Building and Sustaining an Academic-Community Collaborative Amidst Health Reform

A Case Study of the Community Health Advocacy and Research Alliance (CHARA)

DATE: June 22, 2017 PRESENTED BY: Melinda M. Davis, PhD, Director of Community Engaged Research, Research Assistant Professor
Background & Overview

- CHARA emerged through funding from the PCORI Pipeline to Proposal Award Series

- **Goal:** To build a network of community members, local health leaders and researchers who can “identify, develop, and conduct health research to answer questions that matter here.”

- **Presentation Overview**
  - Describe community/regional context
  - Summarize CHARA process
  - Highlight lessons learned and current challenges
Context: Oregon’s Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs)
Health Council Staff Members

- Central Oregon (n=4)
  - Donna Mills
  - Rebeckah Berry
  - MaCayla Arsenault
  - Kelsey Seymour

- Columbia Gorge (n=4)
  - Coco Yackley
  - Suzanne Cross
  - Katy Williams
  - Claire Ranit

PacificSource Medicaid Staff:

- Central Oregon CCO
  - Leslie Neugebauer
  - Molly Taroli

- Gorge CCO
  - Dr. Kristen Dillon
  - Trudy Townsend
  - Elke Towey

- Both CCOs
  - Lindsey Hopper, Vice-President of Medicaid Programs
  - Ralph Summers, Behavioral Health Manager
  - Heather Simmons, Dental Program Manager
  - Dr. Alison Little, Medical Director
  - Dr. Mike Franz, Behavioral Health Medical Director
Understanding Priorities

• **Strategy:** Leverage rather than replicate existing infrastructure

  – Monthly attendance at CAC meetings (2015 to present)

  – Attendance and presentations to local advisory boards (e.g., The Next Door, Inc, Head Start, Rotary)

  – Appreciative inquiry interviews (n=27)

• 3 areas: lifestyle/social determinants, clinical quality measures (colorectal cancer), mental health/substance use
Building Capacity

- Two regional symposium on research methods and advocacy—May & June 2015

- Community Health Improvement and Research Partnership (CHIRP, see http://communityresearchtoolbox.org/)

- Patient and Clinician Engagement (PACE)

- CHARA Community Research Retreat – November 2015

- Emergent Structure: Core Team (n=5), Governing Board (n=9), Partner Agencies (n=6), Research Ambassadors (57)
“I don't know what was on your list of 30 rules [for collaboration], but I bet that we followed them all. That's what true collaboration looks like. A friend of mine was in [the area] for a [another] research conference. We shared stories of our day and we both agreed that mine won hands down. It really changed my outlook in ways I didn't expect. Thank you for including me.”

CHARA 2015 Retreat Participant
Taking Action

- Convene regularly to identify emerging community needs and solutions
- Blending and braiding funding
  - CHARA has received multiple awards
  - Community Health Impact Specialist has brought in $5M
  - Applications under review at NIH and PCORI
- Facilitated partnerships with other researchers and communities
- Supported project evaluations and consultations

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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Award Year</th>
<th>Held by</th>
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<tr>
<td>PCORI Tier I</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Community</td>
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<td>AHRQ PCOR K12</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<td>PCORI Tier II</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Knight Finding the Right FIT</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Community</td>
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<td>PCORI Tier III</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<td>Accountable Communities for Health</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Academic (Community sub-contract)</td>
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<td>Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities (MARC) Evaluation</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Community (Academic sub-contract)</td>
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# Community Health Advocacy and Research Alliance (CHARA) Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>ACO rules released by DHS &amp; Oregon HB 3650 authorized CCOs</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Oregon CCOs launched, including Pacific Source Columbia Gorge CCO</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Drs. Davis and Dillon brainstorm at NAPCRG</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>PCORI P2P Tier II awarded. CHARA named.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>PCORI P2P Tier III awarded. PCORI and NIH proposals submitted</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Sustainability Transition</td>
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<td>Accountable Communities of Health Awarded; MARC evaluation</td>
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- Gorge employees Collective Impact Health Specialist
- Columbia Gorge CCO region receives RWJF Culture of Health Prize.
Challenges and Lessons Learned

• PCORI funding has been essential to support partnership development and to enable capacity building

• History of trust, transparent conversations allowed team to strategize around community needs and funder priorities

• Continual challenge/opportunity: sustainably align service and research
  – Build on existing community-based infrastructure
  – Partner with PBRN, CTSA, OHSU evaluation core, other regional research partners
  – Facilitate match-making broadly
  – Apply for research and project-based awards (e.g., community-based evaluator)
Acknowledgements

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  • Rose Gunn, MA
  • Kristen Dillon, MD

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Thank You

For more information: davismel@ohsu.edu
http://www.communityresearchalliance.org/