

Bronx Community Collaborative Opportunities for Research and Education (Bronx C²ORE):

Developing a Research Capacity-Building Model



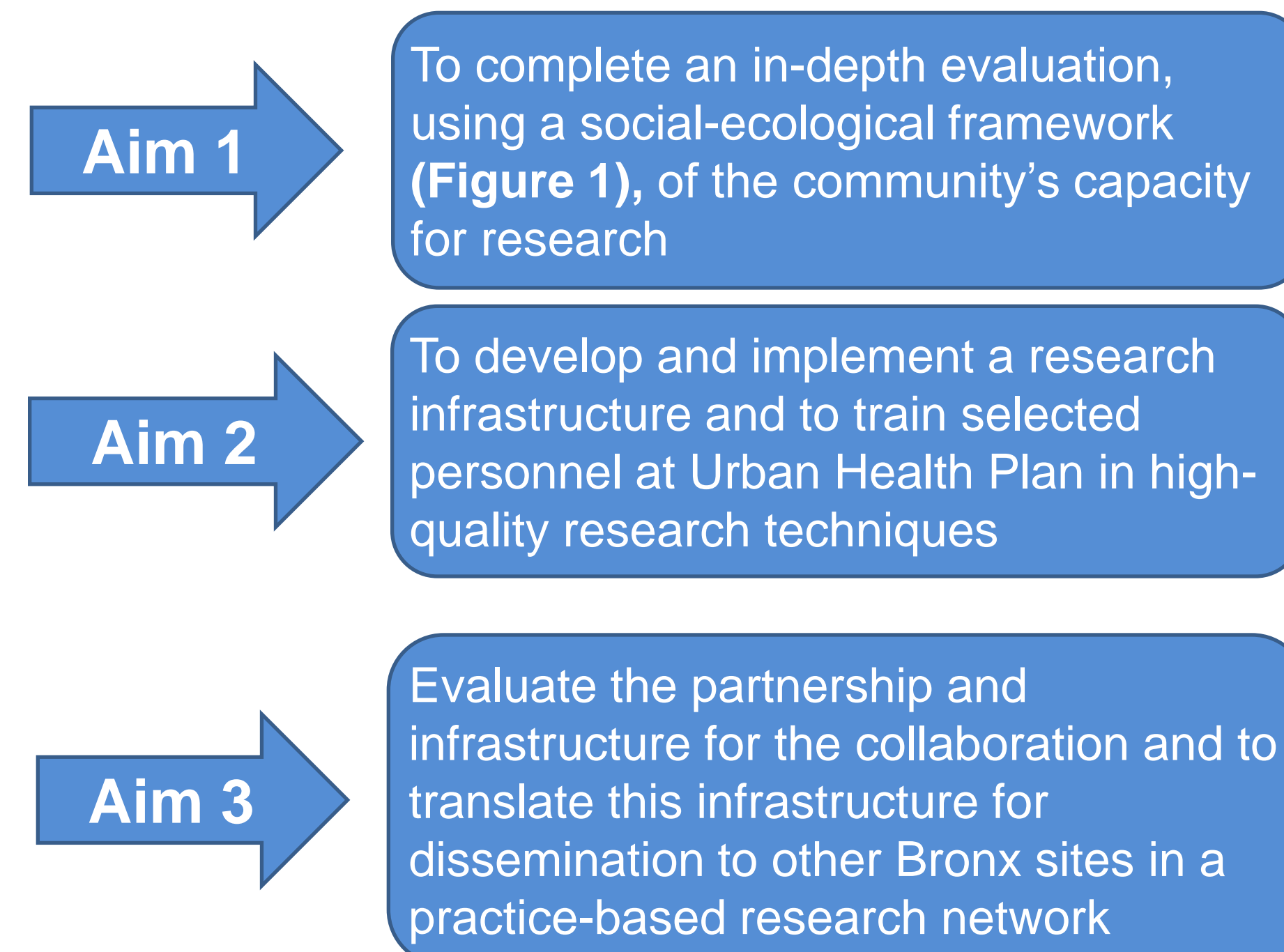
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HYPOTHESIS

Transformative collaboration of an academic medical center and community-based organization may answer the urgent need for research that is responsive to the needs of individuals, providers, and systems in the Bronx.

