

Exploring Models of Community Engagement for the Nova Scotia Health System

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Action Challenge:

Develop a set of recommendations based on a review of the three frameworks of community engagement (Holland Matrix, IAP2, STEPS) currently being used by the provincial health authorities and Dalhousie University Medical School on which model would be most effective within the Nova Scotia context.

Methods:

We completed a literature search of community engagement models. We then explored in depth the Holland Matrix, IAP2 and STEPS approaches through review of the literature, viewing expert testimony and expert interviews.

We interviewed the public and representatives from the medical community and academic centre to identify recurring themes regarding the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine and community engagement.

Findings:

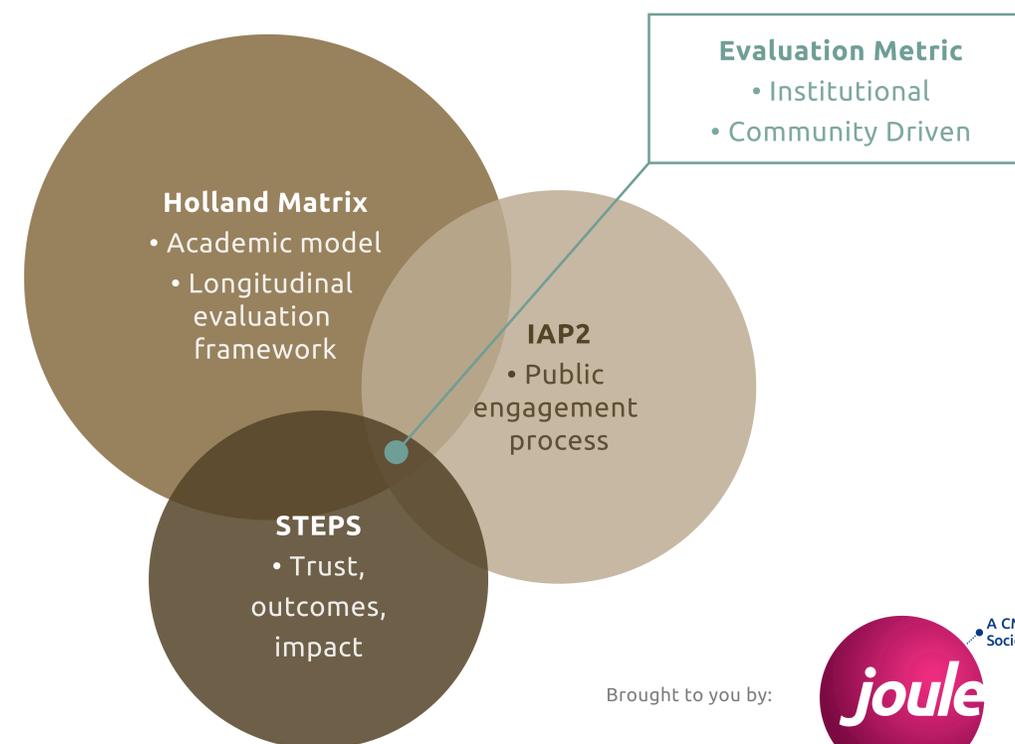
- Community engagement has been outlined in several models (Holland Matrix, IAP2, STEPS), but no one model adequately captures all aspects required for successful implementation.
- The Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine recognizes that engaging with the community is a key strategic direction for the future of the medical school and critically important in improving the health care within our region.

Recommendations

We propose an aggregate that incorporates aspects of all three models reviewed into the community engagement process.

The Holland Matrix, to assess and inform the desired level of organizational community engagement by the medical school; the IAP2 model to clarify the direction, extent of and potential strategies for engagement; and the STEPS model to estimate expected timelines to develop authentic community engagement. This recommendation does not preclude the use of other models to inform the process.

Model Recommendation



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