
David M. Chavis, Ph.D.

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

David Chavis Ph.D. is Principal Associate/CEO of Community Science (*formerly Association for the Study and Development of Community*). He specializes in the development, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive community and other large systems change initiatives. He is internationally recognized for his 30 years of work including a distinguished career award from the American Psychological Association and the 2002 Outstanding Evaluation Award (with K. Lee) from the American Evaluation Association (AEA). He has been a board member and officer of AEA and a founder and faculty member of the prestigious Evaluators Institute. He has conducted national and local evaluations of community change initiatives (CCI's), community capacity building, community development efforts, and systems change initiatives. Dr. Chavis has conducted extensive research and theory development on support systems for community development and other community systems change and prevention initiatives.

He has authored several articles in scientific and practitioner publications on community and systems change; collaboration, and community capacity building including the widely used "Principles for Evaluating Comprehensive Community Initiatives." He has been the Project Director or Principal Investigator of several CCI's and other community or systems change initiatives, including: the Drug Free Communities Support Program (ONDCP); Safe Start Demonstration Project (OJJDP); The Embedding Prevention in State Government Evaluation (National Crime Prevention Council); Making Connections evaluation strategies, initiative capacity building evaluation, and local site evaluation capacity building (Annie E. Casey Foundation); National Community Building Initiative (HUD, Local Initiative Support Corporation, and multiple national funders); and Community Prevention Partnership and Community Prevention Coalitions Programs (SAMHSA-CSAP). These national evaluations have ranged from 10 to 720 sites. He has also led the evaluation of several local community change and community based prevention evaluations.

He worked for several years as director of Research for the Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC) where he developed a research based approach to supporting the development of block and neighborhood associations that lead to the organizing and support of thousand of these groups in New York City and replicated in other cities. He also conducted one of the few experimental studies of the effects of block associations on crime prevention and reduction. Dr. Chavis has several years experience as a community organizer, director of a community development corporation, and director of Neighborhood Housing Services.

Dr. Chavis also has extensive experience implementing and providing technical assistance on the implementation of CCI's and other community change initiatives at the national and local level. He has directed intermediary organizations that have built local capacity to implement CCI's at the city, state and national levels. Because this additional experience, he has been an advisor on many other national CCI's and State level CCI's for several foundations and

government agencies. Because this additional experience, he has been an advisor on many other national CCI's and also able to successful build relations with local participants and engage them in the support of the evaluation.

EDUCATION

1978-1983 - George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Major: Community Psychology (M.S., 1981; Ph.D., 1983).

1972-1975 - State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York. B.A. in Psychology and Speech Communication. Cum Laude with departmental honors.

WORK HISTORY

Jan. 1997- Present
President

**Community Science (formerly Association
for the Study and Development of
Community)**
Gaithersburg, MD

Responsible for the development and leadership of an organization dedicated to using knowledge and learning for building the capacity of communities to manage and control change. Provide assistance to foundations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies on evaluation and community capacity building methods. Direct evaluations of comprehensive community initiatives, youth development, public safety programs, and community organizing efforts.

1995 -1996
*Director of the Center for Community
Development*

COSMOS Corporation
Bethesda, MD

Responsible for the overall leadership and management of evaluation and technical assistance projects in the areas of social and community development, criminal justice, economic development, substance abuse and violence prevention, and citizen participation. Directed national evaluations of alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, and community building initiatives.

1988 –1994
1992-1994 *Director*
1988-1992 *Associate Director*

**Center for Social And Community
Development**
Piscataway, NJ

Responsible for financial and management systems, including annual budget of over \$1.2 million and staff of 23. Oversaw support programs, human service networks, research, training, and consultation services to government and nonprofit organizations in New Jersey and throughout the U.S. in order to assist communities in strategic planning and the implementation of strategies that support community development and improved health and human services.

1984 -1988 **Citizens Committee for New York City**
Director of Research and Evaluation New York, NY

Directed two and one half-year longitudinal study on the role of block associations in community development funded by the Ford Foundation. Developed and evaluated training programs for neighborhood leaders and New York City Police Officers. Provided in-house consultation on management and planning. Conducted needs assessments, program evaluation, and analysis of income trends including causes and consequences. Developed curriculum for neighborhood leadership, community patrol officers and community problem solving initiatives.

1981-1982 **Waverly-Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood**
Executive Director **Housing Services**
Nashville, TN

Responsible for overall housing rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization program administration, loan packaging and home purchase/rehabilitation financing, citizen participation systems, business and government relations and staff supervision. Developed and raised initial funding for owner-built self help housing program.

