

HEALTH NIMHD – RCMI

Addictions Research and Cancer Prevention

COMMUNITY RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CRAB?

The **CRAB** is designed to provide investigators affiliated with the HEALTH Center for Addictions Research and Cancer Prevention (HEALTH–RCMI) with feedback from community representatives about their research projects from conception and design through the dissemination of results.

Committee members are composed of a diverse group of community stakeholders, including individuals who are addiction recovery advocates, cancer survivors/caregivers, or otherwise passionate about addressing unique health challenges that disproportionately burden community members.

CRAB members provide their knowledge, experience, and insight in the review of research projects to:

- Ensure cultural appropriateness of research questions, measures/assessments used, etc.
- Confirm relevance of protocols to the best interests of the targeted community or communities
- Problem-solve issues and potential barriers pertaining to study design, implementation, etc.
- Optimize participant recruitment and retention strategies
- Ensure results and implications are disseminated back to the communities in an understandable way

Investigators seeking CRAB consultation can expect to receive verbal CRAB feedback and a written summation.

To meet our current CRAB members, [click here!](#)

What training is provided to CRAB members?

CRAB members receive research ethics, design, and execution training from the HEALTH–RCMI **Community Engagement Core (CEC)**.

- Research ethics
- How research teams formulate research questions and study design
- Research grant writing and submission process to the Center and external funders
- Grant review and regulatory processes
- Study implementation, analysis, and dissemination

When are CRAB feedback meetings scheduled?

Meetings are held virtually via Zoom and are coordinated by the CEC. Meetings are scheduled at a set bimonthly occurrence, lasting no more than 1-hour each.

- First Tuesday (4:00–5:00 PM CST)
- Third Thursday (10:00–11:00 AM CST)

How is a CRAB feedback meeting scheduled?

HEALTH–RCMI Affiliates should request to meet with the CRAB via the Center's **NITRO Ticketing Service Request System**. Investigators are expected to provide materials to be reviewed by the CRAB at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. On the day of the meeting, investigators should be prepared to provide a 15-minute presentation about the research study and goals, along with the assistance needed from the CRAB.

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Are Affiliates required to meet with the CRAB?

Investigators funded through the HEALTH-RCMI are expected to meet with the CRAB at least twice: once prior to the kick-off/enrollment phase (re: study design) and once after data collection and preliminary analyses are complete (re: results dissemination). Investigators are welcome to meet with the CRAB more than these two times.

Investigators seeking funding from the HEALTH-RCMI via its **Pilot Grant Program** are asked to consult with the CRAB about the study design, etc. prior to pilot grant application submission. Post Pilot completion, the CRAB will be present for HEALTH-RCMI "Innovation Research Talks," where they will learn more about the study's results, dissemination implementation, and next steps.

Researchers are expected to make every attempt to be responsive to CRAB suggestions, and to discuss any obstacles to ensure congruence. As needed, investigators may discuss any unresolved points of disagreement with the CEC Director, Dr. LeChauncy Woodard, for resolution.

Do Affiliates have to pay for CRAB consultation?

CRAB consultation is provided free of charge for HEALTH-RCMI affiliated investigators.

Is the CRAB compensated?

Members of the CRAB receive an honorarium for their contribution to HEALTH-RCMI research. Should meetings be held in person at the University of Houston campus, parking passes will be supplied to attending members.

What are benefits to the CRAB for active participation?

CRAB members can expect to receive enhanced awareness and understanding of the research taking place at the University of Houston, targeting the mitigation of health disparities in the areas of addiction and/or cancer prevention. Members will be able to substantively contribute to this research focus across all aspects of the project, from design to dissemination. CRAB members have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how the research process works, enabling them to be active community partners in the research process.

How to become a CRAB member.

If you are a community member interested in joining the CRAB, please send information about your interest along with a resume to HEALTHrcmi@central.uh.edu.

Diverse community stakeholders, including individuals who are addiction recovery advocates, cancer survivors/caregivers, or otherwise passionate about addressing unique health challenges that disproportionately burden community members, are invited to apply.

CRAB members are appointed annually.

To learn more about the CRAB, visit the [HEALTH-RCMI](#) website. For additional inquiries, please email HEALTHrcmi@central.uh.edu.



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