Shared Knowledge Conference

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Listening and Learning from New Mexico "Communities of Practice" to shape and inform behavioral and mental health research and practice

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The University of New Mexico Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement (TREE) Center is focused on the improvement of behavioral health disparities with socioeconomically disadvantaged and underserved rural populations within the state of New Mexico, primarily with American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and Latino populations. The Community Engagement and Dissemination Core (CEDC) within the TREE Center plays an integral role in developing transdisciplinary intervention science capacity. This is done through the creation of an information and dissemination infrastructure to improve how evidence-based science is collaboratively disseminated through mechanisms and channels that align with New Mexico communities. A major focus of the CEDC’s work emphasizes that working with communities to form a “community of practice for dissemination” (COP4D) is a multi-step and collaborative process. The purpose of the four regional COP4Ds is to facilitate collaborative academic and community/tribal partnerships to mutually advance behavioral health disparities transdisciplinary intervention research and practice. The three tenets to the CEDC team’s approach in their collaboration with communities include: sharing of community knowledge and needs, nurturing community-university partnerships to advance the research agenda, and translation of community driven solutions. These tenets center the community as a source of knowledge and build their capacity to develop and implement community-based solutions.