

OPRE Methods Meeting: Enhancing Rigor, Relevance, and Equity in Research and Evaluation through Community Engagement



Community Participatory Action Research

Case Study #1: Broward County, Florida

October 27, 2021

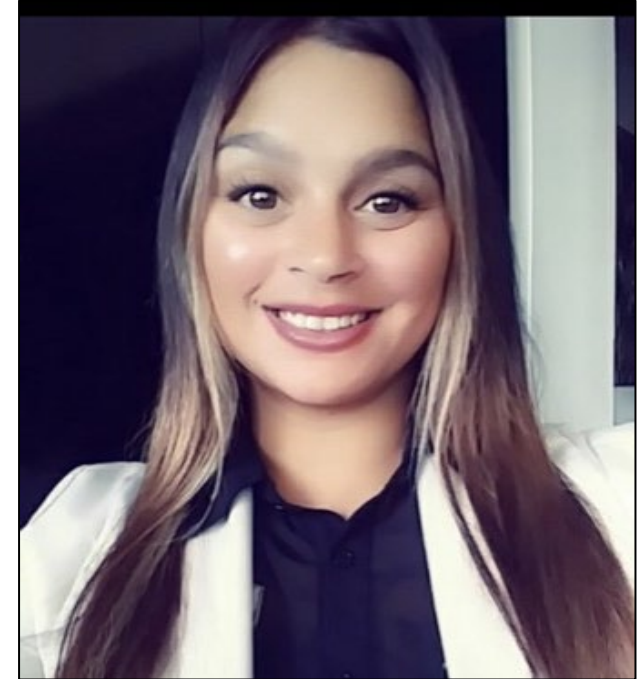
Presenters



Adamma DuCille
Assistant Director of Training
and Capacity Building
Children's Services Council
of Broward County



Sue Gallagher, EdD
Chief Innovative Officer
Children's Services Council
of Broward County



Tiffany Csonka
Parent Co-Researcher &
Youth System Organizing
Consultant

Welcome & Agenda



Communitywide Equity Initiatives – Local Context of CPAR

Adamma DuCille

CPAR Conceptual Framework/Values/Commitments & Process

Sue Gallagher

CPAR Results & Advantages of Lived Expertise

Tiffany Csonka

Implications –

All Presenters

Context for Broward CPAR

Community-wide Equity Initiatives

Adamma DuCille

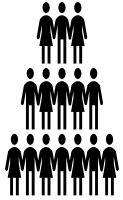
The Children's Services Council of Broward County

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) is an **independent taxing authority** established by voter referendum in **2000**. The CSC's mission is to provide leadership, advocacy, and resources necessary to **enhance the lives of the children of Broward County and empower them to become responsible, productive adults** through collaborative planning and funding of a continuum of quality care.

IMPACT AREAS

- After-School & Summer Programs
- Early Childhood
- Infant and Maternal Health
- Programming for Youth and Adults with Special Needs
- Family Strengthening
- Community Based Initiatives
- Respite
- Teen Programs
- Prosperity & Hunger
- Capacity Building
- Health & Safety Initiatives

Broward County Demographics



1.95 Million

People Live in Broward



33.1% of total population
identify as White
(Non-Hispanic)



26.6 % of total population
identify as Black
(Non-Hispanic)



