ENGAGING PARTNERS IN CARING COMMUNITIES (EPICC): CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEAM SCIENCE AND EMERGENT STRATEGIES IN EFFORTS TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

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EPICC'S SPECIFIC AIMS

1. Develop a web-based platform to disseminate information about evidence-based programs (EBPs) to participating congregations.

2. Determine acceptability, face validity, and reliability of the EPICC Survey for measuring capacity for implementing EBPs.

3. Using the RE-AIM framework, describe church, EBP, organizational, community factors and implementation strategies that are associated with adoption and maintenance of health promotion programs in church settings.

TRANSFORMATIVE ELEMENTS OF EPICC

- The EPICC Platform will provide congregations with access to community-informed descriptions of research-tested programs that can be implemented in church settings.

- The EPICC Survey does not require scheduling and conducting interviews with multiple congregation members, or aggregation of multiple points of view by outside researchers.

- The EPICC Survey will be completed by a team of 3-5 members of a congregation working together, learning from one another as they collaborate in describing their community.

- The EPICC Survey will yield results that can be entered into the CFIR-ERIC Matching Tool to identify strategies for addressing implementation challenges identified by church teams.

- The technical assistance team will include a community health worker (CHW) who will help draft a curriculum for training CHWs to serve as implementation specialists for community organizations.

EPICC PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Core research team
Rebecca Selove, TSU
Jemal Gishe, TSU
Leah Alexander, MMC
Sharon Jones, VU
David Schlundt, VU
Rev. Omaràn Lee, CHEN
Kristin Clarkson, CHEN
Rev. Neely Williams, CPN

Project Leadership Team (PLT)
Core research team members
Dr. Cynthia Jackson, GNHDC
Charlotte Woods, TN Dept. of Health, Div. of
    Health Disparities Elimination
Meredith Smalls, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance
MVTCP CAB Members:
    Joan Clayton-Davis
    Deirdre Johns
    Ila McDermott
    Sharon Peters

Congregations (to be identified)
☐ 20 non-CHEN congregations for EPICC Survey pilot
☐ All CHEN congregations that meet criteria, from which 30 will be selected for technical assistance intervention

