

Health Outcomes that Matter: Engaging patients, community, and health system stakeholders to establish PCOR priorities

Maxson P, Barrett N, Gierisch J, Boulware E, Lyn M

Durham and the Duke Center for Community and Population Health Improvement have launched a concerted effort to co-develop an agenda for patient centered outcomes research (PCOR) on outcomes that matter to our local community. Our primary goal is to convene a diverse membership of patients, health care providers, researchers, and community stakeholders to establish a 5-year PCOR roadmap to improve patient-centered outcomes in Durham.

This 2-year effort comprises a series of community meetings, culminating in a patient-centered community-engaged consortium that leverages patient, community, and academic/health system strengths to inform research priority-setting activities. We aim to establish a shared understanding of the need for engaging multiple stakeholders; provide a discussion forum for community experiences relevant to PCOR; and identify and ignite PCOR priorities relevant to patients and the Durham community.

Over 200 patients, researchers, providers, and community members attended three community meetings, from which multiple themes emerged, including: increase trust and transparency; incorporate community voices throughout the process; foster equitable relationships among researchers, health care providers and community; increase involvement of underrepresented groups; and improve dissemination of findings. Top health priorities for community-engaged research identified include education, mental health, obesity, access to affordable housing, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

Building on this effort, we are collaborating on community- and patient-focused research on health outcomes that matter. Leveraging the great strengths of local community, health system, and researcher stakeholders, co-developing a research agenda for patient-centered health priorities could have a profound and sustained impact on partnerships around health locally and beyond.