31.3% of total population
identify as Hispanic

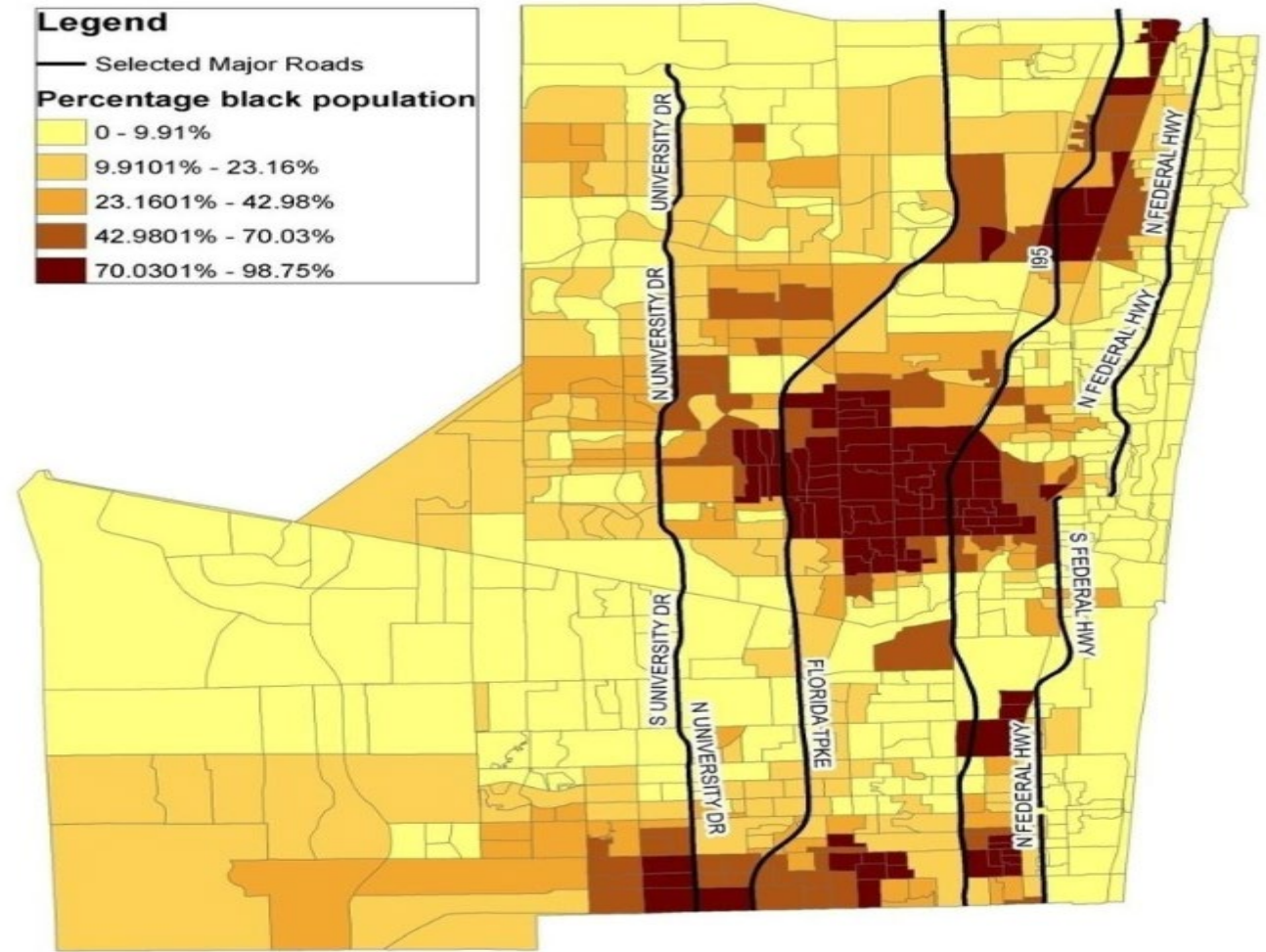
8.9% Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Some Other Race,
Two or More Races

Residential Patterns of the Local Black Population

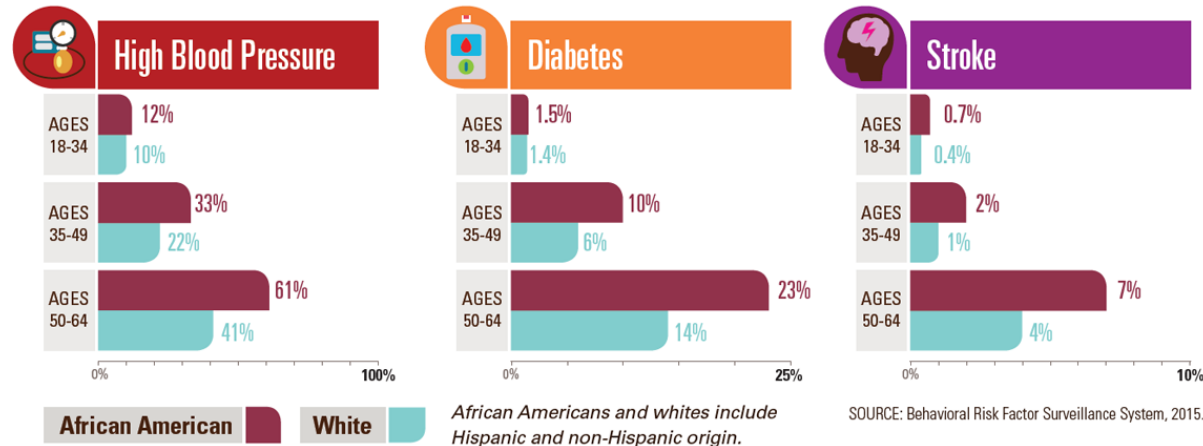


Historically Black communities are impacted by past and current discriminatory policies which;