1979-1981 **Center for Community Studies, George**
Project Coordinator and Research Assistant **Peabody College of Vanderbilt University**
Nashville, TN

Responsible for the management and implementation of two major survey research projects concerning citizen participation and sense of community.

1975-1977 **Massachusetts Community Center and**
Nov. 1975 – Oct. 1977: Executive Director **Development Corporation**
Jul. 1975 – Oct. 1975: Planning Consultant Buffalo, New York

Directed multi-unit community development corporation. Responsibilities included administration, planning, fundraising, supervision, business and government relations, and citizen participation programs. Managed growth of organization from one staff person to a staff of 35.

1974-1975 **Community Action Corps, S.U.N.Y. at**
Director **Buffalo**
Buffalo, New York

Responsible for the administration of 2,000 volunteers in community service projects.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

1999-Present **University of Maryland**
Adjunct Professor Catonsville, MD

1988-1996 **School of Social Work, Rutgers University**
Associate Professor New Brunswick, NJ
Joint Appointment in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. Tenured 1991.

1985-1987
Assistant Professor

**Department of Psychology (Community
Psychology Graduate Program) New York
University**
New York, NY

1984-1985
*Post Doctoral Fellow In Environmental
Psychology*

**City University of New York, University
Graduate Center**
New York, NY

PUBLICATIONS

- Trent, T., Chavis, D.M. (2009) Scope, Scale, and Sustainability: What it Takes to Create Lasting Community Change. *The Foundation Review*. 1 (1) 96-114.
- Hyde, M. Lamb, Y., Arteaga, S.S., Chavis, D.M. (2008) National Evaluation of the Safe Start Demonstration Project: Implications for Mental Health Practice. *Best Practices in Mental Health: An International Journal*. 4(1)108-122.
- Chavis, D.M. (2007) Whose evaluation is it, anyway? In M. Morris (Ed) *Evaluation Ethics for Best Practice: Cases and Commentaries*. New York: Guilford Publications.50-54.
- Acosta, J. & Chavis D. (2007) Build the capacity of communities to address crime. *Criminology and Public Policy*. 6 (4) 101-112.
- Acosta, J & Chavis, D.M. (2006) A community practionioner's approach to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. *The Community Psychologist*. 39 (1) 39-41.
- Foster-Fishman, P.G., Fitzgerald, K. Brandell, C, Nowell, B. Chavis, D.M., Van Egren, L.A. (2006) Mobilizing residents for action: The role of small wins and strategic supports. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 38 (3/4) 143-152.
- Hyde, M. M. & Chavis, D.M. (2006) Sense of community and community building. In R.A. Cnaan and C. Milofsky (eds.) *Handbook of community movements and local organizations*; New York, Springer.
- Chavis, D. M. (2006) Strategic factors for building community: The five C's community, connections, control, cash & collective action. Campaign Consultation, Inc.: Baltimore, MD.
- Chavis, D. M. (2004). Looking the Enemy in the Eye: Gazing Into the Mirror of Evaluation Practice. *The Evaluation Exchange*, 9 (4), 8-9.
- Chavis, D.M. (2001) The paradoxes and promise of community coalitions. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 29 (2), 309-320.

- Chavis, D.M. (2000) Community development and the community psychologist. In J. Rappaport & E. Seidman (Eds.) Handbook of community psychology. New York: Plenum.
- Chavis, D.M. & Pretty, G.M.H. (1999) Sense of community: Advances in measurement and applications. Journal of Community Psychology. 27 (6), 635-642.
- Stillman, F., Hartman, A., Graubard, B., Chavis, D. M., Garcia, J., Wun, L. M., Lynn, W., & Manley, M. (1999) The American Stop Smoking Intervention Study (ASSIST): Conceptual Framework and Evaluation Design. Evaluation Review. 23(3) 259-280
- Chavis, D.M. (1995). Building community capacity to prevent violence through coalitions and partnerships. Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved. 6(2):234-244
- Speer, P.W. & Chavis, D.M. (1994). Community coalitions and rural practice. In R.A. Couto, N. Simpson, & G. Harris (Eds.) Appalachian Leadership Initiative on Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Cancer Institute Monograph.
- Chavis, D.M. DePietro, G., Martini, E.R. (1994) Prevenzione del disagio e sviluppo di comunita': Concetti di base e strategie operative. Animazione Sociale ,24 (4), 9-20.
- Chavis, D. M. (1993). A future for community psychology practice. American Journal of Community Psychology, 21 (2), 171-184.
- Chavis, D. M., Speer, P., Resnick, I., & Zippay, A. (1993). Building community capacity to address alcohol and drug abuse: Getting to the heart of the problem. In R.C. Davis, A.J. Lurigio, & D. Rosenbaum (Eds.), Drugs and community. Springfield, IL: Charles Thomas.
- Chavis, D. M., Florin, P., & Felix, M. R. J. (1992). Nurturing grassroots initiatives for community development: The role of enabling systems. In T. Mizrahi & J. Morrison (Eds.), Community and social administration: Advances, trends and emerging principles. Haworth Press.
- Florin, P., Chavis, D. M., Wandersman, A., & Rich, R. (1992). The Block Booster Project: A systems approach to understanding and enhancing grassroots organizations. In R. Levine & H., Fitzgerald (Eds.), Analysis of dynamic psychological systems. New York: Plenum.
- Chavis, D. M. (1990). What's in a name?: The society for community research and action. The Community Psychologist.
- Chavis, D. M., & Florin, P. (1990). Nurturing grassroots initiatives for Health and Housing. Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, 66 (5), 558-572.

