

Engaging Stakeholders for Research Impact

Presenters:

Dr. Tamika Heiden and Dr. Toni Saia

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How would you define stakeholder engagement?

And why is it important?

Stakeholder Engagement Definition and Importance

- Stakeholder engagement in research is the process of working together with stakeholders for a common goal.
- Engaging stakeholders in research ensures that you deliver useful and usable knowledge.
- Stakeholder engagement is about involving the disability community in decisions that could potentially impact their lives.
- Stakeholder engagement increases research impact because it increases community buy-in and relevance of the research.

When do you involve stakeholders and what does that involvement look like?

Involving Stakeholders in Research

- Research is not just *for* people, it's *with* people.
- Stakeholders need to be involved throughout the entire research process to provide regular feedback and serve as advisors to the project.
- Stakeholders should be help develop research questions by determining what questions are relevant, timely, important, and needed by the groups they represent.
- At the end of the research process, stakeholders can help communicate findings, implement the research, and be the voice for change to champion the information.

How can research projects plan for the time and investment of integrated knowledge translation and collaborative research?

Integrated Knowledge Translation and Collaborative Research

- Meaningful research requires building nurturing relationships with stakeholders, regardless of funding or other incentives.
- Working with stakeholders helps to create relevant, meaningful, impactful research that can affect upward mobility in a researcher's career and attract more funding to do additional research.
- Engaging stakeholders early on requires researchers to listen to the stakeholders, respect their opinions, and be willing to adjust to work together towards the overall goal of the research.
- It's important to have a structure where stakeholders feel like they can give feedback and be part of the process.

Have you had situations where you have not acted on a stakeholder's suggestion?

Listening to Stakeholders

- The goal of stakeholder engagement is not always about developing a solution or an answer. It's about putting the thoughts on the table and reflecting.
- Not every stakeholder has an identical role or an identical stake in the research. It's the researcher's responsibility to delineate how all the stakeholders can work together so that the stakeholders understand their role in the relationship.
- Researchers should create a culture from the beginning of compromise and a strengths-based approach for the stakeholders.

While the intended audience for the Stakeholder Engagement Info Brief is NIDILRR grantees, who else do you think should read it?

Info Brief Audience

- The Info Brief is for all researchers working in a community-based setting.
- It can help people who want to understand what engagement is and how to do it effectively.
- The Info Brief case study provides an example of how researchers worked with stakeholders at all different levels to help a local existing restaurant to improve accessibility. It highlights the benefits of getting unique perspectives.

How do you see stakeholder engagement being measured in the field? Or is it?

Measuring Stakeholder Engagement

- Researchers should consider assessing engagement rather than measuring, because not all aspects of stakeholder engagement can be measured.
- Researchers can use tools throughout the research process to assess stakeholder relationships, such as a ranked scale of progress, to see how the relationships are working.
- Another way researchers can assess stakeholder engagement is to consider whether stakeholders adopted or used the deliverable, which can indicate the impact or the value of the work.

Do you have suggestions or ideas on how to cultivate diverse and inclusive stakeholders?

Cultivating Diverse and Inclusive Stakeholders

- It is important for researchers to foster relationships within a community prior to working on a project in order to increase relevance of the research questions.
- Researchers also need to think proactively about what representation they need before connecting with the community stakeholders.
- They can sometimes work with existing connections to build inclusive representation.
- They may also need to immerse themselves further in the communities they hope to reach, or forge relationships with new communities, welcoming community representatives into the research process while getting to know them.

Thank you!

We invite you to:

- Provide your input on today's webcast.
- Share your thoughts on future webcast topics.
- Contact us at ktdrr@air.org

Please complete the brief evaluation form at:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6386245/Eval-EngagingStakeholders>



www.ktdrr.org



ktdrr@air.org



4700 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723



800.266.1832

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