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A novel and focused approach to Community Advisory Board (CAB) development and maintenance builds community members' capacity to educate consumers about HIV clinical research, resources, and health maintenance.

**Background:** Community Research Initiative of New England (CRI) is the only independent, nonprofit, community-based organization in New England dedicated to HIV clinical research, treatment education, and financial assistance for approved drug treatments and health insurance coverage.

**Purpose:** This poster will describe the innovative ways in which CRI has built capacity of consumers to broaden their community's access to information and healthcare literacy, increasing minority participation in studies and drug assistance programming, through development and maintenance of a successful CAB.

**Practice:** CRI's CAB is comprised of 17 racially and ethnically diverse and dedicated members who meet monthly. CRI's components to successful CAB development include dedicated agency staff time, member-derived mission and goals, self-governing bylaws, access to information and investigators, membership incentives, ongoing training and education, and engagement in a wide variety of activities and community outreach events. Crucial to success is an invested and committed agency that is dedicated to high levels of satisfaction in CAB collaborative activities.

**Maintenance of an active CAB** with longstanding members allows for structured capacity building and knowledge building of this group's community advocacy skills. The members distribute information through community outreach activities including informal peer education, brochures and HIV medication pill chart distribution, and speaking engagements.

**Conclusion:** Focused development of a satisfied and integrated CAB as an active educational recruitment and outreach body aids to inform the community about HIV clinical trials, HIV health literacy, and improves access to critical programming and research.

**Implications for practice:** Through strategy and implementing ways to develop and maintain a successful Community Advisory Board, an agency can develop partnerships with community members, building their capacity as advocates for research, providers of health education, and avenues of access to resources in their communities.