Workshop on “Disciplines Research” Overview

Goal: Develop publication(s) articulating and describing a fuller understanding of “disciplines research”

• Set-up (5 minutes)
• Breakout groups (30 minutes)
  • Definition
  • Methods
  • Clarifying Stakeholder Value
  • Overcoming Funding Obstacles
• Report out & next steps (20 minutes)
1st Use of “Disciplines” as a Research Subject: 1998 Congressional Mandate Founding NCCAM

(a) IN GENERAL.—The general purposes of [NCCAM] are the conduct and support of basic and applied research ... with respect to identifying, investigating, and validating complementary and alternative treatment, diagnostic and prevention modalities, disciplines and systems ...”


“Modalities, Systems & Disciplines” or some variant used 8 times in an 11 section mandate

US Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)
Principal architect, NCCAM 1998 mandate
Other Examples of “Disciplines Research” in the Congressional Mandate

- [c] “the Director ... shall, as appropriate, study the integration of alternative treatment, diagnostic and prevention ... disciplines with the practice of conventional medicine as a complement to such medicine and into health care delivery systems in the United States

- “Evaluate each of the disciplines ... with which the Center is concerned ... including each discipline ... in which accreditation, national certification, or a State license is available.

- In order to ensure high quality, rigorous scientific review of ... disciplines ... the Center shall [engage] the following activities: (1) Outcomes research and investigations; (2) Epidemiological studies; (3) Health services research; (4) Basic science research; (5) Clinical trials; (6) Other appropriate research and investigational activities.
Sample Uses of “Disciplines” in NCCAM 2011-2015 Strategic Plan

“Disciplines” went from 1 use to 35 uses between the draft and final plan

• Strategic Objective #1: Advance Research on Mind and Body Interventions, Practices and Disciplines

• “Exploring the role of specific promising CAM ... disciplines (e.g., meditation, yoga, or acupuncture) in developing better strategies for alleviating symptoms (e.g., chronic pain, stress) or in promoting healthier lifestyles.”

• “Research on the contributions of CAM ... disciplines in promoting or supporting health-seeking behavior ...”

• “ ... develop evidence, based in real-world practices and use, about the potential of CAM ... disciplines to contribute to better treatment and health promotion ... “
Sample Uses of “Disciplines” in NCCAM 2011-2015 Strategic Plan

• “... The potential role of CAM ... disciplines in supporting healthy lifestyles and well-being.”
• “The disciplines of observational, outcomes, health services, and effectiveness research offer a number of tools, methods, and pragmatic study designs for gathering useful evidence regarding CAM ... disciplines on a larger scale than typical clinical trials.”
• “Conduct research on the potential of CAM interventions, practices, or disciplines to support healthy lifestyle behaviors and behavior change. Many CAM disciplines, systems of traditional medicine, and integrative medicine practices place a strong emphasis on preventive health strategies, including better dietary practices and regular physical exercise. “
• “Research on the contributions of CAM ... disciplines in promoting or supporting health-seeking behavior is another area of special public health need and scientific opportunity.”
Disciplines research captures the outcomes of multiple members of a given health professional discipline who meet a clear practice standard *in order to inform the decisions of consumers, practitioners, third-party payers, health systems, employers and other stakeholders for including new disciplines in healthcare delivery.*

* e.g. the licensed disciplines of chiropractic, acupuncture and Oriental medicine, massage therapy, naturopathic medicine, home birth midwifery and, as they evolve, board certified integrative MDs
Breakout Groups & Facilitators

- **Definition** (Martha Menard)
- **Methods** (Carlo Calabrese)
- **Clarifying Stakeholder Value** (John Weeks)
- **Overcoming Funding Obstacles** (Greg Cramer)

*30 minutes, then 20 minutes report out/next steps*
Disciplines Research graphic by Carlo Calabrese, ND, MPH

Thank You!

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