



2016

## Day 2 - Developing Research Collaborations with Virginia State Agencies

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# Getting to Know You

## Building Relationships with State Agencies

Deana Buck, Dana Yarbrough, Tera Yoder

Partnership for People with Disabilities



# Partnership and Audience

- Partnership for People with Disabilities
  - University Center in Developmental Disabilities
  - Presenters: Deana, Dana, and Tera

- Audience

- Who you are
- Your research interest/experience
- ????? You have about working with state agencies





# Virginia state agencies involved with our work

- Department of Education
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Medical Assistance Services
- Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services

# How we formed relationships with state agencies

- Expertise
- Overlapping interest/work
- State level committees and workgroups
- Mutual benefits
- Work experience
- Taking the long view
- Connections to national experts



# Understanding what an agency does and their priorities

- Study websites of agencies that may have an interest in your research/idea
- Know priorities and what they fund
- Get to know people in the agency in your area of expertise/interest
- Go to meetings and workshops
- Volunteer for committees and workgroups to share your expertise



# Steps to developing a project

- Refine how your proposed project will contribute to the mission of the agency that matches your expertise
- Familiarize yourself with development resources available through OSP
- Prepare an outline of your proposal
- Meet with staff members who will champion your project
- Determine if funding is available
- Scale your project to meet funding availability



# Steps to developing a project

- Determine the agency process for submitting a materials for an agreement
  - Scope of work
  - Deliverables
  - Budget
  - Agency template
- Work through your school/department to contact and coordinate with OSP
- Understand the guidance from OSP (what is required by VCU for the agreement to be approved)





# Some examples of relationships

- Early Childhood
- Family Involvement and Support
- Community Living

Who are your potential partners??



# How we got involved

- Agency
- Who we got to know in agency
- Type of program (training, technical assistance, research, dissemination)
- Length of time
- Growth of initial project and what it led to
- How we maintained the relationship



# Questions and discussion



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Partnership for People with Disabilities

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