Introduction

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio received a Clinical Translational Science Award in May, 2008. The CTSA included funds to create a PBRN Resource Center which currently supports nine PBRNs (primary care, dentistry, nursing and psychiatry) in thirty-eight counties.

During the second year of funding, the Resource Center realized that its networks lacked short, intermediate and long-term outcome measures to document the growth and maturity of the networks and also demonstrate their effectiveness to funders, community clinicians and principal investigators.

Hypothesis/Objectives

The leadership decided that a logic model would be a useful framework to improve planning, implementation and evaluation of the networks. The logic model would describe the activities expected from the individual network directors, reduce or eliminate activities not directly linked to key outcomes and increase the potential for sustainability and expansion of the networks.

Methods

Recurrent iterative meetings with leadership, staff and stakeholders were used to develop the logic model. It represents a collaborative process involving the PBRN Resource Center leadership and staff and an evaluation specialist.

Conclusion

The logic model is proving to be an effective tool in clarifying the relationship between PBRN activities and related process and outcome objectives. PBRN Resource Center staff and network directors more clearly understand the most important desired outcomes. The logic model will be used for the development of sustainable research agendas for individual networks and the Resource Center as a whole.

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