O’Brien Institute for Public Health Mentorship and leadership portfolio
March 31, 2020 – Zoom meeting

Creating a Community of Practice of Public Health Researchers During the COVID-19 Pandemic Networking Session # 1

Attendees: Jamie Day, Pablo Fernandez, Christine Friedenreich, Kerri Johannson, Meghan McDonough, Marie-Claude Proulx, Mariko Roe, Caley Shukalek, Ann Toohey, Marinka Twilt,

Host: Aliya Kassam, lead for Mentorship and Leadership portfolio

Notes

Goal of the meeting: Needs assessment and brainstorming session on Creating a Community of Practice of Public Health Researchers during the COVID-19 Pandemic and understanding how we can bring our community of Researchers together, instead of working in silos.

“Community of practice” is defined as a group of people who share a concern, a set of problems or a passion about a topic and who deepen their knowledge and expertise by interacting on an ongoing basis. The O’Brien Institute tries to facilitate such community of practices. One example is the “StreetCCRED” initiative, a group that brings together academics, clinicians & health care front line workers, community agencies, policy makers, etc to help vulnerable populations.

One of the Institute goal is to magnify member’s research and message Communities of practice are developing and evolving and using different communications platforms like social medias which have helped to reach out to others outside of Alberta and Canada.

Regarding fostering a Community of practice around research on Co-Vid 19:

Because everything is happening so fast, there is a need to amplify and share the work that is being done in the Institute, understanding that the Institute focus is on research (to inform policy). The Institute mandate should stay separate from clinical matters (AHS’ mandate), while working together with clinicians and decision maker to inform best practices and policies (i.e. the Institute has been mandated by the city and is working in collaboration with AHS and Alberta Health to provide evidences to help in making policy decision during the crisis.) However, there should be an opportunity (since so many clinicians also have a research mandate) to build on clinical processes currently put in place to facilitate research (clinical trials)? Is there a coordinated effort (and/or capacity) at the

Institute communications Platform:
Email: iph@ucalgary.ca
Web-site https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/
Weekly Newsletter O’Bulletin and O’Snap
Twitter https://twitter.com/OBrien_IPH
@Obrien_IPH
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/obrieniph

Co-Vid 19 specific:
Institute Co-vid page: https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/obrien-covid-response
Centre for Health Informatics tracker: https://www.chi-csm.ca/
UofC “Co-vidcast”
University for patient enrolment into clinical trials for Co-vid 19?

This highlights a gap to fill within this Community of Practice: identifying research projects and resources available for members to access. There should be:

- Actions taken to create document compiling all the research projects ongoing in regard to Co-vid 19. The OADR might be compiling a list and would be a good place to start to request that information (environmental scan – local, prinvincial, national, international). Also need to liaise with other Institutes
- There is a need to understand what are the processes (and resources) available and in place in a crisis setting (by UofC different offices, departments, Institutes). Should the Institute play a lead role in filing this gap? Communications, leveraging connections and helping with transparency of overall processes creating a flowchart of key players / resources.
- How can we bounce ideas from each other’s / how ca we create a community of practice: communications platforms (blog?)
- Create a standing group that would be well positioned to act and respond when other crisis like this happen (taskforce?), and if there is already one, it should be made transparent to researchers.

Some of the resources available from the Institute are: communication platform, catalyst grants (5-20k), potential sessions of group mentorship (around specific topics)

More on the brainstorm was recorded on a white board (below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chain, intake, process, blog function on OIPH website</th>
<th>response team with all key stakeholders</th>
<th>Help with navigating systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role of OIPH as contact point for research, taskforce, lead as overseeing research, environmental scan, longterm consequences</td>
<td>Use this opportunity proactively, think about what it would look like to respond, standing group to respond in the future</td>
<td>clinical vs. public health delineate scope data over-arching to avoid siloes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIPH to coordinate research, office of associate dean of research, detailed research, funding, players in CSM, link across U of C</td>
<td>Coordinating and develop capacity for people with new ideas and create contact list for people to build bridges, OIPH - this is the list of potential topics</td>
<td>AHS has several teams- what is the niche of U of C?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction, build infrastructure for leadership to build team for future public health emergency, emergency response team</td>
<td>Streamlined communications organization chart</td>
<td>Data warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic planning</td>
<td>Environmental scan within CSM, U of C</td>
<td>other institutes? across institutes?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Creating a Community of Practice of Public Health Researchers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Aliya Kassam, PhD
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Today’s Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Definitions and Background
3. Brainstorming Session
4. Recap
5. Next steps
Introductions

Who are you?
Your area of public health research
Where are you based?
What would you like to get out of this session?
Definitions

A Community of Practice (CoP) is defined as “a group of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise by interacting on an ongoing basis.”

Three distinct elements of a CoP:

1. a *community* that enables interaction (such as discussions, collaborative activities, and relationship building);

2. a shared *domain* of interest (COVID-19);

3. a shared *practice* of experiences, stories, tools, and ways of addressing recurring problems.

This approach enables public health professionals to *grow* and mature while *focusing on efforts* to *share knowledge* and *solve problems*.

Centre for Disease Control, USA
COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?
WHAT'S DEEPLY PERSONAL
IS ALSO MOST UNIVERSAL

AFFIRMATION
LOVE IS AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK
WE CONNECT WITH & LISTEN TO OUR COMMUNITY
WE ASK THEM
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

CARE & HEALING
WE CAN BOUNCE IDEAS OFF EACH OTHER
CHALLENGE
ACT FROM THIS SPACE OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

LISTENING TO EACH OTHER
LISTENING IS OUR SUPER POWER
WE CREATE A SAFE SPACE THAT ALLOWS US TO BE AUTHENTIC
WE CAN BOUNCE IDEAS OFF EACH OTHER

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY
PRINCIPLED & FLEXIBLE
BEING OPEN TO NEW IDEAS
GROUNDING IN VALUES
ONE YEAR FROM NOW, THIS COMMUNITY MEETS REGULARLY IN PERSON
IN THE ONLINE SPACE
IS A SAFE PLACE...
IS VERY COMPPELLING
WE GET & GIVE GREAT VALUE
WE INSPIRE EACH OTHER
WE GET SUPPORT
I GIVE SUPPORT
I GET SUPPORT
I HELP WITH
COMMUNITY
MY STRENGTHS
MY TIME & ENERGY
IT'S OK TO VENT!
LETS TALK ABOUT FAILURE & LEARN FROM IT

WE TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION
WE WORK WITH ONE MIND & HEART
WE INSPIRE EACH OTHER
WE BALANCE
PUSHING BOUNDARIES

LOVE
EMPATHY
VALIDATION WITH CHALLENGE

WE WORK WITH ONE MIND & HEART
IT'S ABOUT CONNECTION
How can we create a community of practice for COVID-19 public health research?
Things to think about

Research topics
Funding
Pooling resources
Group Mentorship
Methods
Leveraging connections
Teaching
Knowledge Dissemination
Recap
Next Steps
Thank you!

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