

BAV Engaging Black Communities in Research ft Sandra Griffiths

Summary

- **Engaging black communities in mental health research. [0:00](#)**
 - Sandra Griffiths discusses concerns around engaging black communities in research, including systems change work and capacity building.
 - Researchers need to better explain why their work matters to communities, and involve them in determining research focus.
- **Involving communities in research and data analysis. [5:20](#)**
 - Community members want more involvement in mental health research, including data analysis and decision-making.
 - Catalyst partners to support black women in the perinatal space, training them as community researchers.
 - Community involvement in data analysis empowers women, values knowledge, and shifts research from one-sided to collaborative.
 - Community members want to know how research will be used to make a difference, not just published.
- **Research impact and change in mental health services. [13:59](#)**
 - Researchers and communities often have different processes and timelines for making impactful changes.
 - Sandra discusses the importance of valuing community-led research in addressing issues in mental health services, citing compliance as a major concern.
 - Sandra highlights the need for more robust research to address the concerns of service users and carers, and for the system to value the knowledge and research of community organizations.
 - Sandra emphasizes the importance of action research, making changes as soon as possible, and understanding the levers for change in order to accelerate progress in mental health services.
 - Sandra highlights the need for transparency and communication in the research process to ensure that changes are made in a timely and effective manner.
- **Managing expectations in research collaboration. [23:09](#)**
 - Anna expresses frustration with academics' limited power to effect change.
 - Sandra suggests explicit conversation at beginning of research project to address expectations and buy-in from community.
 - Sandra discusses the importance of mutual exchange of skills and knowledge between researchers and communities in the research process.
 - Sandra highlights the need for researchers to be intentional about sharing knowledge and skills with organizations and people during the research journey.
- **Using community feedback to drive system change. [28:49](#)**
 - Sandra discusses using emerging findings from research to drive systems change in mental healthcare, with a focus on community engagement and co-creation.

- The community expressed concerns about the complaints procedure taking too long to resolve, with a lack of advocacy and transparency.
- The organization plans to present the community's feedback to the system, including the key issues that emerged from the sessions, to address these concerns.
- Sandra describes a collaborative process for addressing complaints within a healthcare trust, involving staff and community members in a map-making exercise to identify levers for change.
- Sandra emphasizes the importance of creating a safe space for staff to share their perspectives and concerns before bringing everyone together to work towards solutions.
- **Community involvement in research with a black-led organization. [36:28](#)**
 - Organization facilitates conversations between stakeholders, including researchers, service users, and community members.
 - Researchers should tap into local networks and knowledge to effectively engage with communities.
 - Anna and Sandra discuss how to maintain relationships with marginalized communities while working within institutions perceived as outsiders.
 - Sandra emphasizes importance of diverse perspectives in addressing racism.
- **Representation and inclusion in community organizing. [46:51](#)**
 - Anna emphasizes the importance of representing diverse perspectives in system change efforts.
 - Sandra advocates for inclusive representation in decision-making processes, recognizing the diversity of experiences within communities.
- **Barriers to community involvement in research studies. [50:18](#)**
 - Catalyst for Change faces barriers in representing diverse perspectives within the black community.
 - Sandra: Academics need to appreciate engagement work for recruiting people into research studies, which requires time and resource investment.
 - Sandra: There's a shift towards valuing community organizations' engagement, expertise, and consent in recruiting people from a community into research studies, but more work needs to be done.
- **Community engagement in social justice research. [56:27](#)**
 - Anna discusses the importance of engagement in research, particularly through social media platforms like Instagram.
 - Engagement takes time and resources, but it's crucial for building relationships with community members and understanding their needs.
 - Community organizations and academics must prioritize explicit conversations about engagement and recognition to foster meaningful partnerships.
 - Anna reflects on her experience with academia and social justice work, noting the lack of resources and timelines for publication.
 - The speaker suggests the need for more candor and explicit communication about the process in these types of projects.
 - Researchers should work closely with communities to value their skills and knowledge, and there's an opportunity to kind of think about how do you work in partnership with the community.
 - Advisory groups can play a role in research, but there's work to be done in terms of thinking about the skills and commitments expected of group members.