

## CMHDARN Navigating Research Ethics - Notes from Forum

December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

### Session 1 Speakers

- Importance of protecting confidentiality, except where protected by law
- 'Unfair burden' – when there is too much research being done without notable benefits (e.g. Kings Cross and people using drugs and alcohol)
- Micro ethics – who is doing the research, who is collecting the data etc
- Ethics improves your process/ methodology, increasing the quality
- Ethics can seem overwhelming, but it assists you in planning. Structure of the ethics application takes you through a process, which assist forward planning.
- Why bother publishing? If you don't publish results of your work, then you are missing out decisions on a contribution to the evidence base.

### Navigating Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC)

- must be supported by the National Statement on research – provides a protection role for universities and researchers
- Many HRECs will review CMO proposal for free. This is something that *CMHDARN will further explore and provide feedback to the sector once we are clearer on this issue, if there are different approaches or policies.*
- Commercially – there is a fee; Community- they are free
- 'Informed consent' - is there a conflict of interest? When is it appropriate or necessary to ask for consent

### Session 2 Workshop

- Important to link your current research with your organisation's quality improvement process, as a means of ensuring you are considering whether your service models reflect latest research findings.
- Deidentifying data- it is really important to ask people what they are comfortable with, rather than making assumptions. Their views may also change over the course of the research project.
- Universities are required to use 20% of their time in engagement activity with community.
- Limitations on methodological process – who actually runs the focus group can impact on flow of data. Important to address issue of coercion or perception of coercion is not

### IDEAS for ONLINE ETHICS RESOURCE

CMHDARN is currently developing an online resource to support organisations in the area of better understanding and navigating ethics regarding research activity. During the workshop, people were asked to identify what would be useful to them in such a resource regarding ethics.

- Writing for publication/ dissemination ideas - peer review process- CMOs
- Getting published – Social Policy Research Centre 2014 publication 'Ways to do Research' [https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/SPRCFile/2014\\_Different\\_ways\\_to\\_do\\_research\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/SPRCFile/2014_Different_ways_to_do_research_booklet.pdf)
- Process Map- around decision making
- What criteria is used to determine the value of research
- What do you do with the unanticipated stories that can emerge from research? For example: Someone discloses sexual assault of their child to you during the course of an interview

which is about a physical health problem. This raises serious ethical and legal considerations which would probably not been addressed in any ethics approval. (For discussion of a sample scenario, see [http://www.sagepub.com/isw5/overviews/pdfs/Guillemin\\_Article.pdf](http://www.sagepub.com/isw5/overviews/pdfs/Guillemin_Article.pdf))

- Practical things which can 'dirty' your data