



Society for Prevention Research 32nd Annual Meeting

Pre-Conference Workshop IV

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Time: 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Title: An Up-Close Look at Research Practice Partnerships in Prevention Science

Organizer and Presenter

- Kimberly DuMont, PhD, William T. Grant Foundation

Presenters:

- Ellen Dickenson, United Way of Massachusetts Bay
- Tiffany Graydon, Focus: HOPE
- Enrique Jr. Neblett, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- Emily Ozer, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Purpose: Research practice partnerships are a promising approach for advancing prevention science and contributing to the health and well-being of all community members. Partnerships have the potential to inform prevention science so that it more fully reflects the values, questions, and professional expertise of all involved parties—community members, organization staff and leadership, researchers, and policymakers. Further, when done well, partnerships can use findings from locally anchored research with knowledge from larger bodies of research evidence to promote well-being. The proposed workshop takes an up-close look at what it takes to meet these goals. At the end of this workshop, participants will:

- (i) be familiar with online resources and assessment tools that aid the formation and sustainment of research-practice partnerships.
- (ii) have a nuanced understanding of how to co-create a research agenda to advance the production and use of prevention science.
- (iii) walk away with strategies to promote institutional change at research institutions so that engaged research is more highly valued.
- (iv) have a grounded understanding of the William T. Grant Foundation’s funding opportunities that support research done in partnerships.

Target Audience: Researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and community members who are currently or considering working in a research-practice partnership to advance prevention science. Early career, mid-career, and senior career stages are welcome.

Materials: Participants will (i) engage with a website designed to support the establishment, navigation, and sustainment of research practice partnerships <https://rpp.wtgrantfoundation.org/>; (ii) they will use and receive a published tool for assessing the health of a research practice partnership in establishing, navigating, and sustaining partnerships; (iii) receive a hard copy or online link to a recently commissioned report on how universities and funders are pursuing institutional change to better support research that has societal impact.

Presenters: All the presenters involved in the workshop are actively engaged in a research-practice partnership that is advancing a prevention science agenda related to homelessness, mental health, and school engagement. Dickenson represents the practice side of a partnership. Neblett, a researcher, and Graydon, a practitioner, are jointly advancing a research agenda around employment and youth mental health, and Ozer represents the research side of a partnership focused on chronic absenteeism and recently authored two pieces about institutional change to better value engaged scholarship. The contact for this session, DuMont, has participated in a research practice partnership, supports grantees studying research practice partnerships, and those engaged in working in partnership to advance research and its use.

Workshop outline:

Consistent with the conference theme, this half-day workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to engage with one or two members from three partnership teams who are advancing prevention science to prevent homelessness, promote positive mental health among Black youth, and address inequities around school absenteeism. The workshop will consist of four sections.

Part 1 will focus on the act of partnering itself and involve a 30-minute panel conversation about establishing terms of engagement, what it takes to lean into these guidelines, and how to recover, evolve, or dissolve when one or more parties do not respect the guidelines. All presenters listed will be involved in this discussion. Participants will then move to breakout tables where they will complete and discuss a validated rubric for assessing partnership health.

Part 2 of the workshop will focus on advancing a research agenda. At least two of the presenting teams (Dickerson and Neblett & Graydon) will share their research agendas, how they negotiated the research questions and methods, and how they are using what is learned. Participants will then move to themed discussion tables (e.g., the research agenda, the conduct of the research, establishing data sharing agreements, and research use) and engage with a micro-website on partnering to explore related templates and case examples.

Following a break, Part 3 of the workshop will focus on funding and sustaining the partners and partnership within research institutions, with a particular focus on the university setting. The session organizer (DuMont) will present on a funding opportunity to support partnership research and this foundation's motivation to encourage institutional change at universities to better value this work. Ozer will then present a recent scan of thirteen universities and the different strategies they are using to promote institutional change to better support collaborative research with a societal impact. Following a short question and answer period.

Part 4 of the workshop will offer an opportunity to participate in two twenty-minute table talks for informal conversation and consultation. Themes are likely to include (i) initiating and navigating the RPP, (ii) advancing prevention science research in partnership, (iii) using findings from prevention science, and (iv) advancing institutional change. The workshop will close with final reflections.

Relevance to Conference Theme: This year's theme is about advancing partnerships and collaborative approaches in prevention science. This workshop looks under the hood of three partnerships to discuss their aspirations and challenges they face in doing this work. Further, the workshop will connect participants to tangible resources to aid partnership members as they initiative, navigate, and sustain their partnerships and their scientific agendas. Workshop presenters and participants will discuss issues related to power, ethics, and ownership within partnerships. Similarly, and consistent with TNATF-identified themes, the workshop will demonstrate how partnerships and collaborative approaches contribute to an understanding of the synergistic effects of multiple social determinants of health. In addition, each of the featured partnerships involves a different research method and demonstrates both the versatility of partnerships to support a range of questions that are important to prevention science and how equity practices might be infused or centered within the partnership and research agenda.

