

Evaluating Membership Experiences of Affiliated Faculty Members in a Transdisciplinary Research Center

American Evaluation Association Annual Conference

October 26, 2012

Heather R. Clark, MSPH

Center for Community Health Development

Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health

Brandy N. Kelly, PhD(c)

Corliss Outley, PhD

Texas A&M University Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Sciences



Introduction

Prevention Research Centers

- ❖ CDC Funded, began in 1986
- ❖ 37 centers across US
- ❖ Conduct prevention research, translation of research into policy and public health practice
- ❖ Community-based participatory research

Center for Community Health Development

- ❖ Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health
- ❖ Focus on rural communities
- ❖ Develop relationships to improve health status, particularly among low income and disadvantaged, to address health disparities

Center Evaluation

Major projects – External

- ❖ Network analysis of local partnership
- ❖ Key leader survey
- ❖ Case studies
- ❖ Return on community investment
- ❖ Bibliometric analysis (planned)

Major projects – Internal

- ❖ Community partner surveys and interviews
- ❖ Affiliated faculty and staff surveys and interviews
- ❖ Indicator tracking - products, grants, awards, etc.
- ❖ Student experiential evaluation
- ❖ Archival document review

Background

40 affiliated faculty members

2 institutions (Texas A&M University & Texas A&M Health Science Center)

❖ 14 different departments represented

- *Communication*
- *Health & Kinesiology*
- *Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences*
- *Educational Psychology*
- *Sociology*
- *Architecture & Landscape and Urban Planning*
- *College of Medicine*
- *Pharmaceutical Sciences*
- *Institute for Obesity Research & Program Evaluation*
- *Public Health Policy & Management*
- *Epidemiology & Biostatistics*
- *Environmental & Occupational Health*
- *Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences*

Purpose of Affiliated Faculty Survey & Interviews

*To generate information on perceptions,
participation, satisfaction and benefits to
partnership with CCHD and the local community
for academic faculty members*

Survey Development

Literature review

Informal conversations

Web-based survey

- ❖ Adapted from (Bumton and Mallon, 2006)
 - ❖ Reasons and interests for working with CCHD
 - ❖ Involvement in center activities and administration
 - ❖ Publications and scholarship
 - ❖ Student mentorship
 - ❖ Benefits and barriers to working with CCHD

Follow up interviews

- ❖ Interview Guide
- ❖ The interview guide closely followed the structure of the online survey inquiring for more in-depth information
- ❖ Interviews scheduled at time and location chosen by informants

Participants

Recruitment

- ❖ 40 CCHD affiliated faculty members

Web-based survey

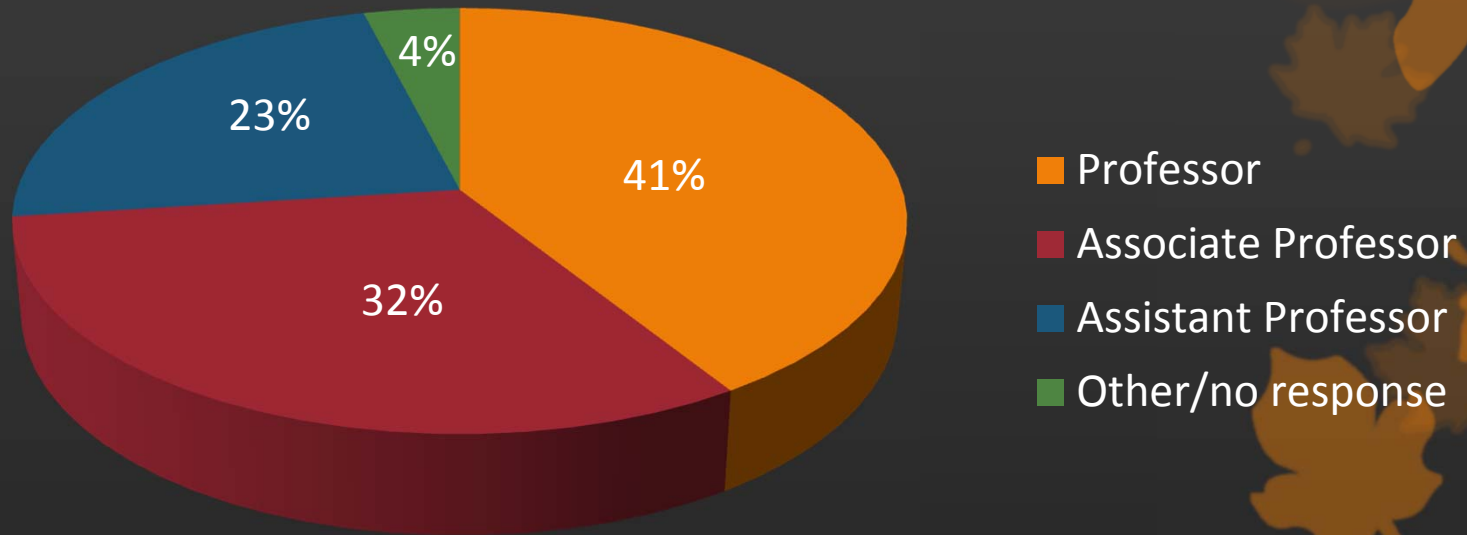
- ❖ 25 completed

Follow up interviews

- ❖ 7 completed

Findings:

Participant Tenure Status



Findings:

Reasons for affiliation and continued interest

Continued interests

- ❖ Provides access to local communities
- ❖ Social benefits of project's science to society
- ❖ Access to scientists outside a faculty member's "home" department

Decreased interests

- ❖ ¼ indicated a decrease in interest
- ❖ Small number did not intend to continue membership....mainly due to a mismatch in research objectives

Findings: Center Involvement

Duties performed or participated in:

- ❖ Grant investigator
- ❖ Presentations
- ❖ Data analysis
- ❖ Committee service
- ❖ Resource consultant

37% involved in grants

28% received salary support

1/3 reported no interaction with community **

Findings:

Publications, Scholar, Mentoring

Submission of CCHD-related or funded research for publication (61%)

- ❖ These publications are DISSIMILAR from their usual publication outlets

CCHD research was *clearly distinguishable* from departmental research

1/3 mentored students working at CCHD

Findings:

Benefits to partnering with CCHD

Work with researchers from other disciplines

Access to communities traditionally difficult to reach

Collaborate with others sharing similar interest

Access to existing data

Access to extramural funding

High quality and respectability of work

Relationship building

Findings: Challenges

Negative (few) and neutral (some) feedback in “home” departments

Not actively involved due to lack of compatibility with research interests or geographic location

Role ambiguity (CCHD vs. department)

Tips & Tricks (Tricks and Treats??)

Non-conformance (some refused to participate)

Understanding context/history – a plus and a challenge (especially when presenting results)

Confidentiality

Security of files

Presenting results

Questions????

Contact Information:

Heather R. Clark, MSPH

hrclark@srph.tamhsc.edu

979-845-6957



a Prevention Research Center