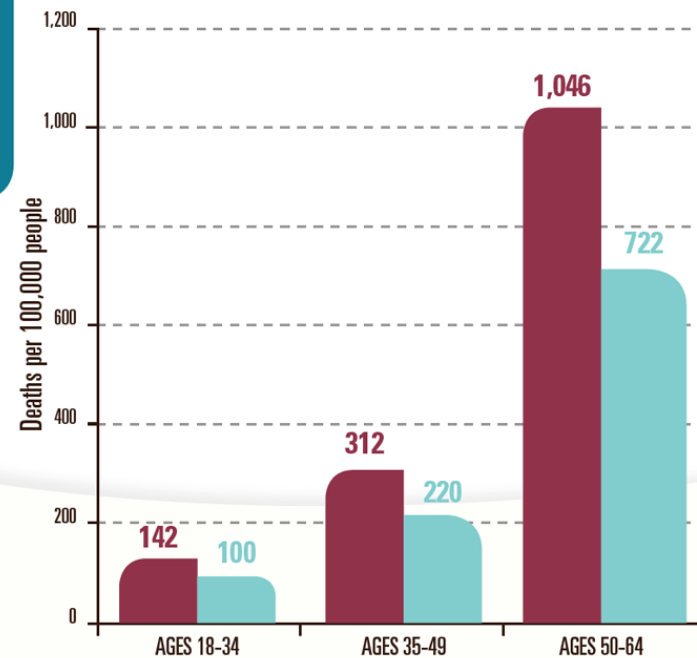
- Uphold residential segregation
- Maintain areas of concentrated poverty
- Keep residents disconnected and under-resourced
- Enforce practices that inhibit economic growth and mobility