Other consultants
Tom Waltz, E. Michigan U.
Technical assistance teams

David Walker, Rhealistic Design
EPICC Platform

Lindsay Mayberry, VU
Collaborative Learning Sessions

Bench to bookshelf

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

Figure 1. The problem addressed by implementation science
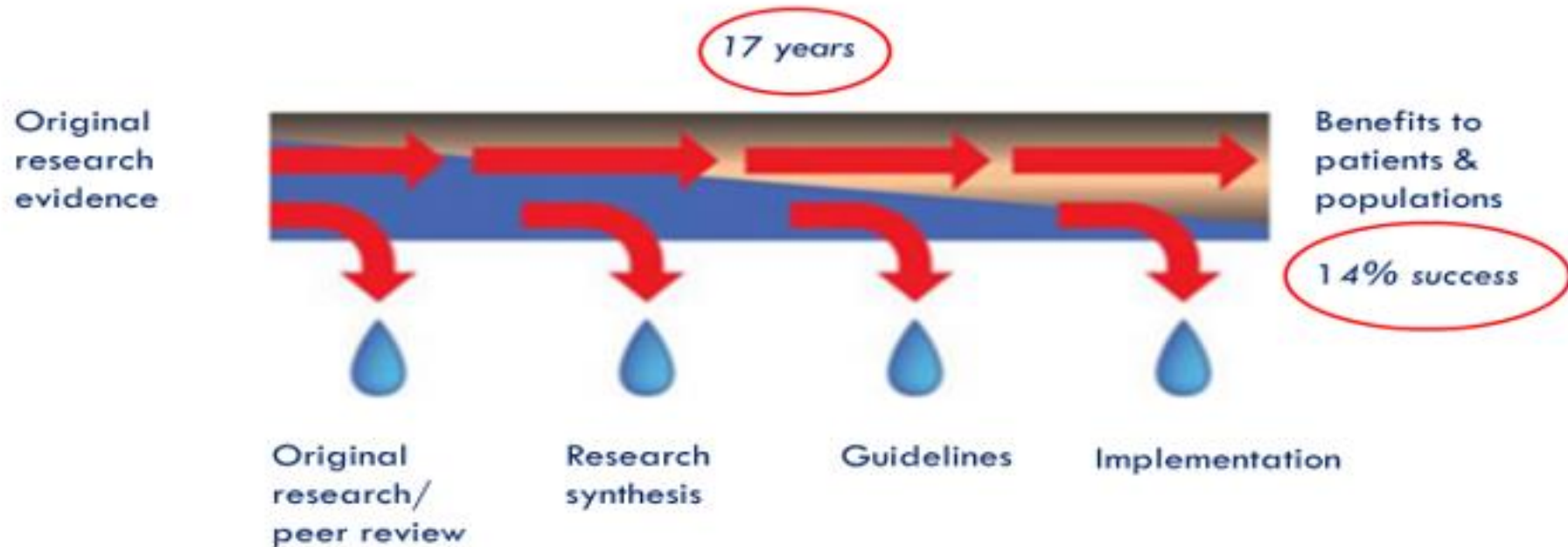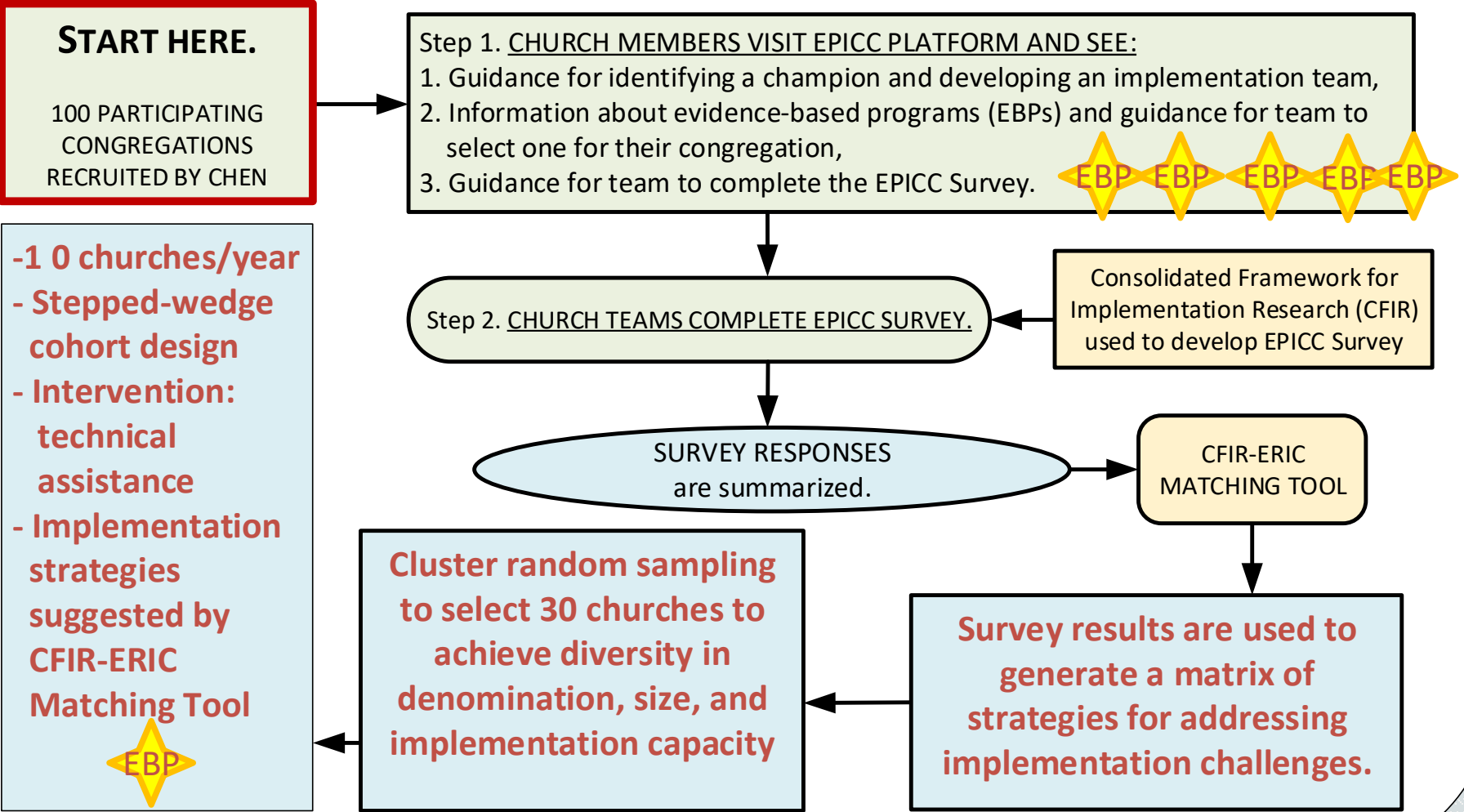
Our Leaky Pipeline

