


Cancer Research By Cancer Survivors: A Needs Assessment By African American Low-income Cancer Survivors and Their Caregivers to Reduce Health Disparities

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Presenter Disclosures

- (1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Project Background

- Partnership between NEON and academic center
- Co-PIs Mosavel and Sanders
- Needs assessment

Project Platform

- To assess the needs of low-income African American cancer survivors living within the inner-city by:
 - Community-based participatory framework
 - partnered with community organizations for advisory support and recruitment
 - jointly conduct a research project that captures identified health concerns in an effort to address health disparities in Northeast Ohio.



The Interviews

- Goal: To train local community residents, who were cancer survivors or caregivers themselves, with a research foundation and prepare them to conduct interviews with other cancer survivors and caregivers
- Interviews would capture rich data to understand the needs of cancer survivors

Training and Capacity Building

- Research Certification
 - 8 hours of intensive training offered on evenings and weekends – tailored to instruct a diverse audience without depending on previous formal research training (Mosavel, in press)
- Delay between certification and training
- Interviewing Skills Training
 - Three 4 hour classes // 6-8 people per class

Training and Capacity Building cont.

- Training Process
- Training Content
- Guest speakers
- Concerns around disclosure

The Interview Guide

- Guide itself was developed collaboratively
- Team of cancer survivors , caregivers, and research staff worded all of the questions
- Final guide was structured with a visualizing exercise at the close



Conducting Interviews

- Buddy system – pairs of interviewers
- Transportation
- Quality Control Follow-up
- Support for Community Researchers

Lessons learned

- Importance of ongoing training
- Acknowledge the importance of ongoing support
- Making the distinction between providing a service and conducting research
- Expanding the idea of objectivity and rigor

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