline.pdf).

Contact Information

Doris Titus-Glover, PhD, MSN
Assistant Professor
KL2 Research Scholar
UMB ICTR 2021 ATIP Awardee
UMSON at Universities at Shady Grove
University of Maryland School of Nursing
Email: dtitus-glover@umaryland.edu

UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING