

Racial Equity and Disparities Research and Core Assessment Battery Subgroups

1/11/21

Attending:

Jennifer Vohs	AC-EPINET
Deepak Sarpal	Connection LHS
Jessica Taylor	Connection LHS
Tara Niendam	EPI-CAL
Dan Shapiro	EPI-CAL
Neely Myers	EPINET-TX
Matt Hutnyan	EPINET-TX
Emily Stein	EPINET-TX
Lisa Dixon	OnTrackNY
Jennifer Humensky	OnTrackNY
Melanie Wall	OnTrackNY
Susan Azrin	NIMH
Howard Goldman	ENDCC
Tamara Daley	ENDCC
Preethy George	ENDCC
Shoma Ghose	ENDCC
Abram Rosenblatt	ENDCC

Meeting Summary

1. Representatives from all three Racial Equity and Disparities subgroups were present for the meeting since there is a lot of overlap in membership and potential next steps. The group agreed that for the immediate future, the Research Collaborative and CAB subgroups will meet jointly. Separate smaller groups may coalesce around specific tasks related to the review paper.

Tamara will send out a doodle poll to help identify a re-occurring meeting time for the next several months.

2. An email consisting of 3-questions was sent on 1/8/21 to each of the 8 Hub Principal Investigators asking for information regarding race, ethnicity and related data that are currently collected at EPINET Hubs or clinics. This information will help generate ideas for cross-Hub collaboration and inform what additional race, ethnicity and equity items could be added to the EPINET Core Assessment Battery. At the time of the meeting, three of the eight Hubs had already sent in their response to the 3-questions. [All responses have now been received]. The group will have the opportunity to review the responses from all responding Hubs at the next meeting.

3. Literature Review of racial equity and disparities research with early psychosis clients. The group reviewed the domains that Neely Myers outlined on PPT slides.
 - a. Tara Niendam noted that EPI-CAL researchers are currently working on two manuscripts that might provide additional information for the literature review. One article that is “in press” is titled, *From Womb to Neighborhood: A Racial Analysis of Social Determinants of Psychosis in the U.S.*. A draft of this paper is on the google drive that this group is using (accessible at: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1_Yo6mFe6sq36yh2eXbtfQxAJSIKF_Fkf)

This paper focuses on the social determinants of psychosis. A second paper is “in progress” and addresses some of the domains that Neely listed. It does not focus on the treatment and service delivery domains. Tara will see if she can provide the group with a copy of this paper soon.
 - b. The group agreed that the parameters of the literature review should be clearly articulated. This way, if different people take the lead on the review of different domains, the parameters for inclusion and exclusion of articles is consistent across the reviews. For example, everyone agreed that the review should focus on studies of US populations, individuals who have early symptoms of psychosis (early psychosis, first episode psychosis), and perhaps treatment/service delivery focus. A conceptual framework should hold the review of different domains together.
 - c. Additional domains that could be considered for the review include:
 - i. Service provider factors such as race, ethnicity, language and training of providers and how that influences service delivery
 - ii. FEP provider perceptions of race and ethnicity
 - iii. Standard assessment tools that EPINET could consider for inclusion
 - iv. Family customs, culture and involvement in treatment

The group agreed that additional discussion needs to focus on determining the conceptual framework and parameters (e.g., inclusion and exclusion criteria) that will be used in the literature review process. Additionally, the group could think about combining domain areas since there is unlikely to be much research on these topics.

4. Clinic-Level Data Collection – The group discussed how at the next Steering Committee (January 21) meeting the Hub Principal Investigators will discuss how/what they collect from their clinics (e.g., how many staff are on CSC teams, ethnicity of staff, racial make-up of clients, etc).
 - a. Tara noted that EPI-CAL collects a comprehensive list of data variables regarding each provider. Lisa noted that OnTrackNY collects information about the functioning of each clinic as part of their fidelity assessments.
 - b. The group agreed that it would be valuable to collect information on:
 - i. Clinic staff characteristics such as race, language spoken
 - ii. Availability of translators at clinic
 - iii. Programs/training the at the clinic has in place to help their CSC staff effectively address racial and other disparities
 - iv. Any measures that are being used to measure racial, ethnic and other disparities.

This clinic-level tool will be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting on 1/21. The items noted above will be included in the first draft of the tool. As the tool is developed and refined, the Racial Equity & Diversity Subgroup will have the opportunity to review and provide input on items.