

Frameworks of Community-Engaged Research

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Defining community engagement



“...the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people.”

Community outreach vs. community engagement

- Outreach

- Sharing of information to public audiences
- **One-way** communication rather than an exchange
- Common in medicine and public health, e.g., health fairs, health education presentations, distribution of brochures, etc.

- Engagement

- Suggests a partnership
- A **two-way** exchange of information, ideas, and expertise as well as shared decision-making.
- Also called bidirectional or multidirectional communication

Community-engaged research



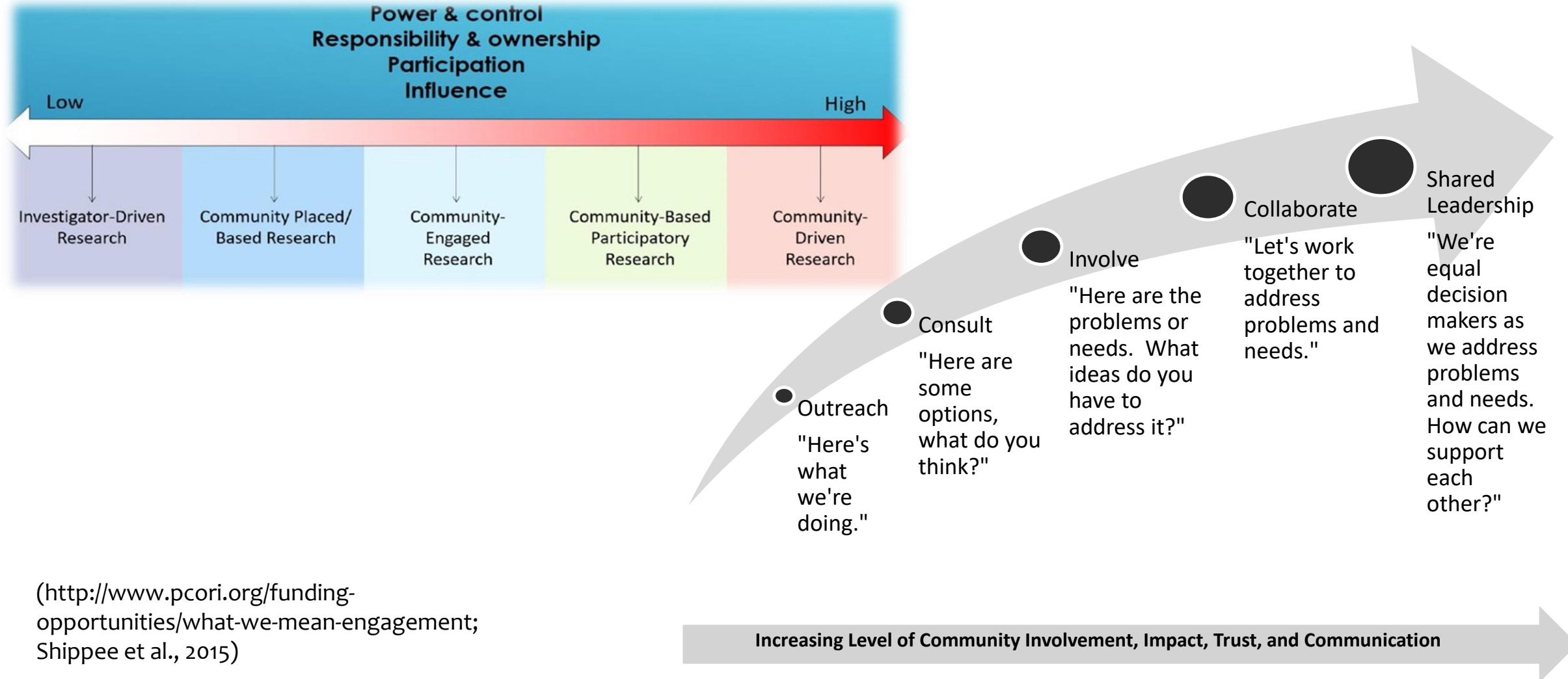
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- Publicly engaged scholarship (defined by WSU Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Factors for Faculty, October 2023)
 - Directly related to a faculty member's academic expertise
 - Benefits the external community
 - Is visible and shared with community stakeholders
 - Uses collaborative processes between the faculty members and the community partner to conduct the scholarship
 - Has both public and scholarly impact

Community engagement in research (PCORI)

- The **meaningful involvement** of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders throughout the research process.
 1. Preparatory phase (agenda setting and funding)
 2. Execution phase (conducting research: study design and procedures, study recruitment, data collection and analysis).
 3. Translational phase (using research: dissemination, implementation, evaluation)

