

# Capacity Building through Partnerships with Academic Institutes, Health Organizations, and the State Department of Health

Victoria Walker, MPH, Candice Green, MPH, Georgette Powell, BS, Tanya Funchess, DHA, MPH, MSM, Melody S. Goodman, PhD

**Background:** Community based participatory research (CBPR) involves community members in the research and program development process, building the capacity of the community to draw on its social capital to address multifaceted problems. Recruiting community members to participate in CBPR projects can be daunting due to the lack of training or skills the community has in public health research terminology and theory. CBPR is advantageous for Mississippi communities due to its social determinants of health contributing to health disparities.

**Methods:** A steering committee was established from academic institutes and health organizations of the Jackson Metro Area and the state health department. The steering committee provided recommendations for the community advisory board (CAB), refined the syllabus, recruited participants, and participated as faculty members. Faculty members were selected from the universities and experts of public health in Mississippi. The CAB consisted of professionals who provide a direct service to the community.

**Results:** Eighteen faculty members, seven CAB members, and six steering community members collaborated together (a total of 14 academic institutes, health care organizations, and community organizations). Twenty-seven community members participated in the program; twenty-five graduated from the 16 week curriculum.

**Objective:** The development of a partnership among academic institutes, health organizations, and the health department to develop and implement a 16 week training program on public health and research.



**Discussion/conclusion:** Preparing the community for CBPR requires a collaborative effort from a multitude of professions. These partnerships can last longer than the scope of the project, benefiting both the community and the organizations.

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## CRFT Courses

- Evidence-based Public Health
- Research Methods and Data
- Public Health Research
- Health Disparities
- Family Health History
- Cultural Competency
- Public Health Library Resources
- Health Literacy
- Program Evaluation
- Research Evaluation
- Introduction to Epidemiology
- Community Health & Community Based Prevention
- Quantitative Methods
- Community Based Participatory Research
- Qualitative Methods
- Research Ethics
- Clinical Trials
- Health Policy Research
- Grant Writing
- Human Subjects Certification

## Partnerships

- Building Bridges
- Commonhealth Action
- Department of Mental Health
- Foundation for the Mid South
- Jackson State University
- Mississippi State Department of Health
- Mississippi State University
- My Brother's Keeper, Inc.
- Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi
- The University of Mississippi
- Tougaloo College
- University of Mississippi Medical Center
- University of Southern Mississippi

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