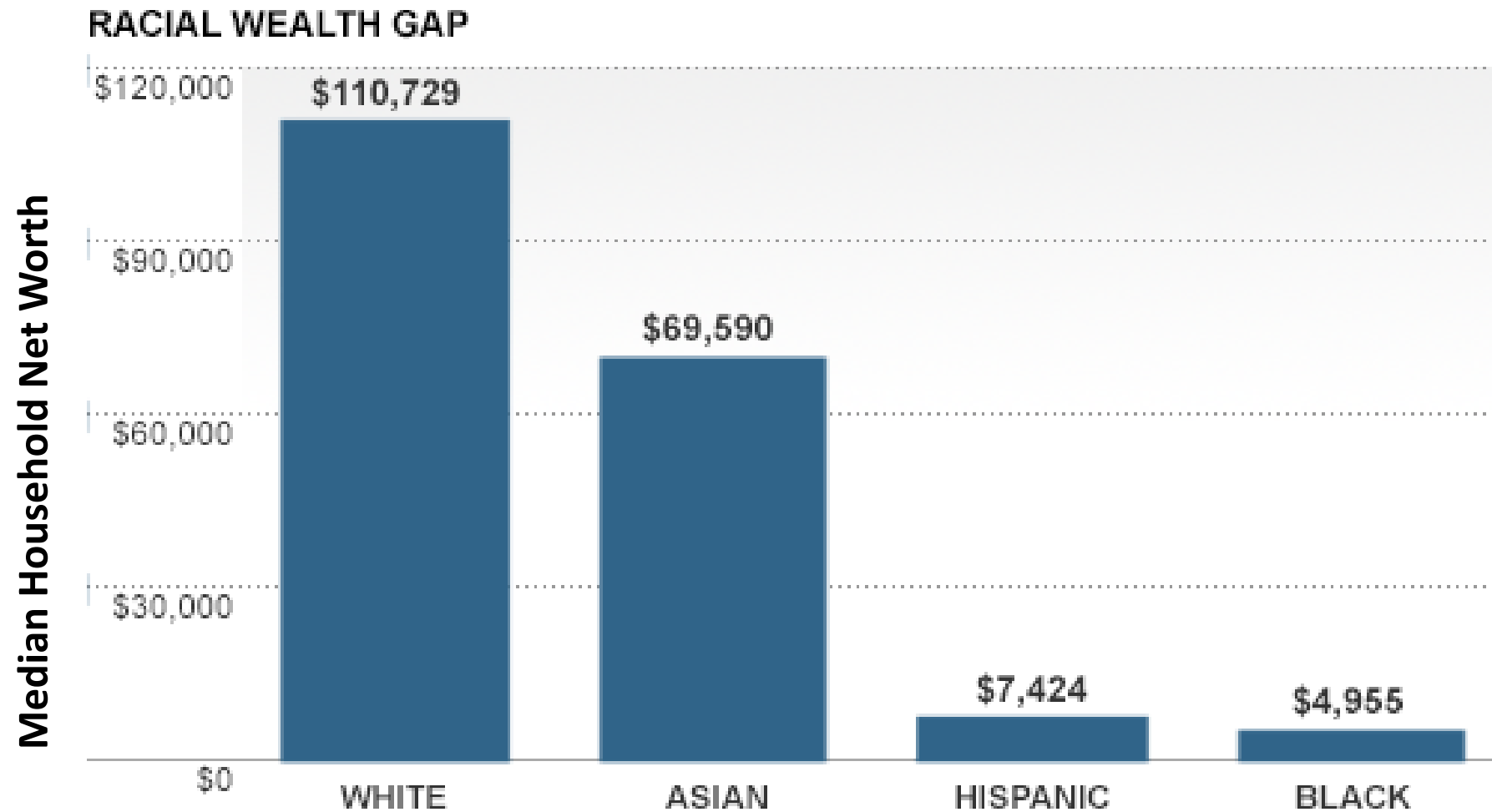
Racial Disparities in Healthcare



African Americans are more likely to die at early ages from all causes.



Racial Disparities in Economics



Racial Disparities in Justice System

RACE	TOTAL PRISON POPULATION (%)	TOTAL US POPULATION (%)
White	58.70	76.50
Black	37.50	13.40
Native American	2.30	1.30
Asian	1.50	5.90

[Criminal Justice Data Source: Federal Bureau of Prisons](#)

[Criminal Justice Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau](#)

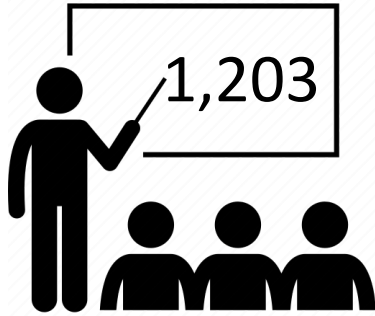
Anchor Institutions



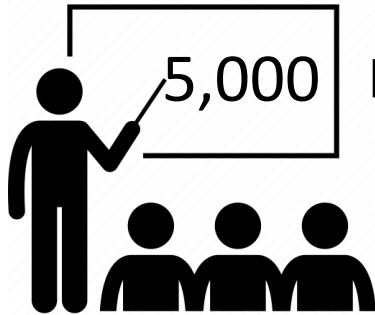
Child Protective
Investigation Section



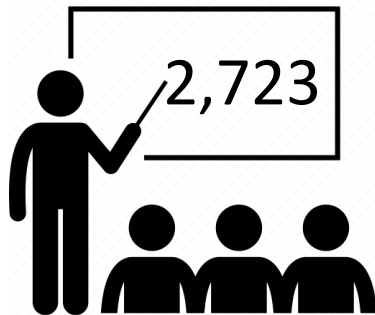
Commitment to Communitywide Training



Participants in Racial Equity Institute **Groundwater Presentation**



Participants in CSC's **Implicit Bias and Local History of Racism**



Participants in Racial Equity Institute **2-Day Workshop**

Supporting Local Equity-Centered Initiatives

Affinity Groups

- People of Color Caucus
- White Caucus
- Latino Caucus
- Joint Caucus
- Broward Partners for Racial Equity
- Broward Funders for Racial Equity
- CEOs for Racial Equity

Community Stakeholders

- Youth
- Religious Leaders
- Parents/Caregivers
- Local Politicians
- Teachers
- Media Partners
- Youth & Family Serving Providers

Educators and Academia

- Local School Board
- Florida Atlantic University
- Broward College
- Florida International University
- Xavier University / Center for Traumatic Stress Research

Funders & Business Community

- Broward Workshop
- The Miami Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Broward
- Philanthropy Miami
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance
- The DeLuca Foundation

Local Government Entity

- Broward County Human Services
- Broward Sheriff's Office
- The Department of Health
- Various local municipalities

State and National Partners

- The Racial Equity Institute
- The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
- Broward Education Research Alliance
- Local College Access Network/ Broward Bridge 2 Life
- Southern Education Foundation
- Florida College Access Network
- Florida PTA
- The Kellogg Foundation

Coalition Building & Meaningful Connections



Sharing equal power, deepening relationships and building greater trust.

