

Introduction

The Frio County Translational Advisory Board (TAB) is a group of citizens working together to improve the health of Frio County.

First established in 2009, Frio TAB has flourished into an active representative body which aims to improve community health through the facilitation of community-based participatory research (CBPR) and educational outreach activities in partnership with the UT Health San Antonio.



Photo 1. Diabetes Community Summit being led by Frio TAB member, Jaime Lopez

The community- academic partnership of TABs and UT Health San Antonio was initially fostered through the efforts of South Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC) as part of the Community Engagement Core Function of UT Health San Antonio's Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS), which is funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) through a Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA).

Today, more than 15 members of different sectors make up the Frio TAB and meet on a monthly basis to ensure all research addresses the needs of the Frio community and to serve as a innovative tool for disseminating community-based research.

Significance

All members of Frio TAB either work or live in Frio County and provide crucial insight on the community's subsystem for dissemination and implementation to maximize the effectiveness and impacts of the research efforts.

Since its inception, Frio TAB has partnered on over eight successful community based-research initiatives including awareness on non-pharmacological treatment for Chronic Pain, self-care for caregivers, the rise of Hepatitis C among baby boomers, and the implications of Chagas Disease on both humans and canines.



Photo 2. Frio TAB member Margie Villarreal with faculty from UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing



Photo 3. Educating Frio County residents about Hepatitis C

Materials and Methods

Frio TAB is a unique dynamic that operationalizes differently from any other advisory board groups. For instance, Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are also made up of members from the community but their primary function is to serve as leadership in partnerships of community-based participatory research (CBPR) and provide structure to guide the partnership's activities.¹

While, Frio TAB also functions under the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR) as the CABS, the difference comes from the integration of the Collective Impact Model to the TAB's framework.



Figure 1. The 5 Conditions of Collective Impact Model

The integrative framework of TAB increases the extent of engagement from community stakeholders in research. Through this model, TAB members not only share their knowledge and experience, and guide any activities but they also become Principal Investigators (PI) or Co-PI's in research set by the community.

Frio TAB's unique framework is also key in disseminating research. Because the TAB is made up of various individuals and organizations, researchers can gather data and disseminate research findings through multiple channels and avenues they wouldn't necessarily have access to without the TAB.²

Figure 2 compares the steps in developing dissemination strategies with and without the partnership of Frio TAB.

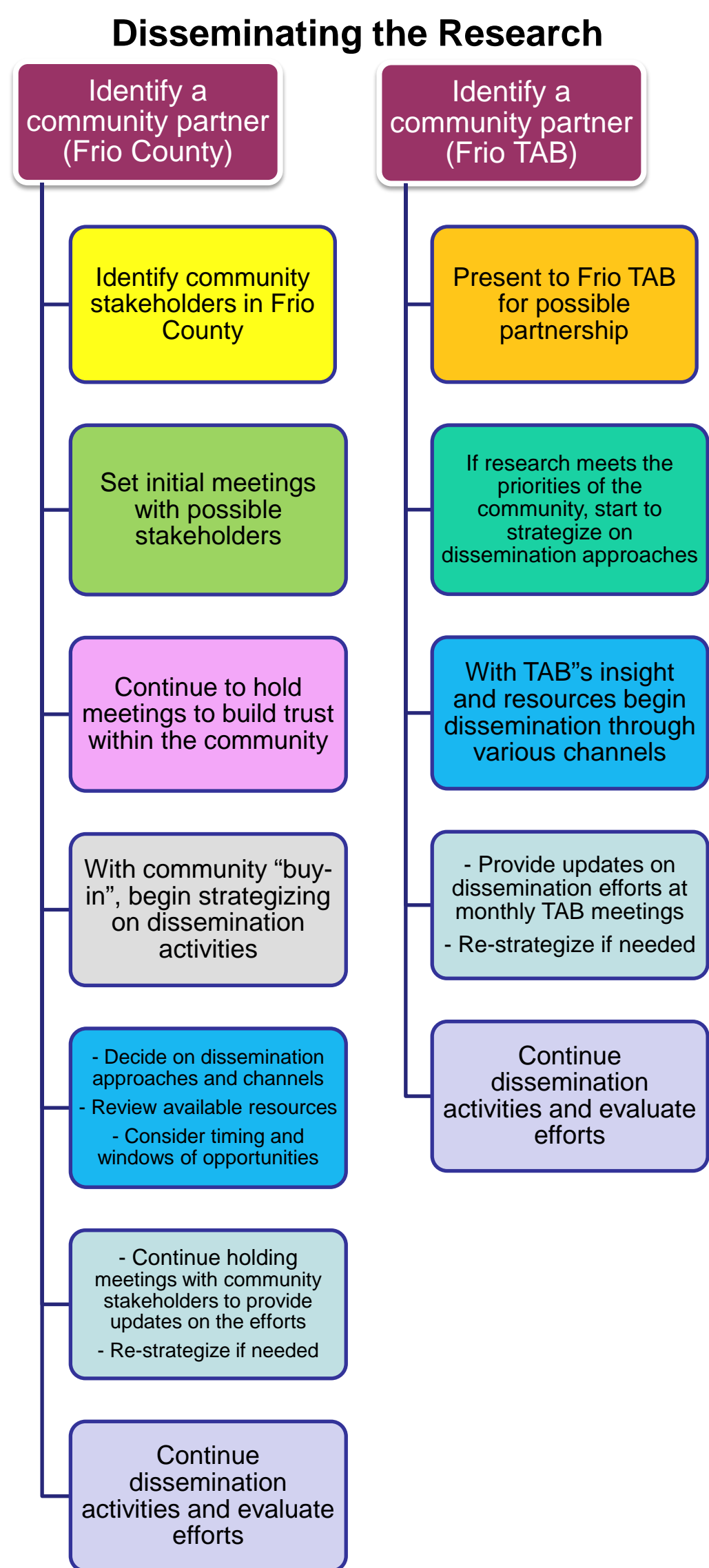


Figure 2. Steps in developing a dissemination strategy

Findings

With the partnership of Frio TAB:

- Researchers have an increased access to the available resources for dissemination efforts.
- Research is disseminated at a quicker and larger scale through the established networks of each TAB member.
- Researchers can be viewed as trusted partners thus having greater participation efforts.

Conclusion

TAB's framework provides an opportunity for not only researchers to be successful in their efforts of disseminating evidence-based research to the community, but also for residents to be involved in the health of their community.

Frio TAB in particular showcases how its unique dynamic brings forth critical awareness and reflection of the community to the researchers, and they are more than just an advisory board. They are key partners with a rich support network, skills, resources, with a sense of community, understanding of history, articulation of values and access to power.³

References

1. Newman SD, Andrews JO, Magwood GS, Jenkins C, Cox MJ, Williamson DC. Community Advisory Boards in Community-Based Participatory Research: A Synthesis of Best Processes. *Preventing Chronic Disease*. 2011;8(3):A70.
2. Disseminating the Research Findings. World Health Organization website http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/year/2014/participant-workbook5_030414.pdf. Accessed September 20, 2018.
3. Goodman, R.M., and others. "Identifying and Defining the Dimensions of Community Capacity to Provide a Basis for Measurement." *Health Education and Behavior*. 1999, 25(3), 258-278.