Supporting and Developing a Community's Resilience

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Community Resilience

- Systems approach (Berkes & Ross, 2012; Tyler & Moench, 2012)
- Build back better … bounce forward
- When disruptions in social and physical environments occur, it is important to consider those with functional limitations that could be at greater risk (Sullivan & Hakkinen, 2011)

- Key concepts (Chandra, 2011; Norris et al, 2008; Castleden et al., 2013)
  - Partnerships, Sustained local leadership
  - Education about risks, preparedness & self-sufficiency
  - Access to services (eg. health services)
  - Integration of preparedness and wellness
  - Repaid restoration of services / networks
  - Engagement & empowerment of high risk groups
  - Financial resiliency – families and businesses

The EnRiCH Collaboration

- EnRiCH was developed in response to a need for more empirical evidence of the effectiveness, feasibility and appropriateness of community resilience interventions

- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) initiative with 5 communities in Canada

- Focused on **inclusive engagement and collaboration to enhance resilience** among high risk populations

- **Asset or functional capability-oriented approach** (Morgan & Ziglio, 2007; Kailes & Enders, 2007)

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High Risk Populations

- *"… anyone who has functional limitations related to communication, housing, awareness, mobility/transportation, psychosocial factors, self-care/daily tasks, and safety/security, that may put them at higher risk of negative impacts when an emergency or disaster occurs"* (O'Sullivan et al., 2014)

- Goes beyond labeling to focus on which functions need support
  - eg. literacy, activities of daily living, learning capability,

- Important to consider determinants which create or contribute to functional limitations and exacerbate risk
  - eg. income, access to information, medical conditions

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EnRiCH Functional Capabilities Framework
(O'Sullivan et al., 2013)   (www.enrichproject.ca)

COMMUNICATION   HOUSING   AWARENESS   MOBILITY / TRANSPORTATION   PSYCHOSOCIAL   SELF-CARE & DAILY LIVING TASKS   SAFETY & SECURITY

The acronym CHAMPSS is used to outline 7 categories of functional capabilities:
  - Communication
  - Housing
  - Awareness
  - Mobility / Transportation
  - Psychosocial
  - Self-Care & Daily Living Tasks
  - Safety & Security

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Purpose / Methods

- **Purpose:** To present an overview of the summative outcomes of the EnRiCH Community Resilience Intervention

- **Method:**
- Community-based participatory approach – 4 communities
- Recruitment of professionals and volunteers working in emergency management, health and social services, community associations
- Data sources: audio recordings of 4 focus group sessions in each community
- Qualitative content analysis

EnRiCH Community Intervention

The EnRiCH Community Intervention was designed as a template for communities to tailor to their own context and priorities

1. Asset/Need Assessment (focus group using SIM format)

2. EHRIT Orientation and Networking Session

3. Online Collaborative Planning Task (8-10 weeks)

4. Table Top Exercise

The EnRiCH Manual is available in (english /french*) at
http://enrichproject.ca/publications-and-resources.html

Key Outcomes
(O'Sullivan et al., 2013)

- *Leaders emerged within each group*

- *EnRiCH was merged with other existing community initiatives*

- *Engagement of organizations whom had not participated in emergency planning activities before enhanced individual and collective asset literacy*

- *EnRiCH provided an opportunity to build a resource map or database of assets in the community*

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Key Outcomes
(O'Sullivan et al., 2013)

- *Google docs provided an accessible interface to access the community database created through the intervention period*

- *The online collaborative tool was tailored to meet the needs of each community and coordinate across sectors other types of jurisdictional boundaries*

- *Information exchange provided a source of knowledge to enhance awareness and empower participants*

- *Social capital expanded as participants interacted and worked together on the asset-mapping task*

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Discussion

- Inclusive engagement and recognition of the expertise of community members are **consistent with a 'Whole-of-Society' approach** to disaster and emergency management (WHO, 2009; FEMA).

- **Adaptive response is supported through awareness, connectedness and strong collaborative relationships** between different sectors and organizations in a community (Norris et al., 2008).

- **Upstream transformational leadership** (Caldwell et al., 2012) is needed to champion a paradigm shift to promote inclusive engagement and acknowledge of peoples' potential contribution

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Implications and Call to Action …

1. **Create opportunities to build awareness and relationships** –these are key factors to engage communities to become more resilient

2. **Reach out to community stakeholders to engage them** – and then really empower everyone to participate

3. **Change the lens to look for assets** within individuals, organizations and communities

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Merci!
Thank-you!

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