SPECIFIC AIMS



BACKGROUND

The Bronx is one of five boroughs (counties) in New York City with the following unique characteristics:

- 26th most populous county in the U.S., with ~1.39 million residents.
- Among the nation's poorest urban counties; contains the 16th congressional district, the poorest in the U.S.
- Predominantly minority population: 54% Latino and 37% African-American.
- Residents suffer high rates of diabetes (14%, compared to ~7% nationally), obesity (26%), hypertension (34%), asthma (16%), and HIV infection (almost 2%).¹

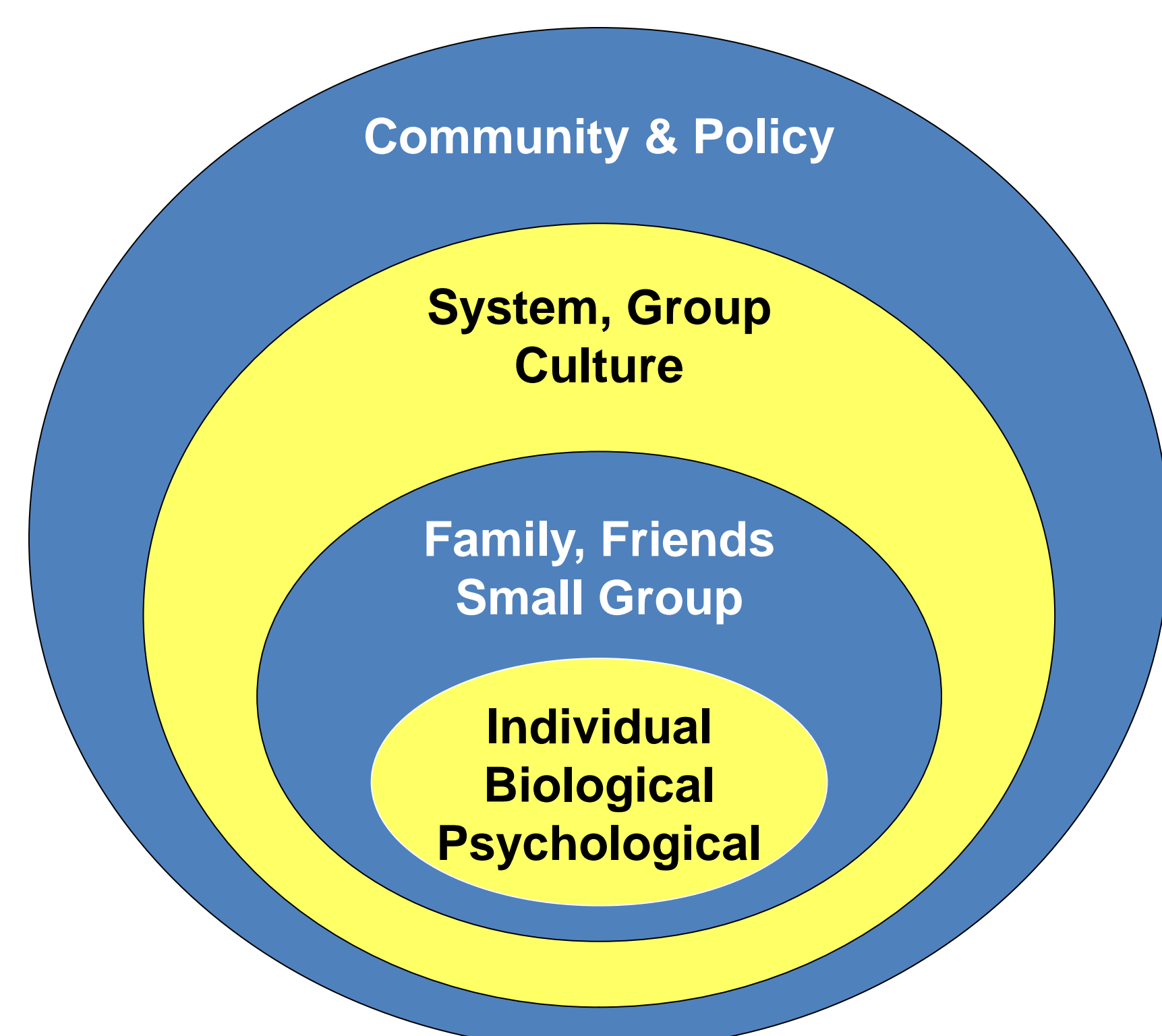


Figure 1: Social-Ecological Framework

METHODS

Timeline: Funded July 2010 – July 2013

- Joint planning meetings in Year 1 focused on the creation of: a shared vision; a leadership and partnership structure; a work plan (Figure 2); and a communication strategy.
- To inform the work plan, an anonymous, qualitative questionnaire was administered to faculty and staff in July 2011 to identify areas of mutual interest, establish understanding of each organization's priorities and needs, and identify potential barriers.
- A Partnership Self-Assessment was conducted in December 2011 and December 2012, using a novel partnership evaluation survey tool to determine how well the Bronx C²ORE partnership was functioning and make any necessary changes.²