Research Stage	Research Activity
Preparing for research	Building research capacity of patients and other stakeholders
	Training researchers to work with stakeholders
	Prioritizing evidence gaps
	Choosing research topics
Conducting research	Defining the research question
	Choosing relevant outcomes
	Designing a research protocol
	Defining participant inclusion & exclusion criteria
	Drafting or revising study materials & protocols
	Recruiting participants
	Monitoring patient data and safety
	Collecting data
	Analyzing data
	Identifying findings
	Interpreting findings
	Disseminating results
Using research	Implementing evidence in practice
	Evaluating research
	Evaluating engagement
	Identifying topics for future research

Community engagement as a continuum



(<http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/what-we-mean-engagement>; Shippee et al., 2015)

Community engagement and power relations



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- Power: the ability to decide who will have access to resources; capacity to influence events and the behavior of others
 - Scientists and researchers often have power and status based on the financial, material, and social resources associated with their academic/medical institution
 - Effective community engagement requires keen awareness of power differences (hierarchies)

Power relations (cont.)

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- Power differences are also informed by racism and other types of social oppression
 - Public Health Critical Race praxis (PHCR)
 - Applies Critical Race Theory to public health
 - Requires those working on health disparities to be attentive to racial equity

Public Health Critical Race Praxis (PHCR): Selected principles



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Ford et al., 2010

Principle	Definition
Race consciousness	Deep awareness of one's racial position; awareness of how race affects one's power in colorblind contexts
Primacy of racialization	The fundamental contribution of racial power differences to society's problems
Voice	Prioritizing and privileging the perspectives of marginalized persons

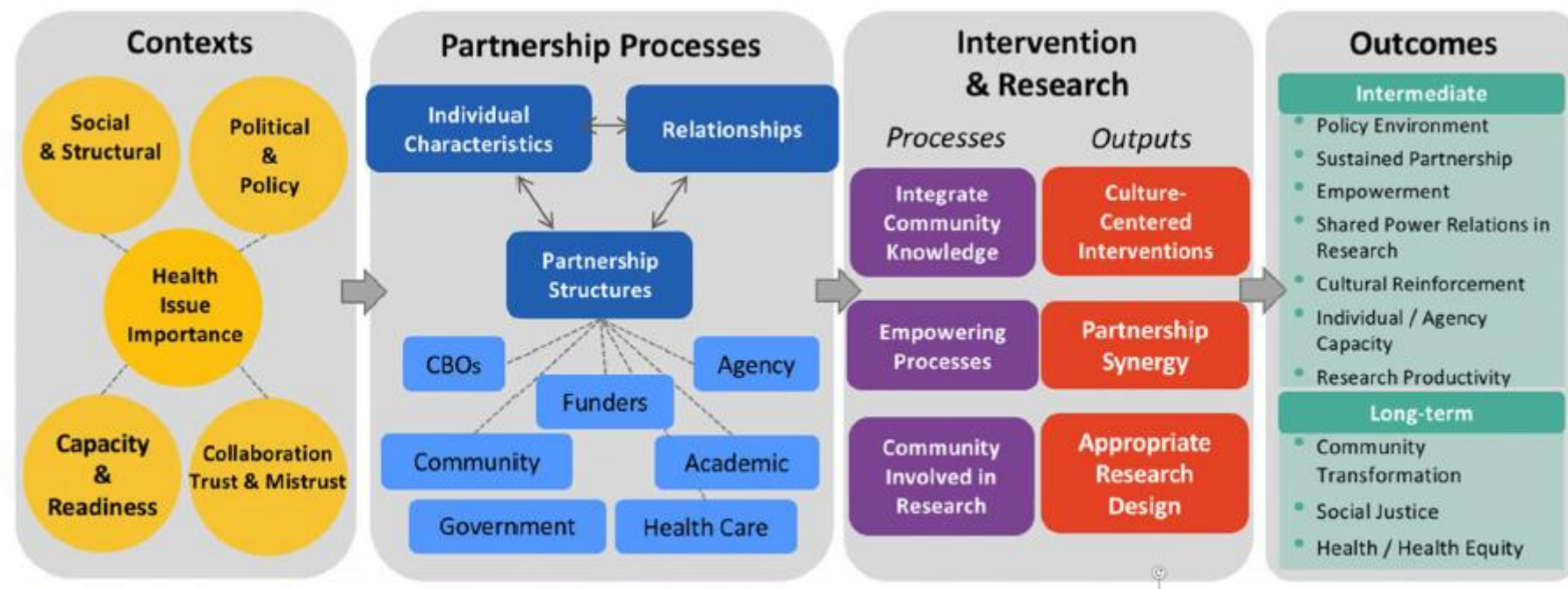


Fig. 1 CBPR Conceptual Model

RESEARCH

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Exploring theoretical mechanisms of community-engaged research: a multilevel cross-sectional national study of structural and relational practices in community-academic partnerships

