

Forging Partnerships Between Researchers and “the Researched”: A Community Based Anti-Trafficking Response

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Acknowledgments



- Our survivor/ally research team members:
 - Research Assistants: Emily Sims & Janet Ector
 - Community Advisory Board Members: Amy Rahe, Catie Hart, CeeCee Roberts, Genévieve T. Tiangco, & Ummra Hang
- The San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking
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Presentation Outline

- ❖ Project Overview
- ❖ Community Based-Participatory Research Approach
- ❖ Project Infrastructure
- ❖ CBPR Based Project Activities
- ❖ Methods
- ❖ Findings

Project Overview

- ❖ Goal 1: Conduct a process and implementation evaluation of the SF Mayor's Task Force
- ❖ Goal 2: Conduct an outcomes evaluation of the SF Mayor's Task Force
- ❖ **Goal 3: Create research infrastructure to support intellectual and career development of people who were trafficked**

Community-Based Participatory Approach

“I like that my sisters and I that sit at that table are part of history. This making [of history], this research.

**It’s big because it’s never done before.
So I’m truly grateful because we are a part of this history.”**

- Genévieve T. Tiangco

Community-Based Participatory Research

Key Features:

- Not a methodology but an approach
- Creates data that is mutually beneficial and mutually interesting
- Prioritizes confidentiality, consent & transparency
- Builds on strengths of the community

Project Infrastructure

- ❖ Principal Investigators (2)
- ❖ Research Assistants (2)
- ❖ Community Advisory Board Members (6-8)

CBPR Based Project Activities

- ❖ Principal Investigators (PI)
 - Co-creation of grant proposal and key instruments
 - Regular conversations about roles, responsibilities, and working relationship

- ❖ Research Assistants
 - Ongoing support and discussion about peer researcher status
 - In-service training and professional development

- ❖ Community Advisory Board
 - Development of Community Agreements
 - Overview of CBPR and discussion about publications and authorship
 - Compensation for meeting time; Annual professional development funds
 - Availability of PIs to discuss process, content, and personal experiences
 - Dissemination of findings to survivors and NGOs (website and reports)

METHODS



- Biweekly Co-PI meetings
- Weekly RA meetings
- Quarterly CAB meetings
- One-on-one meetings with CAB members
- Semi-structured interviews with CAB members

FINDINGS: CAB Interviews

- Several motivations for joining the CAB
- Most do not identify with the term “survivor of human trafficking”
- Experience is overwhelmingly positive. Attribute this to the research team:
 - Listening to their input and being respected
 - Paying them for their time
 - Providing food
 - Creating a space for people to share openly
 - Engaging in work that CAB members believe in

What impact, if any, has the project had on you so far?

“One thing that comes to mind is...how amazing it can be when survivors are involved, how it is possible to create an environment where survivors feel good coming in and talking, like I feel like you guys have done a really good job of that.”

– Catie Hart

FINDINGS: CAB Interviews

Strengths

- Monetary and professional validation
- Project co-facilitated by a survivor
- Professional development opportunities
- Anonymous environment to share observations and critiques

Challenges

- Navigating peer/insider status
- Not enough time during meetings
- Evening meeting times are difficult

FINDINGS: Other Data Sources

Strengths

- Hiring 2 RAs allowed for camaraderie and support
- All CAB members acting in a professional capacity
- Co-PIs had pre-existing rapport built with many Task Force participants
- Co-PIs have a commitment to open dialogue and self-reflection

Challenges

- Project limitations regarding providing full time work
- Expectation of some volunteer hours from CAB members
- Recruiting people who were trafficked in non-sexual labor
- CAB members' difficulty with consistent child care
- Navigating research project responsibilities while addressing the long-term impact of trauma
- Research content and process were more triggering than expected

Recommendations

1. Continue to prioritize compensation for survivor participation
2. Add additional infrastructure to support survivors' emotional needs
3. Investigate the impact of participation in a CBPR project on a survivor's recovery and empowerment process

QUESTIONS?

Project Website | <https://sftaskforceeval.wordpress.com>

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