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Psychiatry

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***Financial Disclosure*: Dr. Sheridan has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.**

Dr. Elisabeth Sheridan is an Associate Professor at Drexel University and the Clinical Director of the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute. As a licensed clinical psychologist, she specializes in assessment and intervention for individuals with a range of developmental, learning, social-emotional, and behavioral differences, including autism. Dr. Sheridan is engaged in clinical, research, and training initiatives that aim to improve the quality of life for autistic individuals and their families. Her research focuses on the dissemination of evidence-based practices in autism, particularly for marginalized communities, using community-partnered participatory research (CPPR) methods. Dr. Sheridan is a Co-Principal Investigator on Drexel University's Autism Center of Excellence PHASES grant, implementing a CPPR framework to examine how public health strategies affect outcomes for autistic individuals across the life course.

INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES IN AUTISM RESEARCH: A COMMUNITY PARTNERED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH APPROACH FOR SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

ABSTRACT

Community participation in research enables individuals with lived experience to shape and influence research processes. The community-partnered participatory research (CPPR) framework emphasizes two-way capacity building, promotion of respect, and power sharing between researchers and community stakeholders. Most CPPR activities focus on primary data collection research, in which community partners provide feedback on instruments, recruitment, and dissemination. However, little is known about including community partners in secondary data research, such as Medicaid and medical records data. Recent Medicaid claims data research suggests racial and socioeconomic disparities for autistic adults, underscoring the importance of including community stakeholders with lived experience to inform research using Medicaid data (Benevides et al., 2021). This presentation will provide an overview of CPPR implementation, including the recruitment of 14 community partners with diverse lived experience (including autistic individuals, caregivers, and service providers; 57% White, 43% Black) for a federally funded Autism Center of Excellence grant focused on secondary data analysis. The integration of community partners with lived experience into this research seeks to enhance the relevance and impact of findings, fostering more inclusive and informed policy and practice. Funding: Research reported in this publication was supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P50HD111142. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the Community-Partnered Participatory Research (CPPR) framework and its key principles, including two-way capacity building, respect, and power sharing among partners
2. Identify the challenges and gaps in incorporating community partners in secondary data research, such as Medicaid and medical records data.
3. Explain the importance of including community partners with lived experience in research using secondary data to improve study relevance and equity.

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