Figure used with permission from Ross Brownson

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE ELEMENTS

- Consolidated Framework for Implementation Science (CFIR) (Damschroder et al., 2009)

- A refined compilation of implementation strategies: Results from the Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) Project (Powell et all., 2015)

- The CFIR-ERIC Matching Tool (Waltz et al, 2019)

- The Interactive Systems Framework (Wandersman et al., 2008)

- Stages of Implementation Completion (SIC) (Chamberlain et al., 2011)

- The RE-AIM (Reach, Efficacy, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance) Model (Glasgow et al., 1999)
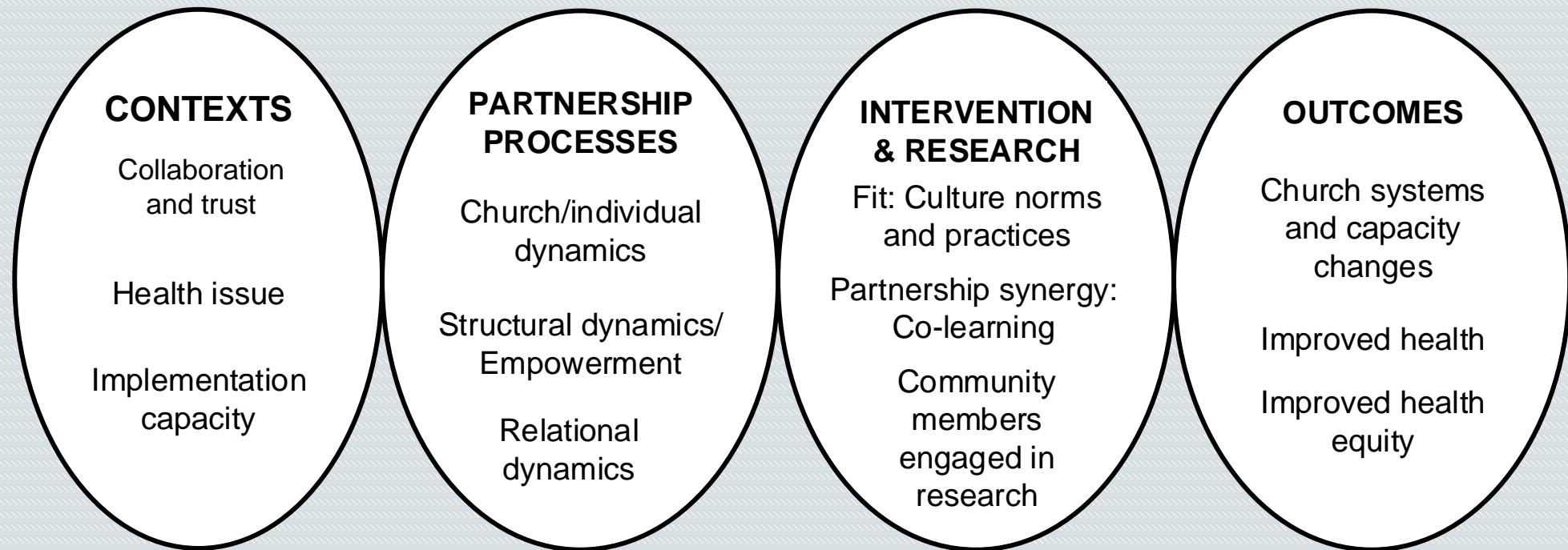
THE EPICC PROJECT

EPICC MULTI-STAGE INTERVENTION TO BUILD IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF CHEN CONGREGATIONS

START HERE.

