

The Spanish-Speaking Community Advisory Board: Integration and Collaboration in HIV Care and Research

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Introduction

- Community based participatory research (CBPR) allows communities to be involved in the development and implementation of interventions by researchers through selected individuals from the community (Bogart & Uyeda, 2009).
- Community input is important in research because only members who are involved in the community understand the challenges, stigmas, and perspectives of their community (Norris et al., 2007).
- The use of Community Advisory Boards (CABs) promotes the development of interventions and resources that communities will be receptive to (McQuiston et al., 2005).
- CABs are now standard practice in global health for clinical care and research trials.
- In Los Angeles County (LAC) it is important that the HIV community, in particular minorities, be involved in the prevention, control, and resolution of the pandemic.

Methods

- The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent/Adult Center for Infectious Diseases and Virology (MCA) is a center within the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center that provides a range of services to HIV infected and affected people, including medical care, case management, and opportunities to participate in research.
- We implemented and sustained a Spanish language community advisory board (SCAB) within MCA.
- The participants were Latinx, primarily monolingual Spanish-Speaking HIV+ patients from the MCA Clinic who wanted to be involved in the relationship between HIV/AIDS clinical and research areas.
- The SCAB's approach was to create horizontal and vertical community entity linkages and understand the nature of institutional interactions.
- Goals:
 1. Build the relationship between researchers and the community by facilitating communication and access to other community resources.
 2. Ensure the needs and views of HIV communities are represented in the design and implementation of programs and interventions in their spaces.

Results

SCAB

MCA Spanish-Speaking CAB

Community

MCA HIV+ Population

Los Angeles County Commission on HIV

The Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (PHACS)

International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trial Network (IMPAACT)

LAC+USC Medical Center Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC)

Los Angeles Women's HIV AIDS Task Force

Clinical

Research

Women's Caucus

PHACS CAB Group

IMPAACT CAB Group

PFAC Member

Improvement of clinical services

Liaison between researchers and community

Consumer Caucus

Continue Quality Assurance Improvement (CQI)

Review/Recommendation of HIV research studies

Operations Committee

Provide health education and risk reduction of HIV to patients

Executive Committee

Aging Task Force

Results

- The SCAB served as a bridge between research, clinical care, and community, leading to collaboration and partnership.
- It improved clinical trials on prevention, facilitated the involvement of the HIV community in formulating research agendas, resolved ethical issues, focused attention on HIV-related health problems, and addressed policy issues relating to interpretive services, childcare, financial assistance programs, and mental health issues.

Conclusion

- The SCAB facilitates community involvement in patient care and support to improve implementation and sustainability of HIV prevention and control strategies.
- It provides a mechanism for community consultation that contributes to protecting the HIV population and fostering meaningful research.
- The SCAB is an example of a successful partnership between healthcare services providers, researchers, and the community in HIV prevention and control.
- A CAB that includes Spanish-speaking patients provides an opportunity to engage vulnerable populations, which may impact health care disparities.

References

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Thank You!

¡Gracias!