Working alongside stakeholders and committing to collectively learn, do and act in unison.

Honoring the contributions of community stakeholders through remunerative incentives.

Using Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and Collective Impact approaches to co-create solutions to community needs.

Broward CPAR

CPAR Genesis, Commitments & Process

Sue Gallagher

Why CPAR in Broward ?



- 2016 Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) Grant
- 2016 Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) IDS Learning Community
- 2017 Broward Data Collaborative

Dismantling Structure of Racism with CPAR

Racialized Hierarchy

Social & Spatial Segregation

Justifying Deficit Narrative

Broward Data Collaborative

Integrated Data System Questions

How can data systems be incentivized **to build equitable relationships** and outcomes?

How can we build data structures that **validate community members' expertise & power to co-create** non-racist systems and communities?

Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR)

CPAR is an approach to research based on the idea that **the people of a community possess expert knowledge about their lived experience and community conditions in a way that cannot be understood strictly through academic research.**

Grounding Commitments



1. **Shift problems off the backs of individuals** onto systems, structures and policies.
2. Acknowledge how research has **harmed** people
3. Employ social science as a **mechanism of empowerment** - Action happens all along the way.
4. Foster & Encourage Desire and **Imagination**

CPAR Innovation

Youth, Parents, Researchers & System Professionals

Humanizing & Transformative Relationships
that produced rich data, discussion and policy,
system, and narrative change

CPAR Principles

Enhance collaboration between community members, community organizations, and researchers **in every step of the research process**

Action-oriented, taking the results and process of the research **to drive social change**

Relevant, as the **community works together** to define problems

Innovative, because **community members understand best what resources already exist** to go towards addressing their issues

Critical, **awareness of institutional and structural racism.**

Broward CPAR Projects

Federal Performance Pilot Partnership grant

March 2018 – July 2018

(Feds \$50,000 & CSC \$17,000)

Youth & Professionals in Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Behavioral Health Systems



Florida Institute of Child Welfare grant

July 2019 – September 2020

(FICW \$50,000 & CSC \$12,000)

