From Engagement to Centering: Doing our Work Differently to Achieve Greater Impact and Equity

Kathy Karsting, RN, MPH
Nebraska Title V
Nebraska Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program (NEP-MAP)
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Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Commitment to equity work:
Peace Corps Volunteer, Public Health Nurse, School Nurse Manager and State Consultant, MCH Title V, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, health systems transformation and changing health care workforce
2015: steering our block grant narrative toward equity, access, and engagement
2018: Title V lead for NE Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program
2020: Transition to CHW workforce as strategy; CHW leadership
2021: Tackling maternal disparities
Case Example #1: Leading a Family-Centered, Equity-Focused, PMHCA Program

- NEP-MAP *Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics* [www.dhhs.ne.gov/NEPMAP](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/NEPMAP)
- Family members, advocates, representatives in cross-sector advisory committee
- Consultant contracts
- Setting a level playing field, every meeting
- Technical Workgroup #3: Families with a leadership task, following through to support implementation
- The results
Case Example #2: The CHW Consultant-Trainer Cadre

- Title V in CHW Workforce Development [www.dhhs.ne.gov/MCASH-CHW](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/MCASH-CHW)
- 2020 – present  Creating space for CHW leadership
  - Consultant trainer contracts
  - CHW led continuing education project
  - CHW engagement and networking
  - CHW leading meetings, health equity conference
  - CHW leading certification and training standards work
Case Example #3: Disrupting Maternal Disparities

- Incorporating anti-racism principles
- Creating space for community determination of how resources are used.
- New partner relationships
  - Risk assessment
  - Proven capacity
  - Tolerance for state bureaucracy
  - Trust
  - Bias and Structural racism
Lessons Learned

- Leverage Quality Improvement approaches
- Re-think Data
- Leverage business relationships
- Our partners give us wings, and heart
- Opportunities, Need, and Challenges are all greater than ever

Thank you!

Kathy Karsting
kathy.karsting@nebraska.gov
For Discussion

- What holds you back from radical change in how you approach your work?

- What comprises the ability to form trusting working relationships as an ally, not an expert?

- What do you think is the most difficulty aspect of sharing power, decision-making, and/or resources with community members?

- What drives your commitment to equity-focused work in Title V?