



Community Engagement and Partnership:
New Directions in Mental Health Services Research

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to Arlington! This conference, “Community Engagement and Partnership: New Directions in Mental Health Services Research,” is brought to you by RAND Corporation and four NIMH Centers for health services research at Cambridge Health Alliance, Georgetown University, University of California, Los Angeles; and Washington University at St. Louis.

This conference is the first of its kind, and we’re excited to bring together both academic and community partners to share their perspectives on building, sustaining, evaluating and expanding partnered research. The conference program brings the opportunity to share experiences in developing and implementing partnered research in mental health services and to develop recommendations for furthering the field. The process of planning this conference has required a lot of participation from attendees! Many of you sent information to share with everyone, which can now be accessed at <http://www.adprose.org/centersconf/summercenter06.htm>. Additions and corrections will continue to be made after the conference. Thank you for your contribution!

The projects represented by the participants span a diverse representation of mental health professionals, service providers, and individuals from other fields who share a common goal of bettering the lives of their communities.

We will kick off the conference with a sharing experience to share and reflect on where we have been and where we are in terms of successfully partnering to achieve common goals. We’ll have a plenary session to highlight a partnership example from each participating center. This will be followed by two breakout groups to encourage more interactive discussion on your partnership experiences. After a lunch where we hear from three distinguished speakers, we will break out into groups after lunch to discuss the opportunities and barriers in partnered research. The day will conclude with a wine and cheese reception and an opportunity to network with your peers.

On Day 2, we will strategize and create a vision for the future of community engagement and partnership in mental health services research. We will accomplish this by having four facilitated discussions around establishing a wider acceptance for partnered research, broadening our scope and strategies for evaluation and dissemination, and supporting investigators so that they can lead the field in new directions. Lastly we hope you will join us in developing a final product from this conference, such as a policy brief, journal publication, or grant proposal to support future conferences of this type.

We hope that you will enjoy the conference, meet new partners, and discover new avenues to guide your future partnerships and research.

Best wishes,

Yuting Wong
Conference Coordinator
On behalf of RAND Corporation and the NIMH Centers for Health Services Research