

2021 Directors Retreat Session 2 Roundtable

Notes

Name of Roundtable: Balancing Academic Expectations with True Community Collaboration

Facilitator: Gail Chödrön

Staff Support: Dawn Rudolph

Major Themes Discussed:

- Grants are written with an academic lens as that's where work happens, but some community partners are included in grantwriting process. After grants have started, some groups inquire about how they might be included as well, having felt left out.
- Relationships, trust, and knowing each other are critical
- Collaborations can become stuck in a rut, with new partners not always sought.
 - Who isn't at the table? Who hasn't been invited?
 - How to close the gap in that last 3 feet to go meet people where they are?
- Don't overfill a meeting with too much, allow space for spontaneous thoughts and conversation. The conversation might take you places you wouldn't have predicted
- Practicum experiences are community-based observational opportunities, 20 options are required across all trainees and then they share their experiences with each other. Some community groups are still missing.
 - Have unpaid "instructional faculty" to host trainees in community settings. Now trying to think more broadly about the community.
- LEND was originally a training program for graduate students, with academic expectations. Then when family and self-advocates joined, needed to thoughtfully engage them and ensure they were feeling included and belong rather than an add-on. How to make learning experiences inclusive and accessible for all? Individualization needed through universal design and tweaking.
- Received feedback that programs designed "for everyone" weren't working for a specific community group. Had to listen, reflect, and act on this.
- The pandemic-driven switch to a virtual LEND enabled greater engagement from rural communities.
- Individualization within standard scaffolding is ideal but a challenge. Example: research topics and activities for trainees not interested in a research career include focus on health equity, knowledge translation, participating in research, etc.
- How to get community input into LEND? Community advisory committee can serve both UCEDD and LEND, ensuring information is bi-directional and supporting each other's needs. LEND also participates in statewide interagency organizational meeting to help identify gaps in the community that can be addressed in LEND. Participating in various committees also helps with hearing community needs.
- Intentional in selecting LEND trainees representing range of racial & ethnic groups, rural, socio-economic, other demographic considerations.

Support Needed:

- How to get community input into LEND, specifically from communities not already represented in graduate schools that LEND trainees are recruited from.

2021 Directors Retreat
October 4, 2021
3:00pm - 4:30pm ET



- Individualization within standard scaffolding is both ideal and a challenge.

Other Action Items:

- Request to maintain Directors Retreat virtually even after the pandemic to ensure IDDRC, LEND, and UCEDD Directors have opportunity to come together, learn from each other, and work together toward AUCD priorities.