



The Partners for Advancing Health Equity Collaborative hosted the 2022 Summit, *On the Front Lines of Equity & Justice*, December 4-6, 2022. The Summit brought together leaders in health equity and justice to foster collaboration across sectors, and to promote action in advancing health equity in research, practice, and policy. This report provides a synthesis of key takeaways from the breakout session, *Community-engaged Participatory Action Research (PAR): Rewriting the Script for Equitable Healthcare*.

Session Voices



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Key Takeaways

Shift to participatory research approaches to rewrite the traditional healthcare script. Shifting to [action-oriented participatory research approaches](#) such as [Participatory Action Research](#) and [Community Based Participatory Action Research \(CBPAR\)](#) methodologies allows for [a rewriting of the traditional healthcare script](#) and stronger connections with health equity allies. These approaches change the dynamics of learning through developing genuine, committed relationships and shared ethical values between researchers and participants of said research. Engaging in ongoing critical reflective practices, being persistent about using feedback, and listening to experiences are cornerstones of these action research methodologies.

Move from storytelling to story-doing. The purpose when storytelling is not simply to report, it is to drive change through spurring action from listeners. [Storytelling](#) can be leveraged to create empathy and serve as level-setting between researchers and participants. Health inequalities are confirmed and expanded through narrative approaches. Acknowledgement of inequality is the first step in creating future change (from storytelling), and move toward [game planning actionable solutions](#) (to story-doing).

Create allies in healthcare rather than devaluing the knowledge of patients and their families. Narrative stories can be leveraged as evidence for change. Connecting stories creates motivation to overcome challenges and change inequitable systems through cross-sector partnerships. However, [not listening to parent knowledge provides delays in healthcare](#) which further perseverate health inequities. If peoples’ stories are given justice and researchers show commitment to communities, longstanding relationships can outlast the cycle of research (projects and funding) and policy change, making longstanding changes in the field of healthcare.

Share your thoughts!
What did you think of this topic? Would you like to hear more from these speakers? Do you have any resources you would like to share with us? [Email us!](#)