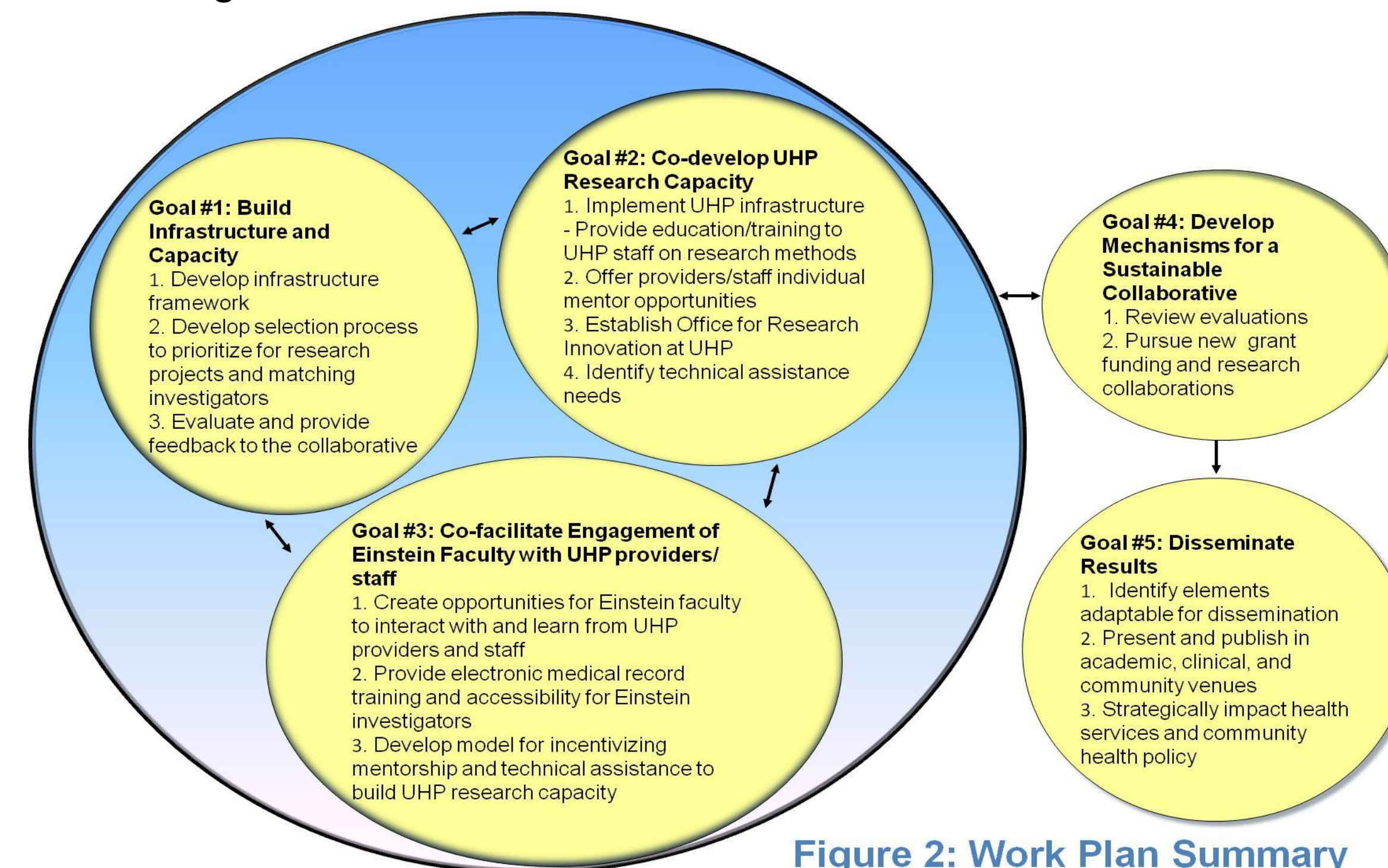


Figure 2: Work Plan Summary

The partnership's structure is composed three overlapping groups, including two leadership committees:

Executive Committee (n=5): The PIs from UHP and Einstein, senior research faculty and staff, and the *Community Research Associate*, a new and unique role funded by the NIH grant.

Steering Committee (n=10): Executive Committee members, plus key faculty and two project evaluators.

Implementation Team (n=27): Executive and Steering Committee members, Assistant Dean for Community Engagement from Einstein, plus a range of academic and clinical participants from each institution

