

**Report 41: Partnering with Communities**

**Convener:** Erin Haynes

**Brief History:** Strong internal interest is recognized; however, EJ and CBPR grants are currently not active. Many of the leading community-based groups started their environmental health capacity and focus from NIEHS funding! PEPH is a broad umbrella including some community partnerships in research.

**Discussion Highlights:**

Good CBPR does not mean hiring someone from within the University to do outreach.

It would be ideal to connect NIEHS investigators with potential legislation that could affect health in order to evaluate pre and post effects related to a policy decision, for instance, reducing diesel exhaust on school buses.

**Recommendations:**

Reinstitute EJ and CBPR grant mechanisms and reinforce/communicate NIEHS support for community grants as the perception from the community does not match the perception from within.

NIEHS should step-up and strongly recommend a community partner to improve “good standard of practice” for traditional R01s.

Community partnerships should be evaluated.

Study Section Issues: Increase capacity of study section members to review grants that include community partners. This goal could also be met by revising study membership to include community members and having COEC-types be 1<sup>st</sup> reviewer on COEC-type sections. Expand focus of study sections to include CBPR-type grants and include CBPR approaches in the scoring.

Increase NIEHS involvement in Dissemination Science across the NIH

Improve partnership between sister Environmental Public Health agencies: CDC, NIEHS, etc. because current partnership attempts from universities to public health agencies have been extremely challenging as some health departments have been resistant to partnering on environmental health issues relevant to the community.

Improve University IRB capacity to handle working with community groups and to review CBPR projects.

Improve recognition of importance and prestige of doing CBPR in the promotion and tenure process for universities and within the NIEHS

Include departments of health on advisory committees

Make the Public Interest Partners Meaningful or Disband

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