

Center for Community Health Principles of Engagement

Engagement is a process for working collaboratively with stakeholders, such as patients, healthcare providers, public health leaders, policymakers, and communities. The Center for Community Health (CCH) embraces the use of many forms of engagement, such as informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering. These forms of engagement may occur across research, education, service, and policy change, with the ultimate goal of achieving translatable and sustainable solutions that improve health. Although our approaches may vary, the Center endorses 5 over-riding principles of engagement in all that we and others do. These principles, developed in collaboration with CCH partners and stakeholders, are the foundation for trusting relationships, sustaining partnerships, and ensuring that collaboratively identified goals are achieved in ways that are rewarding for all parties.

Collaboration

- Meaningfully and mutually working towards partnership's shared vision
- Valuing sustained relationships and trust building
- Developing capacity of all partners

Respect

- Recognizing the validity of diverse perspectives, cultures, priorities, and needs
- Focusing on community priorities
- Listening
- Following through on commitments

Equity

- Sharing power, resources, and decision-making in an agreed-upon manner
- Building on partner strengths and assets
- Addressing conflicts with an open mind and commitment to fair resolution

Transparency

- Having clear, frequent, honest, and open communications
- Making the goals and priorities of all stakeholders explicit
- Having a clear decision making process
- Using language understood by all partners

Impact

- Findings are shared with partners and stakeholders in ways they can use them
- Leading to meaningful/sustainable outcomes that are tangible, feasible and relevant to improving community health
- Focusing on potential benefit for all partners

Collaboration ♦ Respect ♦ Equity ♦ Transparency ♦ Impact