100 PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS RECRUITED BY CHEN

-1 0 churches/year
- Stepped-wedge cohort design
- Intervention: technical assistance
- Implementation strategies suggested by CFIR-ERIC Matching Tool

EBP

Step 1. CHURCH MEMBERS VISIT EPICC PLATFORM AND SEE:
1. Guidance for identifying a champion and developing an implementation team,
2. Information about evidence-based programs (EBPs) and guidance for team to select one for their congregation,
3. Guidance for team to complete the EPICC Survey.

EBP EBP EBP EBP EBP

Step 2. CHURCH TEAMS COMPLETE EPICC SURVEY.

Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) used to develop EPICC Survey

SURVEY RESPONSES are summarized.

CFIR-ERIC MATCHING TOOL

Cluster random sampling to select 30 churches to achieve diversity in denomination, size, and implementation capacity

Survey results are used to generate a matrix of strategies for addressing implementation challenges.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH

- Research conducted with people who identify as a community, based on shared elements of their identity such as geographic proximity, ethnicity or specific interests (may be referred to as action research, community-based participatory research (CBPR), and participatory action research (PAR).

- Nina Wallerstein (2010) is one of the most frequently acknowledged writers in this field.

Figure 2. Community-Based Participatory Research Constructs Associated with Improving Health Equity

CONTEXTS

Collaboration and trust

Health issue

Implementation capacity

PARTNERSHIP PROCESSES

Church/individual dynamics

Structural dynamics/ Empowerment

Relational dynamics

INTERVENTION & RESEARCH

Fit: Culture norms and practices

Partnership synergy: Co-learning

Community members engaged in research

OUTCOMES

Church systems and capacity changes

Improved health

Improved health equity

TEAM SCIENCE

- "Team science is the collaborative effort to address a scientific challenge that leverages the strengths and expertise of professionals, oftentimes trained in different fields." (Cancer Control Team Science Toolkit)

- Three types of transdisciplinary teams:
  - Teams with academic researchers
  - Teams with community organizations
  - Teams with both academic and community participants (Stokols 2006)

- "Participatory team science involves the inclusion of public stakeholders on science teams as co-producers of knowledge."(Tebes et al., 2018)

- Strategies to promote team science in D & I research (Aarons et al., 2020):

  - Develop and maintain clear expectations.

  - Promote and model effective communication.

  - Establish shared goals and a mission of the work to be accomplished.

TEAM SCIENCE

- A big issue is dealing with the differing perspectives of researchers from varied disciplines and ensuring they communicate effectively with each other.

- 'One of the first things that will come up is the language problem,' says Fiore. 'Different fields have different terms for the same concept, or they have the same concept that means different things.'

- Fiore says active listening is 'probably one of the most crucial elements of teamwork when working across disciplines.' This means making sure you understand what you are hearing, and not being afraid to ask for clarification. 'Even though that sounds simple, that's a really a complicated, dynamic and complicated behaviour to enact.'

EMERGENT STRATEGIES ARE--

- "Plans of action, personal practices and collective organizing tools that

- Account for constant change and rely on the strength of relationship for adaptation…

- How we intentionally change in ways that grow our capacity to embody the just and liberated worlds we long for."

(adrienne maree brown, Emergent Strategy, p. 23,24)

Some patterns only appear when you adopt a certain perspective.

PRINCIPLES OF EMERGENT STRATEGY

adrienne maree brown

Alison Gold Optimistic Anthropology blog

AFTER-ACTION REVIEW GUIDANCE

The AAR will seek to answer five key questions:

1) what was supposed to happen,

2) what was the reality,

3) what went well,

4) what did not go well, and

5) what should be changed for next time.

KEY MEASURES TO BE USED IN THE EPICC PROJECT

- Meeting Evaluation Form: Project Leadership Team (PLT) meeting evaluation (each meeting)

- Community Engagement Survey: PLT and Collaborative Learning Session participants (annually)

- EPICC Survey: Developed by research team based on other church implementation capacity measures, guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)

- Stages of Implementation Completion (SIC) (Saldana et al): Eight stages of implementation process completed by each church with technical assistance team collaborators

- MyOwnHealthReport (designed by NCI and AHRQ): Completed pre- and post-participation in evidence-based program implemented in churches receiving technical assistance

- Process information from interview data: Members of implementation teams in participating churches will be asked about their experience with the EPICC Platform, selection of an EBP, responding to the survey, validity of the Survey Results Report, helpfulness of the technical assistance, and experience with the Collaborative Learning Sessions.

QUESTIONS?

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