EMPOWERING PATIENT VOICES

Implementing Meaningful Patient Engagement in Embedded Research

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WASHINGTON LHS E-STAR

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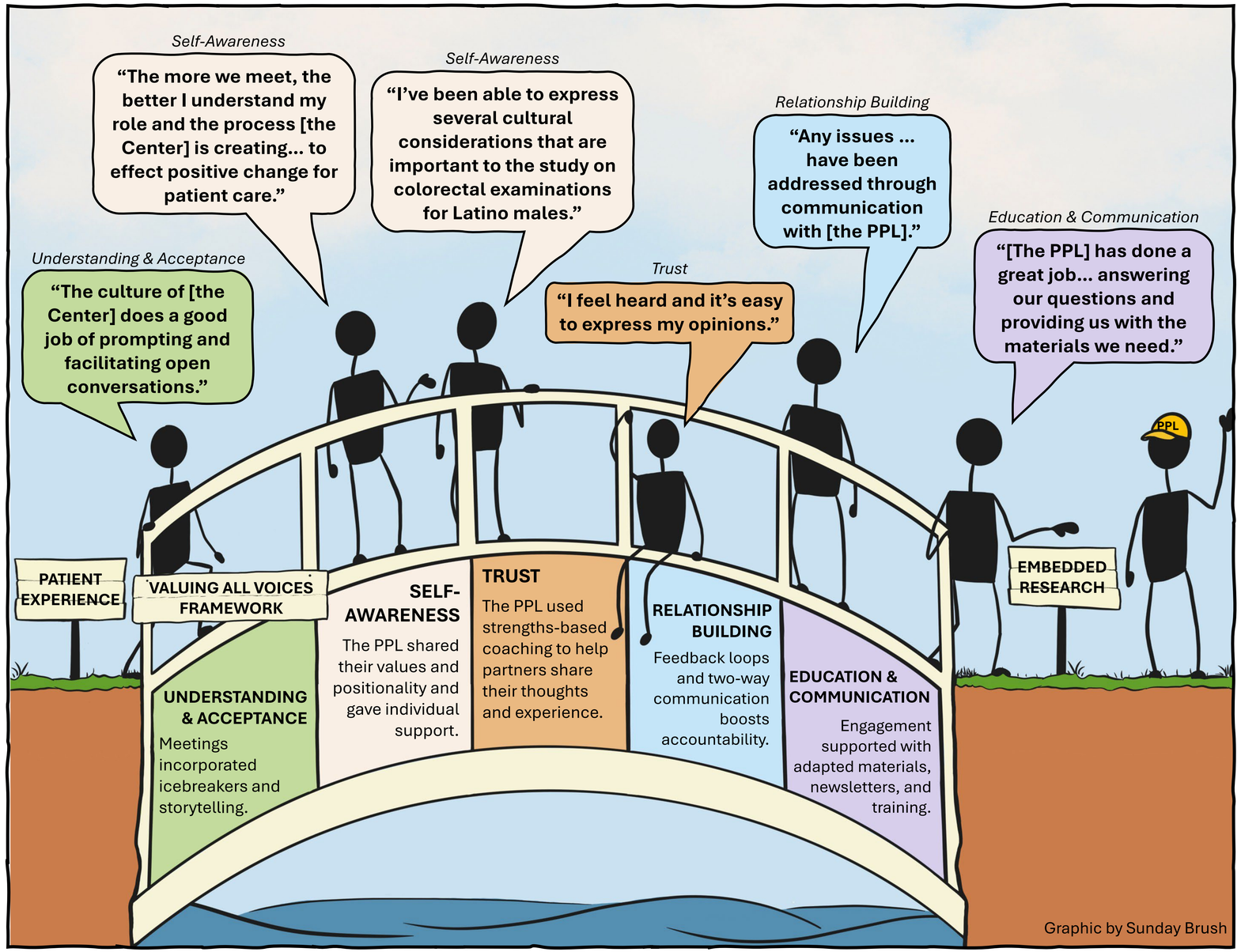
WHY we're describing how to implement patient engagement?
- Patient engagement requires considerable time, resources, and infrastructure
- Engagement creates risk of alienation or tokenization of partners
- Lots of researchers engage patients, few describe how

WHERE does this collaboration take place?
Washington Learning Health System Embedded Scientist Training and Research (WA LHS E-STAR) Center
- A partnership between academic institutions, health system researchers, and federally qualified health centers (FQHC)
- Trains early-career scientists in primary care-based LHS research

WHAT is our objective?
- Describe Center resources and infrastructure, including patient partner liaison (PPL) role
- Apply the Valuing All Voices framework to evaluate partnership
- Offer practical guidance for researchers seeking to operationalize meaningful engagement in embedded research



WHO are the 6 patient/ community partners?
- 2, integrated health systems
- 2, prior research experience
- 4, FQHC
- 4, serve(d) on FQHC governance boards

WHO is the Patient Partner Liaison (PPL)?
- Center staff member, MSW
- 15% dedicated FTE
- Primary contact for partners
- Responsible for: onboarding, tracking hours, communications, meeting coordination, tech support, payment/ travel stipends

HOW do patient/community partners contribute?
- Members of the WA LHS E-STAR Steering Committee
- Attend annual in-person gatherings
- Participate in ad hoc opportunities to support center-based projects
- Compensation
  - $50/hr for prep, meeting time, follow up
  - Avg 25 hours per year ($1,250/yr)

HOW do we evaluate our partnership?
- Ongoing feedback (1:1 partner/PPL)
- Public and Patient Engagement Evaluation Tool (PPEET)
- Naturalistic inquiry using Valuing All Voices framework

References
Roche P, et al. Valuing All Voices: Refining a trauma-informed, intersectional and critical reflexive framework for patient engagement in health research using a qualitative descriptive approach. Res Involv Engagem. 2020 Jul 19;6:42.

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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs WA Puget Sound Health Care System
Community Health of Central Washington
Community Health Association of Spokane

This work is funded by
AHRQ
pcori
Eos Foundation