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Stakeholder Engagement through Participatory Action Research at iSPARC

Amanda Costa, Melissa Anderson, Deirdre Logan, Celine Larkin University of Massachusetts Medical School

Established in 2018, the Implementation Science & Practice Advances Research Center (iSPARC) is a new Massachusetts DMH-funded collaborative effort between the former UMMS Systems and Psychosocial Advances Research Center, UMMS Population & Quantitative Health Sciences and Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. With 52 core and affiliate investigators, iSPARC features four interacting programs: Stakeholder Engagement, Public Mental Health and Implementation Research, Technical Assistance and External Funding, and Workforce Development.

The mission of the Stakeholder Engagement Program is to lead the mental health research community and beyond in working in partnership with individuals with lived mental health experience, their families, and the agencies that serve them. This program intersects with several of iSPARC's activities. It includes three active advisory groups with more than 20 members representing youth & young adults with lived mental health experience, older adults with lived mental health experience, and family members. These advisory groups adopt a participatory action research (PAR) approach and seek to engage community stakeholders at every stage of research, from development through enrollment and dissemination.

The iSPARC Stakeholder Engagement Program seeks to increase engagement and diversity through several initiatives:

- Development of a community provider advisory board
- > Annual assessment of diversity representation on advisory boards
- > Annual assessment of participation action research across all iSPARC projects
- Ongoing dissemination of products to assist other organizations in initiating and maintaining stakeholder engagement

Developing dissemination products around stakeholder engagement



Measuring and improving participatory approaches in existing studies using a structured tool

Participatory Action Research Planning and Assessment

Introduction To more spinnished yrightened PAR evelveds access SPARC research and commandation offers, the SPARC PAR Instance developed, and is convertly pisting, a seed to december and support PAR offers access or war. The back In Participation Acidentification Participation Acidentification (Acidentification of the Acidentification access access and concepts of the Acidentification of the Acidentification

Planning and Assessment Tool, was informed by the comprisely research disorcitized above, as well an engaging, in-fairly, implement convented by the PMR resistation land instrusts conducted by the PMR Intributes landows. This tool on comprehensive and incorporate the alternative of the PCOPS Engagement Relians, used all a purplement, additional considerations reliciously to engaging individuals with irest experience in the research process.

Instructions: Pericipatory Action Research, or PAR, is an approach in which researchers and the community of bloom (COP) collectorate on a research project with the opportunity to the community of Cocor is the activity invented air makely bease of the research, from proposal deviceopers at the way to univaries and disservation of results. Makely, the COP plays an active test throughout the mover and their substance and receives an exercipid in histograph and their contributions of the community.

Some ovaryties of a community of locus (COF) could include; young adults with mortal health conditions, other adults with mortal health conditions, other leads to make mortal health conditions, mortals of the Deal community, at the Participatory Acidon Research Planning and Assessment Tool (PAPA-PAT) will help your research team assess your current ability to oraging with your COF and dartely now and concress ways that

This tool is most successful when it is completed collaboratively with input from all members of the team. It is also recommended that the tool be used on an iterative basis, for example, reviewed at the beginning of each phase of research. Conducting an annual diversity survey of our existing advisory groups

2018 results (n=14)	
Diverse in:	
Ethnicity?	No
Race?	Yes
Language?	No
Gender?	Yes
Sexual orientation?	Yes
Disability?	Yes
Lived experience of	
mental health?	Yes

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