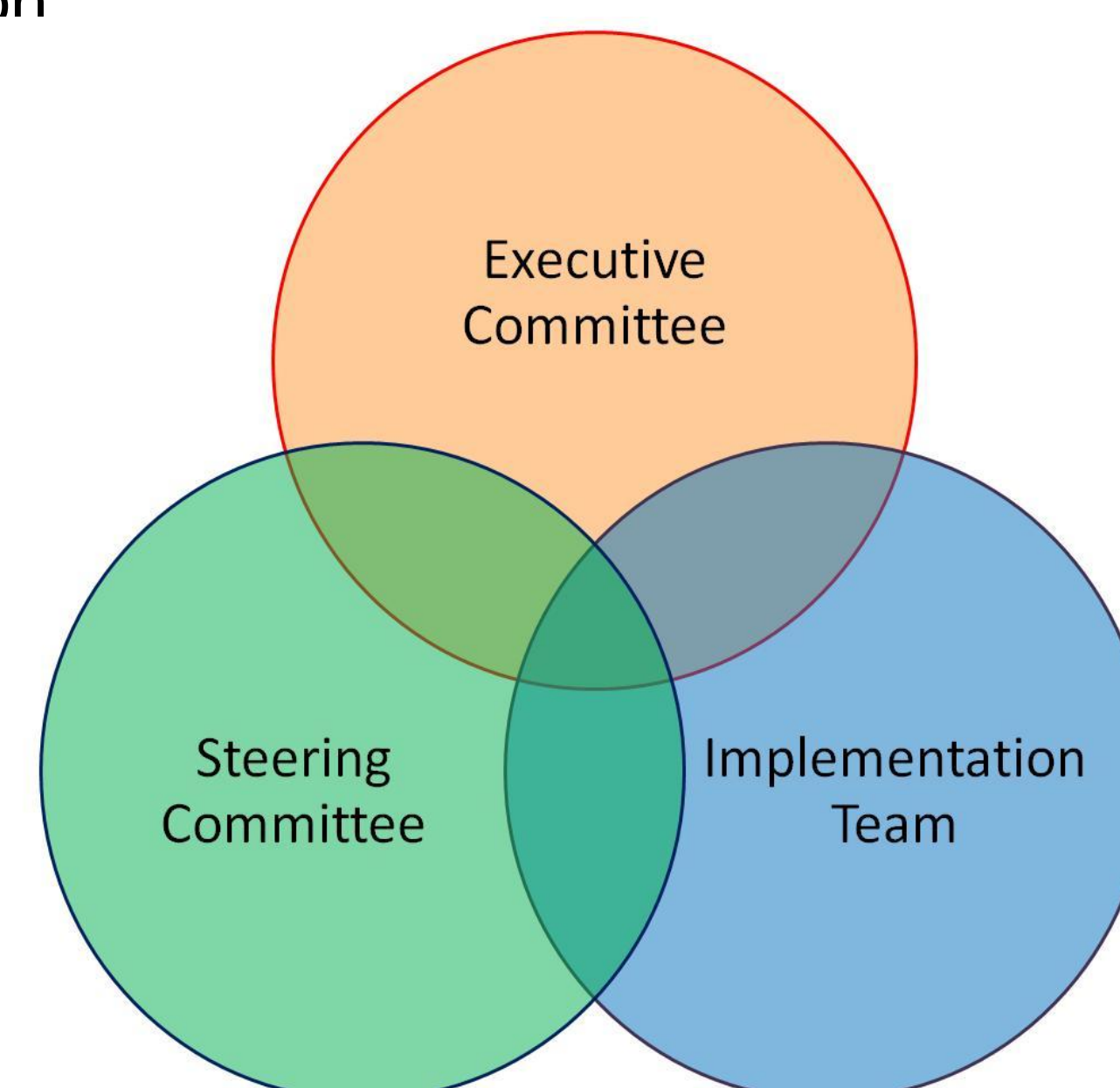


Figure 3: Bronx C²ORE Collaborative Structure

The collaborative became a working partnership with the name **Bronx Community Collaborative Opportunities for Research & Education (Bronx C²ORE).**

RESULTS

- Based on findings from the first Partnership Self-Assessment (December 2011), three workgroups were created, with members of the Steering Committee and Implementation Team participating in each group, in order to incorporate more direct and regular participation and decision-making among all of its Implementation Team members:
 - The **Research Initiation & Projects Workgroup** focuses on specific research ideas and projects.
 - The **Training and Development Workgroup** focuses on identifying clinical research training needs and developing a continuing training program.
 - The **Infrastructure Development Workgroup** focuses on administrative and structural processes/systems that will assure sustainability of the work we accomplish during the funding period.

• Figure 4 is based on the Partnership Self-Assessment in 2011 and 2012 and shows positive change in partners' self-reported level of involvement prior to the development of the workgroups (T1) and after their development (T2), a year later.

