The View of Evidence-Informed Policy Making

Co-hosts:
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“A Pair of Shoes” for the Journey
Bridging the Great Divide

What policy makers say about researchers?

- Lack of timeliness
- Politically irrelevant research
- Research for the sake of research
- Too much focus on the describing and managing the problem
- Lack of applicability to “real-life” solutions

What researchers say about policy makers?

- Decisions based on political preferences and money
- Lack of scientific evidence
- Too much partisanship
- Use of sta-twistics
- Lack of political will or action
What communities say about researchers and policy makers?

- Lack of personal contact between researchers, policy-makers and those most impacted by the “problem”
- Not enough action
- Lack of community voice & “real civic engagement in research & policy making


“The influence of research in eliminating health disparities is inextricably linked to political climate, political dynamics, and the moral commitments of scientist as well as political leaders”

Improving the use of research for policy decisions

**Facilitators**
- Personal contact between researchers and policy makers
- Timeliness & relevance of the research
- Inclusion of summaries with policy recommendations

**Barriers**
- Absence of personal contact
- Lack of timeliness or relevance of research
- Mutual mistrust
- Power and Budget struggles

Panelists

- Silvia Sierra, MSW, Director, Doña Ana County Health & Human Services
- Raúl E. Burciaga, J.D., Director, New Mexico Legislative Council Service
- Dolores E. Roybal, MSW, Executive Director, Con Alma Health Foundation
- Ken Lucero, Director, RWJF Center for Native American Health Policy at UNM
Micro/Local → State/National/ Tribal

- How can we improve the use of research for policy decisions to reduce health disparities and to promote health equity?
- If politics is the bridge between research and policy, what role does political contexts (i.e. political ideologies or agendas) play in either facilitating or inhibiting the use of research?
- How can we make linkages or employ the use of tools between researchers and policymakers to facilitate better relationships & trust?
- Given the national and state political context of health reform, what are the challenges in translating research into policy?