

# **UnBounded Knowledge: Envisioning a New Future for Drug Policy Research**

## **Meeting Agenda**

**The Hill Room, The Liaison Hotel**

**December 8, 2017**

### **Working Question**

How might we transform drug policy reform efforts in the United States through a visionary research agenda?

### **Today's Focus**

To reflect on what we've learned from collective input and to use the expertise and synergy of this collaboration as a jumping off point to design some ideas, solutions, and proposals.

### **Goals / Outcomes**

- A.** Develop a drug policy research agenda unbounded by funding and political concerns
  - Identify the gaps and biases in drug policy research
  - Identify the sources of those limitations and clarify the ways in which those limitations impact drug policy reform
  - Create strategies for resolving barriers and moving towards a new vision
  - Identify an aspirational list of projects
  - Identify areas for immediate action (translation of barriers and needs to various audiences, outreach to research and funding partners, etc.)
- B.** Establish an interdisciplinary research network/directory of drug policy scholars and collaborators
- C.** Use the agenda to engender interest from public and private funders, as well as the broader public, in innovative drug policy research.

## Schedule

**Breakfast [8:30-9:00] Grid Room** (next door to the Hill Room)

**Welcome [9:00-10:00]**

- Introductions
- Working question and goals
- Workshop Design

**What influences drug policy research? [10:00-10:30]**

**Given the constraints in the field, how do we re-approach drug policy research?**

- **Summary of Constraints**
- **Factors that would transform drug policy research**
- **Who relies on our research?**

1. **SESSION I - Moving Past Barriers: Factors to Change Research Landscape**  
[10:30-11:15]

2. ***What is needed to move past current research barriers? What immediate changes in policy and/or funding would improve/impact research environment? In other words, what would transform your research?***

**Work Groups** - Identify specific research areas, questions, and recommendations. Please note your topics, questions, recommendations on the wall and identify a group reporter.

Potential Questions:

- Gaps and biases: What don't we know? What do we need to know?
- What immediate changes in policy and/or funding would improve research environment?
- What would transform your research?
- New approaches?

**Deliverable:** List of specific changes / factors that would improve research.

**BREAK [11:15-11:30] Hill Room**

3. **Report Out: Collect observations and recommendations [11:30-12:15]**

4. **Lunch:** Informal discussion, Grid Room [12:15-1:00]

5. **SESSSION II – Innovation: Dream Projects in Research Utopia** [1:00-2:00]

***What if there was no one to say “no”? What drug policy research would you pursue if you had the resources and support to do any research you wished?***

**New Work Groups** - Identify specific aspirational projects.

Please note your topics, questions, recommendations on the wall and identify a group reporter.

**A. *Research Utopia: What would your research look like without barriers? What research project would you love to be involved in?***

- Key issues - by category/topic
- Influence policy discussion
- Areas for immediate action
- Potential partners

**Deliverable:** New research topics or questions and ways of working across disciplines in describing concrete research possibilities from the dream list.

**B. *Research Agenda: Sketch dream research projects – something that would not be funded or possible in the current climate. Consider those audiences/stakeholders we identified earlier and what they might need to know to support dream projects.***

**Deliverable:** Sketch and pitch specific projects that are shaped by those possibilities.

6. **Groups present innovations and dream projects as a research agenda** [2:00-3:00]

7. **Conclusion** [3:00-3:30]

**Take Away and Next Steps**

- One valuable take-away for you, today
- What you would like to see happen next?

***Next steps: advocacy, resources, research proposals, etc.***

- Research Agenda: Wish List of Projects
- Review by other scholars?
- Special journal issue on new drug policy research
- Resources and funding strategies
- Communications to champions and other researchers
- “What You Should Know” sheet (policy makers, funders, service providers, media)
- Media strategy
- Research Network / directory? (collaborators)?
- Other?