Youth, Parents & Professionals in Child Welfare



Engagement & Participation Challenges & Gifts

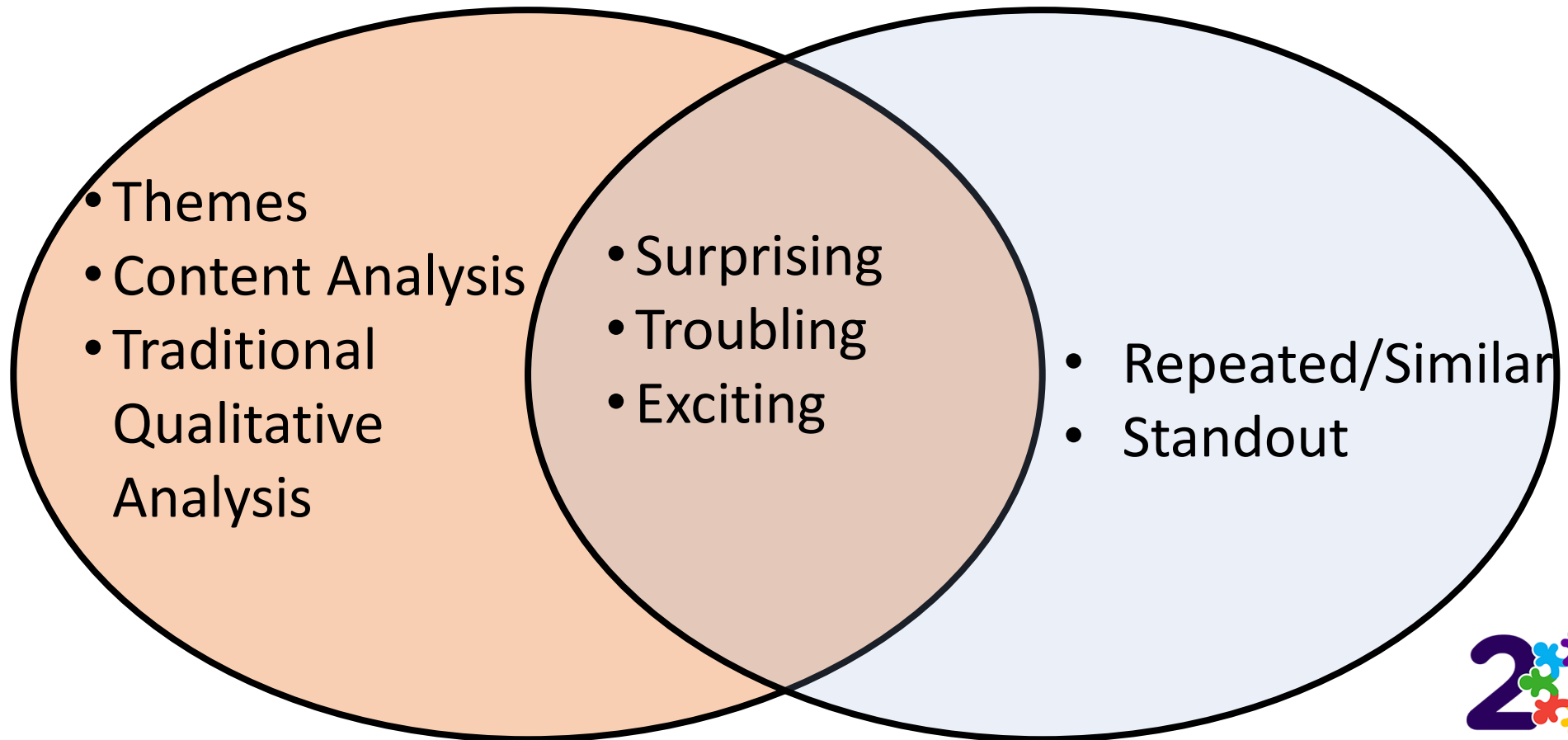
- Engagement:
 - Tapped Existing Relationships between Participants and System Professionals
- Sustaining Participation:
 - Need for Trauma Informed & Integrating approaches
 - Flexibility with scheduling, transportation, meals
- Critical/Creative Focus:
 - Provide anti-racism training for co-researchers

Youth, Parents & Professionals Co-Researching Activities

- Establishing a Research Team
- Group Knowledge Building
- Clarifying Topic, Questions, Audience, Purpose
- Deciding Methods – What Kinds of Data will be most useful for you?
- Collecting Data
- Analyzing Data
- Creating Research Products

Data Whispering: Demystifying Analysis

Making the Analysis Accessible to Everyone



Broward CPAR Outcomes

CPAR Results & Advantages of Integrating Lived Expertise

Tiffany Csonka

2018 & 2019 CPAR Outcomes

- Youth Leadership Development & Access to Social Capital
- System Professional Transformation
- Relationships of Mutual Accountability
- Solutions to address system gaps

Youth Reflections on CPAR Experience

“ I went through this foster care group home]already and I would not want no one else to go through either **so if it is my voice and my opinion can help other kids , I will do anything to make them feel more comfortable and safe.**”- Youth co-researcher

“ It has been difficult but it has **made me more sensitive to others and their situation.** I have met some amazing, compassionate people that has become my team.” – Youth co-researcher

