

Charter of Possible's Community Advisory Board

Purpose:

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) provides Possible's Community Health Program and implementation research team with independent advice and critical feedback on the relevance and feasibility of public health programs and interventions, and the research methods we used to study these programs. Here we define the community as all of the people living within the VDCs that comprise our catchment area population. The Community Advisory Board will serve as a source of guidance in designing interventions that are feasible and address problems identified by the community, as well as provide feedback on research methods and techniques that are respectful of and acceptable to the community.

Rationale and Background:

To achieve our goal of providing high quality, low-cost healthcare in resource-limited settings, we must design innovative healthcare systems that work for our patients. To do this, we must ensure that the programs we implement are designed for patient and population health outcomes, and are acceptable and feasible to communities and their needs. We recognize that research in resource-limited settings carries an increased risk of harm. Research can be extractive of communities or pull resources away from the delivery of essential services. Involving community input in all phases of research will allow us to prioritize community needs and minimize potential harm. The CAB will bring together leaders and stakeholders from multiple sectors of the community including health, education, social service, business, other for-impact organizations and marginalized groups. This board will also advise the implementation and research teams on evaluating the risks and benefits of programs and research, setting research priorities, and once priorities are set, providing input and resources for the team's research activities. The CAB will also be at forefront of garnering support and promoting involvement of the greater community in the research. Ultimately, the Community Advisory Board will help Possible design programs and implement research that aims to solve the community's most pressing problems through the active participation of the community.

Format Overview:

- Quarterly meetings held at a venue set by the CAB.
- CAB members will commit for a period of 2 years. At the end of the tenure, the structure and composition of the board will be reviewed, to make it more effective. Rotating members will be changed after every two meetings (Please, refer to the charter for details).
- Meetings will consist of Community Advisory Board members plus:
 - o Possible's Director of Research
 - o Possible's Community Health Director
 - o Possible Implementation Research Team members, when in Achham
 - o Community Health Worker Leader – 1 (on a rotating basis)
 - o Any other invited members agreed upon by the CAB, based on consensus