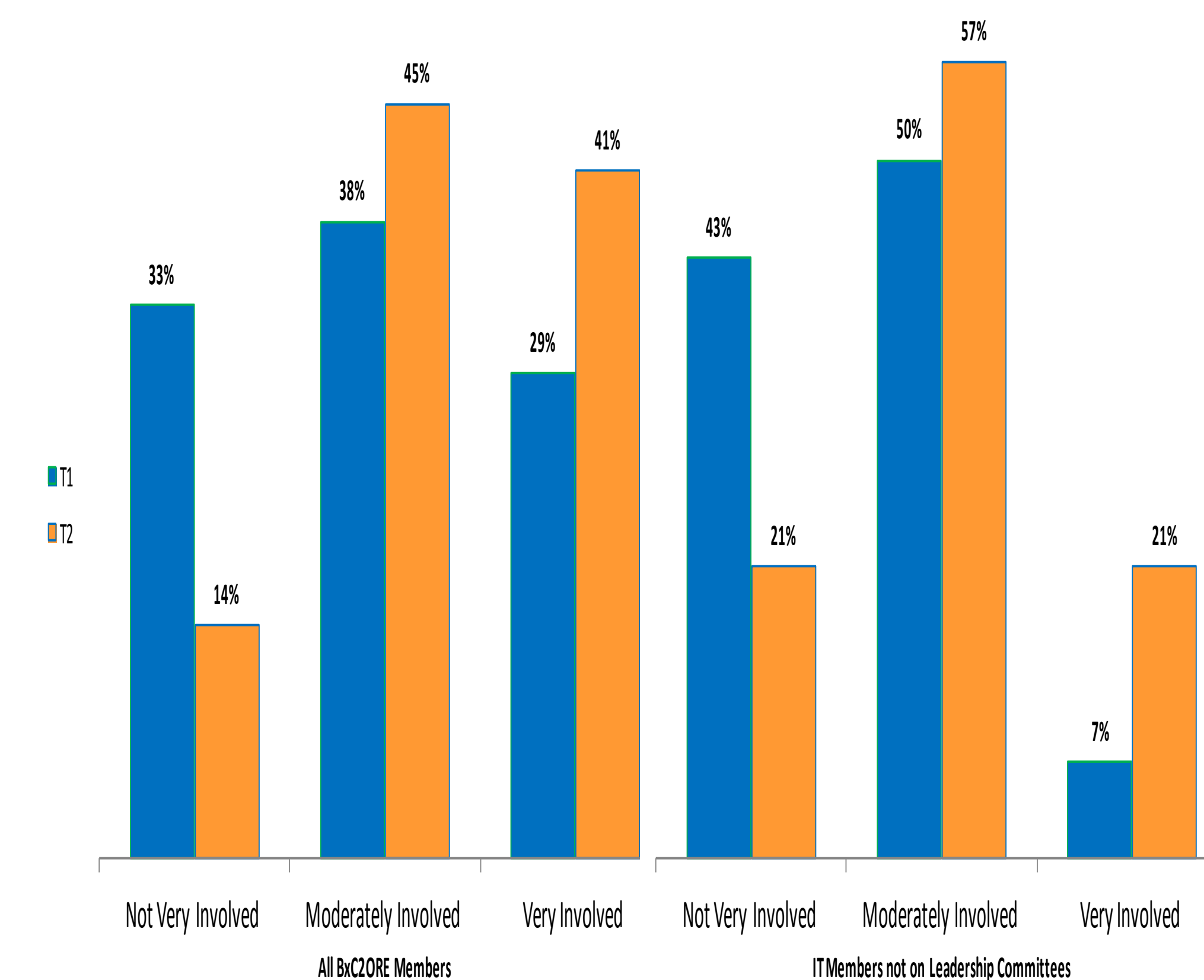


Figure 4: Level of Participation

- The second Partnership Self-Assessment conducted in December 2012 also revealed:
 - 95% believe the group has developed good plans for achieving its goals (↑ 20% from 2011).
 - 100% believe the group can have a positive effect on the community (↑ 14% from 2011).
 - 90% are satisfied with the group's progress (↑ 19% from 2011).
 - 90% find the meetings useful (↑ 19% from 2011) and 95% enjoy meetings (↑ 14% from 2011).
 - 100% of members are "fully" or "mostly" satisfied with the way meetings are planned and structured (↑ 29% from 2011).

PROGRESS

In its third and final year, the Bronx C²ORE has accomplished the following:

- Delivery of a clinical research training lecture series by Einstein faculty for UHP's multidisciplinary staff.
- Completion of two half-day intensive clinical research training sessions facilitated by Einstein faculty and attended by 5 UHP providers and 2 staff members.
- Published a peer-reviewed article on UHP's asthma management program.³
- Presentation of four posters at national conferences.
- Submitted a collaborative NIH grant on postpartum smoking relapse.
- Funded collaborative NCI project on improving cervical cancer screening adherence in young women.
- Continued development of UHP research infrastructure.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The following challenges have been identified during the first two years of the partnership:

- Communicating in a common language.
- Gaining consensus on priorities for clinical research training.
- Project selection for collaborative community-based research.
- Capitalizing on strengths of each institution.
- Integrating research activities into the daily clinical operations of UHP, a busy community health center
- Sustaining research capacity and infrastructure.

The opportunities that lie ahead include:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes the partnership.
- Sustaining the Community Research Associate's role.
- Developing a repository for all partnership documentation.
- Dissemination of the model to additional sites.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2. Weiss ES, Anderson RM, Lasker RD (2002). Making the most of collaboration: Exploring the relationship between partnership synergy and partnership functioning. *Health Educ Behav*, 29(6):683-98.
3. Lester D, Mohammad A, Leach EE, Hernandez PI, Walker EA (2012). An investigation of asthma care best practices in a community health center. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*, 23 (3Suppl): 255-64.

UHP = Urban Health Plan
Einstein = Albert Einstein College of Medicine