System Professional Reflections on CPAR Experience

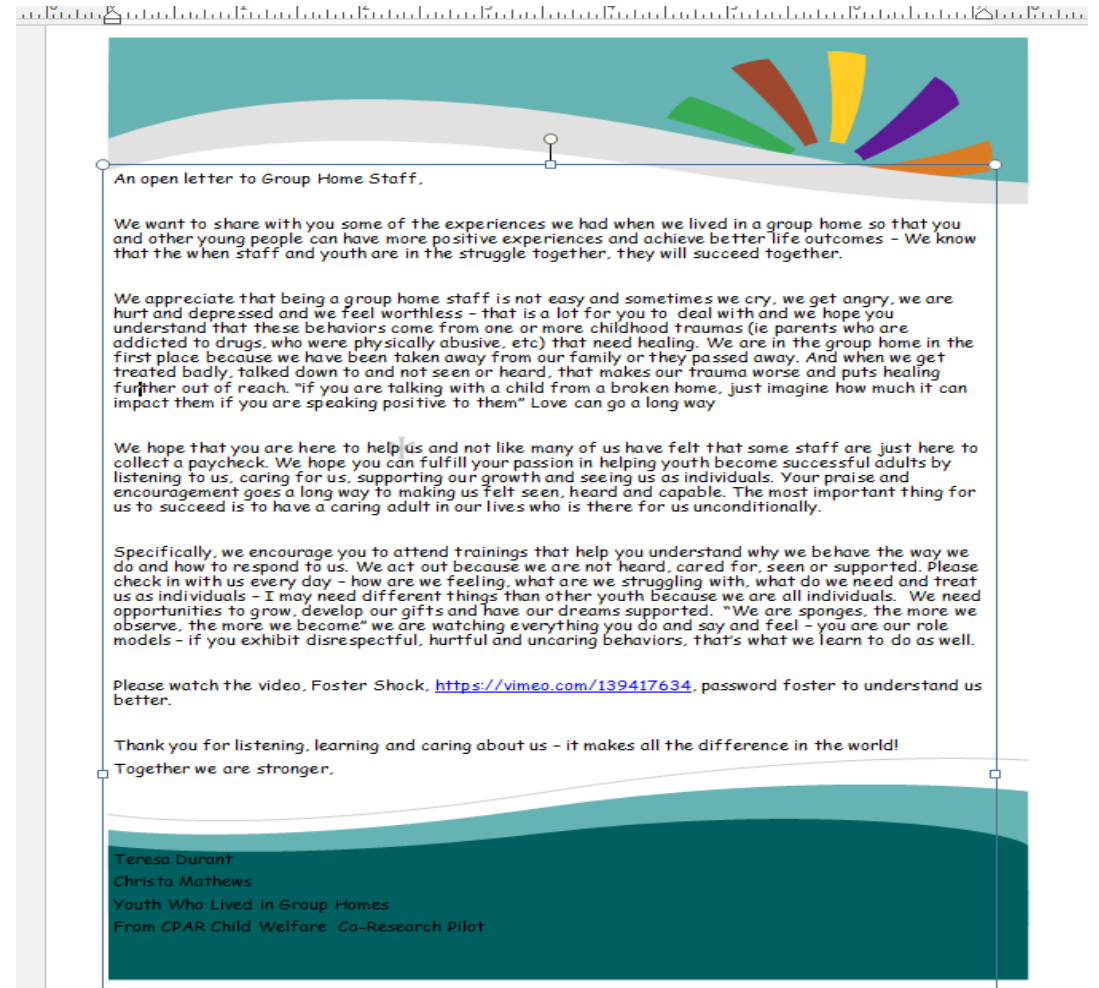
“As a case manager in this field, you can sometimes forget how “abnormal” it is what most of these children experience and **working on something that called out this injustices and unfair practices was refreshing and encouraging.**” –Adult co-researcher

“ I have been working in the system for over 13 years, and was **starting to feel burned out. I now realize my work is not done. I will continue exemplify and model the positive behavior our youth deserve.**” – Adult co-researcher

2018 CPAR Research Products



Bookmarks for Group Home Staff



Letter to Group Home Staff

2018 CPAR Research Products

*If your child has been arrested,
here is what you need to know:*

***If my child is arrested,
are they guilty?***

No, being arrested does not mean your child is guilty but missing court will result in an arrest warrant for your child that has added financial cost to you as a parent/guardian.

***Do I need to go to court
with my child?***

It would be best if you were at court with your child, but your child must attend.

***How should I
prepare for court?***

Check your child's court date and time, call in your child's absence from school, arrange reliable transportation, be prepared for parking costs and arrive at least 30 min early.

***If for some reason your child
will miss court, you must call the
numbers in red below ASAP:***

XXX-XXX-XXXX

Children who are arrested for missing court can only be picked up at the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) or Juvenile Detention Center "The Tent" by a parent/guardian.

*Si su hijo (a) ha sido arrestado,
esto es lo que necesita saber:*

***Si mi hijo(a) es arrestado,
¿Es culpable?***

No, su hijo(a) no es culpable, pero faltar a la cita en la corte resultará en una orden de arresto para su hijo y en un costo financiero para usted como padre/madre/tutor.

***¿Debo ir a la corte?
con mi hijo(a)?***

La mejor alternativa es acompañar a su hijo ya que el/ella tiene que presentarse en la corte.

