

### **Qualitative Research Team for EPINET-National Description**

The qualitative research team will consist of researchers with qualitative training from across the EPINET research hubs in order to mobilize qualitative research methods in order to address issues around racial equity and diversity for young people with early psychosis and their families.

#### **Brief Description:**

EPINET-National offers tremendous potential for qualitative researchers to help shed light on what matters most for diverse young people trying to recover from psychosis, which can help focus and inform future research, policy and clinical practice. Working across multiple research hubs provides an opportunity to ask questions that arise from both existing published research and from data collected within the network, which provides a large and unprecedented sample of diverse potential research participants. This is exciting because there are populations for whom the published research concerning early psychosis care needs and interests are woefully sparse (e.g., Muslim Americans, Native Americans, rural African Americans, Black migrants, undocumented Latinx people). This group can thus address questions that arise from the literature (e.g., overdiagnosis in minority groups, stigma in minority communities, the importance of faith-based interventions) in a more in-depth way for a more diverse array of young people, their providers, and their families. In addition, we can serve the larger EPINET-National network by offering to solve puzzles that arise for them. For example, if there is an overrepresentation of African American participants across sites, we can interview providers and African American service users to ask them why they think this is the case. If hubs have existing qualitative data sets, we can work together to brainstorm analytic strategies that may be most relevant on a national level or for more than one site. Many teams, for example, may be interviewing team leaders. We could pool our data to discuss national trends or to look at trends in sub-categories, such as the thoughts of staff at clinics that mainly serve Black clients, or clinics that primarily speak Spanish. We can also plan future studies to ask unified sets of questions based on questions that arise from the CAB or other ENDCC projects. An even larger goal may be to use the network and the qualitative core to create a training and research center for qualitative mental health services researchers using EPINET-National to both generate groundbreaking research that promotes racial equity and diversity, while also promoting careers, perhaps especially for BIPOC researchers (which is much-needed). This Center could provide more resources to create research and training opportunities that promote racial equity and diversity in our field while addressing urgent issues around racial equity and diversity in mental health services.

Of course, further ideas are welcome!