

A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO EVALUATING CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE CO-DESIGN OF AN INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS' MOBILITY

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Context/Objectives

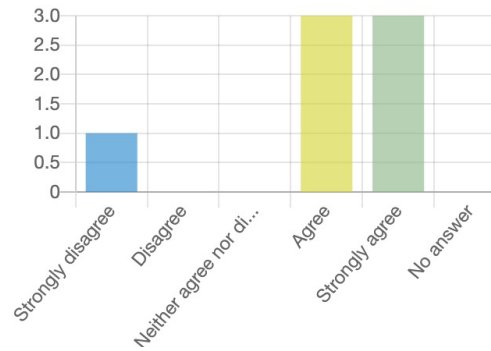
- Partnering with citizens and community in health research can improve health outcomes and enhance the health system.
- The science of citizen and community engagement in research has rapidly expanded, but less is known about the impact of engagement approaches on research outcomes.
- Rigor in evaluating engaged approaches in health research has been called for, to ensure scarce health resources are aligned with citizen's needs and allocated in the most impactful way.
- EMBOLDEN is an evidence-informed, novel community health intervention to enhance mobility that is co-designed by a 30-person Strategic Guiding Council (SGC) composed of health/social service providers and older adult citizens. The codesign phase went from Dec. 2019 - and was paused between March – August 2019

Methods

- Participatory approach to developmental evaluation with 4 older adult SGC members.
- The following priorities for evaluation were identified: diversity; satisfaction, fun, respect; impact of SGC input to intervention; SGC involvement across all stages of research.
- The group chose focus groups and questionnaire methods to capture these priorities and tailored patient-centred outcome measures (PPEET [Abelson et al., 2018]; WE-ENACT [PCORI, 2016])

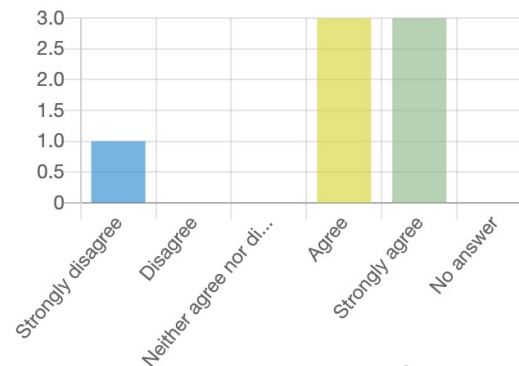
14. The individuals participating in EMBOLDEN's Strategic Guiding Council represented a broad range of perspectives on the topic.

Diversity



Satisfaction

21. Overall, I am satisfied with my engagement in the Strategic Guiding Council



Strengths

- Well organized, good facilitation
- Collaborative, inclusive space
- Clear vision

Areas for improvement

- Significant time commitment
- Spend more time in breakout sessions
- Shared space for project updates

Results

- Seven SGC members completed the PPEET survey: 4 community service providers and 3 older adults
- The majority of respondents agreed EMBOLDEN engagement was inclusive of a broad range of perspectives
- The majority of respondents were satisfied with their engagement in EMBOLDEN's SGC
- Survey respondents identified a clear vision, an inclusive space and good organization/facilitation as strengths of EMBOLDEN's engagement
- Survey respondents were conflicted in what they felt would improve engagement in EMBOLDEN: some felt the time commitment was significant and could be reduced, while others desired more time spent in break-out discussion.
- Focus groups prove challenging to schedule given turnover in the health and social service sector.

Next Steps/Conclusions

- Outreach to SGC members to facilitate focus group participation.
- Focus groups will inform the collection of data to address the impact of SGC input to intervention development.
- Engagement processes in EMBOLDEN could benefit from adding a shared space for project information and updates
- Older adult research partners have an important role to play in designing, implementing and evaluating co-design approaches.