Ethical Issues in Community Based Participatory Research in the North: Challenges and Opportunities

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Dilemma

"An ethical dilemma is encountered whenever there is a choice between two or more equally balanced alternatives—whenever a good case can be made for both courses of action."

- Royce, Thyer, Padgett and Logan, 2001, p. 32

Challenge of Research/Community Relationships

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<tr>
<th>University Control</th>
<th>Community Control</th>
<th>CBPR</th>
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<td>Shared University/Community Control</td>
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Community Placed vs. Participatory

- Who chose the problem to be studied?
- How is the budget divided?
- Is there an intervention or service component?
- Where are the results disseminated?
- Who designed the intervention?
- Who made the research policy decisions? (e.g., is there a control group?)
- Who writes papers/makes presentations? Who owns the data?

Lessons Learned

- Need additional space for reflective professional practice and exchange
- Need to review processes to balance the public right to know and decide vs. investigator autonomy and intellectual rights

Next Steps

- Need arctic-specific ethical guidelines for CBPR, focusing on emerging indigenous models and approaches
- Review of existing guidelines for participatory research in the North -- what is working well?

Challenges of CBPR

Multiple review processes (including tribes and/or indigenous leadership) are still in development and often difficult to navigate for all involved.

Strengths of CBPR

Multiple review processes (including tribes and/or indigenous leadership) are still in development and are often actively engaged in addressing long-standing power differentials and cultural misunderstandings.

Special Issue 2010-2012

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was planned and implemented in 2010-2012.

Focus of the original call was for papers about one or more of the following aspects of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR):

- Defining partnerships and communities,
- Issue identification,
- Data collection and methods,
- Interpretation and dissemination of results,
- Social action/advocacy, and
- Ethical challenges and lessons learned.

Resources

Special Issue on Participatory Research Editorial: Addressing challenges in participatory research partnerships in the North: opening a conversation
http://www.circumpolarhealthjournal.net/index.php/ijch/issue/view/1457

Circumpolar Health Research Network
http://circhnet.org/