John G. Oetzel^{1*}, Blake Boursaw², Maya Magarati³, Elizabeth Dickson², Shannon Sanchez-Youngman⁴, Leo Morales⁵, Sarah Kastelic⁶, Milton "Mickey" Eder⁷ and Nina Wallerstein⁴



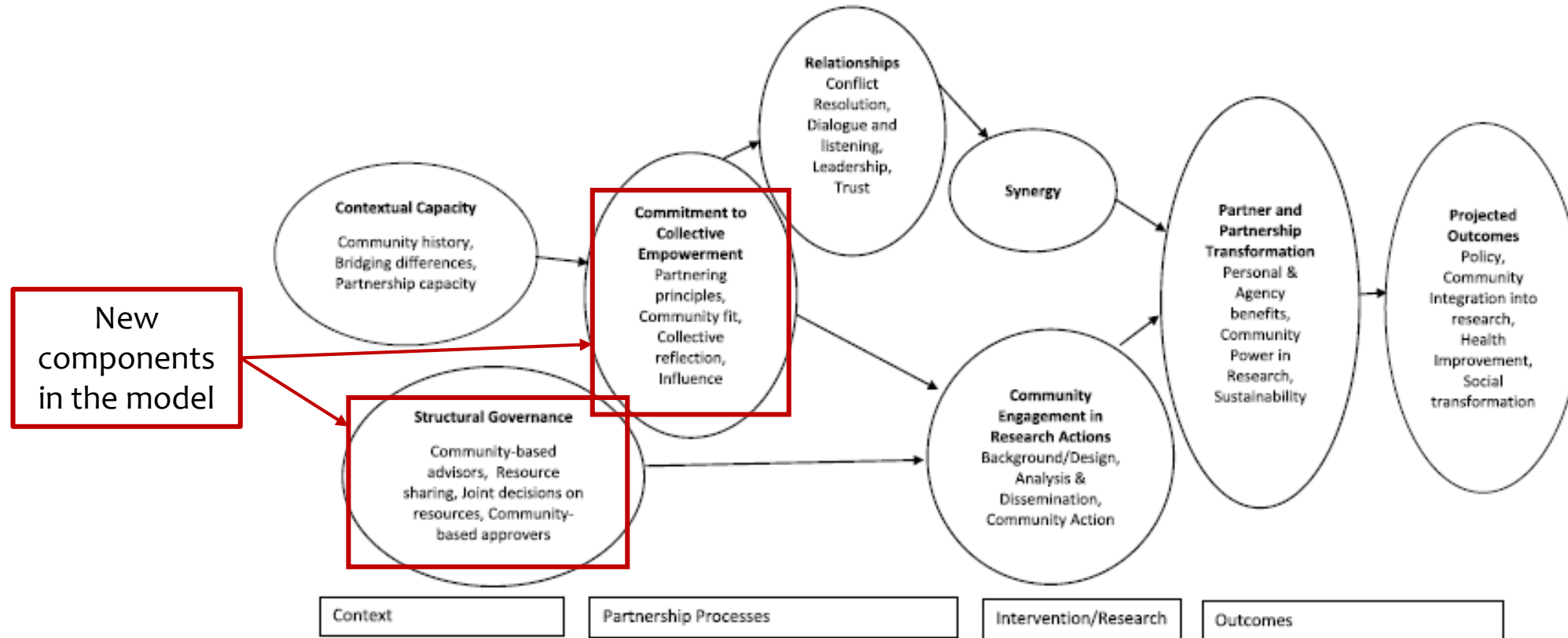
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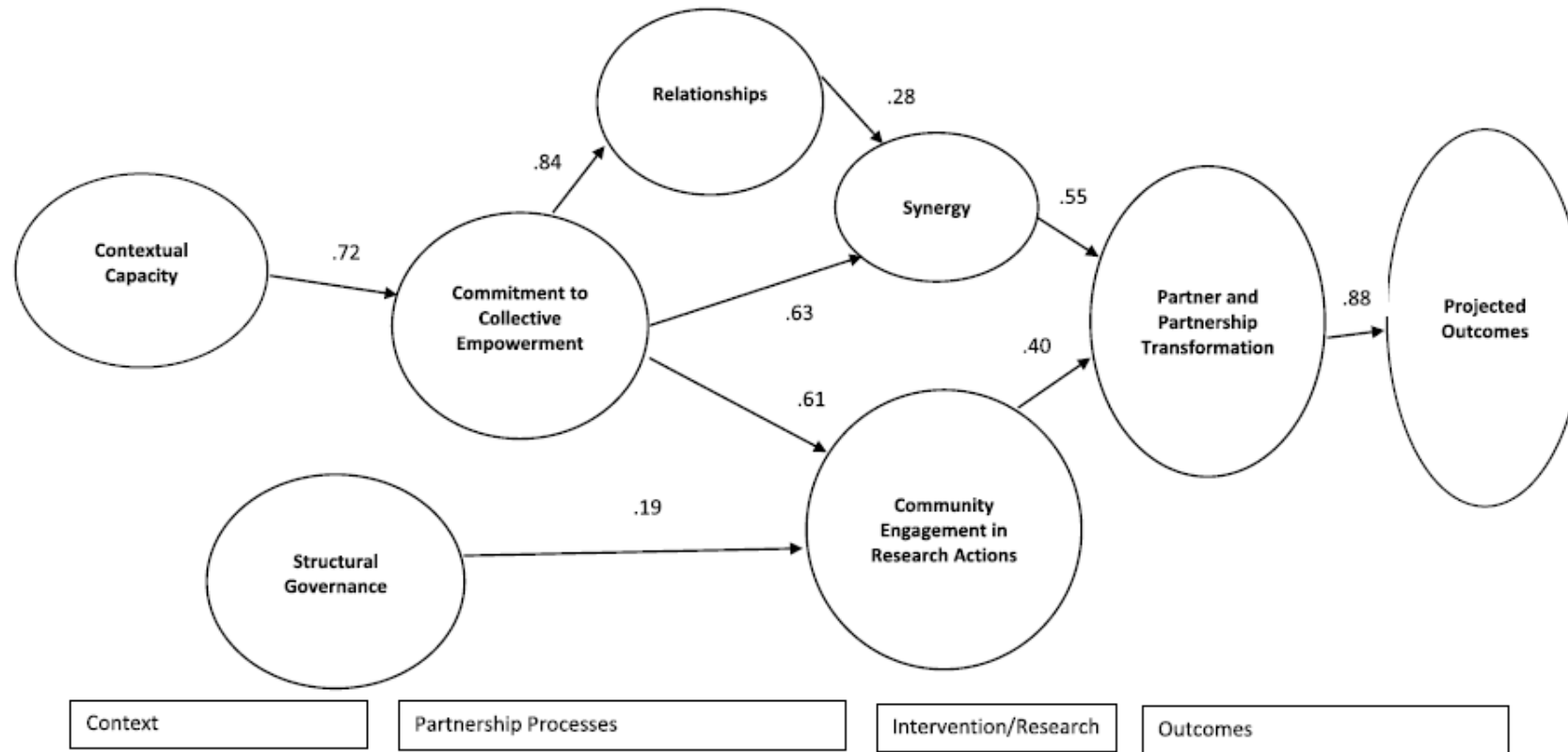
Table 1 Paths in the Context, Mechanism, Outcomes of Three Prior CBPR Models