***¿Cómo me debo
preparar para ir a la corte?***

Verifique la fecha y hora de la corte de su hijo (a), llame a la escuela para notificar la ausencia, consiga transporte confiable, prepárese para los costos de estacionamiento y llegue al menos 30 minutos antes de su cita.

***Si por alguna razón su hijo(a)
va a faltar a la corte, debe
llamar a los números en rojo lo antes
posible.***

XXX-XXX-XXXX

Los niños que son arrestados por no asistir a la corte solo pueden ser recogidos en el Centro de Evaluación Juvenil o en el Centro de Detención Juvenil por un padre/madre/tutor.

*Si yo te arete pitit ou, isit la
se sa ou bezwen konnen:*

***Si pitit mwen an te arete,
èske li koupab?***

Non, yo te li arete pa vle di pitit ou a koupab, men manke dat tribinal la pral lakòz yon mande arestasyon pou pitit ou a ki ap ajoute frè finansye ou kòm yon paran / gadyen.

***Èske mwen bezwen ale nan
tribunal ak pitit mwen an?***
Li ta pi bon si ou te nan tribinal ak pitit ou a, men pitit ou a dwe ale.

***Ki jan mwen ta dwe
prepare pou tribinal?***
Tcheke dat ak lè pitit ou a, rele nan absans pitit ou a nan lekòl la, fè aranjman pou transpò serye, prepare pou depans pou parkin epi rive anvan 30 minn bonè.

***Si pou kèk rezon pitit ou a
pral rate tribinal la, ou dwe
rele chif yo nan wouj anba a pi vit
ke posib:***

XXX-XXX-XXXX

Timoun ki te arete yo pou tribinal li manke a kapab pran akiman nan Sant Adiltans pou Jwenil oswa Sant pou Jitis Jwenil pa yon paran / gadyen.

Verbiage, CSC, Pace, OJJDP??

**You are
arrested,
now what?**

**If you are Arrested
or received a
Notice to Appear
in court,
here is what you
need to know...**

(Image from video)

Failure to Appear Educational Pamphlet

Key Findings from Very Important Parents (VIP)

- Parents felt dehumanized in the system
- Parents were afraid to ask for help
- Parents wanted more time & support with understanding and decision making

2019 CPAR Outcomes



Co-created Parent Video inspired by 20XX CPAR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYu2_7jEyAQ

Broward CPAR

Implications

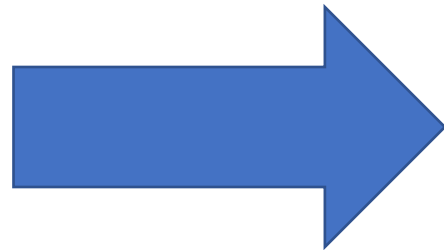
Sue Gallagher & Adamma DuCille

Design of Anti-Racist Evaluation Systems

Racialized
Hierarchy

Social & Spatial
Segregation

Justifying
Deficit
Narrative



Institutionalize Parent & Youth
Relationships, Share Governance



Co-Research, Co-Imagine, Co-
Construct Solutions Together,
Shared Capacity Building

We are all Powerful, Knowledgeable,
Compassionate Change
Agents/Partners
Who Belong and Make Contributions

Implications of CPAR Projects

Required Individual and Collective Commitment to Action & Relationships

- Commitment of system leaders to advance change through action
- Commitment to personal and professional learning and development related to racial-equity
- Acknowledge the deficits in organizational practices, culture and policies, and a commitment to explore and address them
- Entrust that relationships with community is reciprocal in nature.

Implications of CPAR Projects

Generative Local Context

- Greater appreciation of the value of lived experience.
 - ❖ Outcome: New framework for the composition of taskforce, committees, workgroups address community conditions
 - ❖ Outcome: Reimagining what is possible
 - ❖ CPAR reimagines & embodies equitable power dynamics between communities & systems
 - ❖ Professional Transformation – relationships not based in service hierarchy/ segregation/ deficit-based narrative

Implications of CPAR Projects

Necessary Funding Elements

- Building Equitable, Trauma Integrating Relationships Take Time –
 - **Fund multi year grants**
- Leveraging **Critical & Creative Facilitators** is essential
- Center Relationships that value full participation and are culturally responsive
 - ❖ Outcome: Community members are engaged at all levels research process.
 - ❖ Leadership Development – generate richer data, discussion, decision making information
 - ❖ Increased Rigor – diversity, divergence of experiences and perspectives

Q&A

Thank You