Context	Mechanism		Outcome
<i>Original CBPR Conceptual Model</i>			
Community Capacity, Readiness, Policies	Partnership Processes (partnership structures and relational dynamics)	Intervention/Research Design	Intermediate (e.g., Capacity Development) and Distal (e.g., improved health)
<i>Partnership Evaluation Study Model</i>			
Community-engagement in Research	Partnership Functioning	Synergy	Individual Benefits, Policy Change, Community Outcomes
<i>Middle-Range Theory Model</i>			
Context (unspecified)	Trust	Synergy	Partnership Sustainability ↓ Sustained Efforts, Generating Spin Off Projects, Systematic Transformation



Note: All proposed paths have a positive relationship.

Fig. 2 Hypothesized Model



Note: All coefficients are significant at $p < .001$; Model fit indices: CFI = .933; TLI = .924; RMSEA=.065

Fig. 3 Structural Equation Model

Benefits of community engagement



- Increases the impact of your research
 1. Community partners provide insight into how these efforts can be implemented within complex systems, increasing likelihood of effectiveness in the real world
 2. Partners enrich these efforts by adding organizational and cultural context and knowledge
 3. Partners create opportunities for bidirectional learning (co-learning) and integration of non-empirical knowledge and lived experience

Benefits of community engagement



- Increases the impact of your outreach/intervention and research
 - 4. Engagement increases the sustainability of efforts beyond funding period or academic involvement through integration with existing programs, local ownership, and capacity development
 - 5. Formal community engagement structures support long-term, equalized partnerships that are mutually beneficial and characterized by trust.

Effectiveness of community engagement



- Based on a review of the CBPR process, it was found that among studies utilizing CBPR within the last decade, 85% saw statistically positive outcomes (McFarlane et al., 2021).
- CBPR has been demonstrated to promote community-level action to improve health and well-being and minimize health disparities in communities (Salimi et al., 2012)
- Community engagement may also have a ripple effect (Jagosh et al., 2015)
 - Trust between academics and community leads to partnership sustainability.
 - This results in population-level outcomes including: (a) sustaining collaborative efforts toward health improvement; (b) generating spin-off projects; and (c) achieving systemic transformations.



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Thank you!