- Chavis, D. M., & Wandersman A. (1990). Sense of community in the urban environment: A catalyst for participation and community development. American Journal of Community Psychology, 18, 55-81.
- Perkins, D., Florin P., Rich, R., Wandersman, A., & Chavis, D. M. (1990). Crime and the social and physical environments of residential blocks: The context of citizen participation. American Journal of Community Psychology, 18 83-115.
- Prestby, J. Wandersman, A., Florin, P., Rich R., & Chavis, D. M. (1990). Benefits, costs, incentives management and participation in voluntary associations. American Journal of Community Psychology 18, 117-149.
- Clark, H., Chavis, D. M., & Glunt, E. (1988). The 1988 state of the neighborhood report. New York: Citizens Committee for New York City.
- Chavis, D. M., & Newbrough, J. R. (1986). The meaning of "community" in community psychology. Journal of Community Psychology, 14, (4), 335-340.
- Florin, P., & Chavis, D. M. (1986). Community development and community psychology. Community Psychologist, Fall, 12-14.
- Chavis, D. M., Hogge, J. H., McMillan, D. W., & Wandersman, A. (1986). Sense of community through Brunswik's lens: A first look. Journal of Community Psychology, 14, (1), 24-40.
- Chavis, D. M., & Wandersman, A. (1986). Roles for research and the researcher in neighborhood development. In R. B. Taylor (Ed.), Urban neighborhoods: Research and policy. New York: Praeger, 215-249.
- McMillan, D. W., & Chavis, D. M. (1986). Sense of community: A definition and theory. Journal of Community Psychology, 14, (1), 6-23.
- Chavis, D. M., De Pietro, G., & Martini, E. R. (1985). Il senso di comunita'. Animazione Sociale, 15, (63), 7-22.
- Perkins, D. D., Chavis, D. M., Florin, P., Rich, R. C., & Wandersman, A. (1985). Blocking crime with block associations. Citizens Participation, 6, (3) 18-9.
- Wandersman, A., Florin, P., Chavis, D. M., Rich, R., & Prestby, J. (1985). Getting together and getting things done. Psychology Today, 19 (11), 64-71.
- Chavis, D. M., Stucky, P. E., & Wandersman, A. (1983). Returning basic research to the community: A relationship between scientists and citizens. American Psychologist, 38, 424-434.

Wandersman, A., Chavis, D. M., & Stucky, P. E. (1983). Citizen participation in research. In R. F. Kidd & M. J. Saks (Eds.), Advances in applied social psychology. Vol. 2. Hillsdale, N. J.: Lawrence Erlbaum & Associates.

Chavis, D. M. (1980). Returning research data to the community: Getting away from experimental colonialism. In R. R. Stough and A. Wandersman (Eds.), Optimizing environments: Research, practice and policy. Washington, D. C.: Environmental Design Research Association.

EDITORSHIPS

Chavis, D.M. & Pretty G.M.H. (eds.) (1999) Sense of community. Journal of Community Psychology. 27, (6)

Chavis, D.M. & Newbrough, J.R. (eds.) (1986) Psychological sense of community II: Research & applications. Journal of Community Psychology, 14 (4).

Newbrough, J.R & Chavis, D.M. (eds.) (1986) Psychological sense of community, I: Theory and concepts. Journal of Community Psychology, 14 (1)

ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

Chavis, D. M., & Florin, P. Sustaining voluntary neighborhood organizations: An action research project. Submitted to The Journal of Community Practice.

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS

Chavis, D. M., Lee, K.S. & Buchanan, R. (1999) Principles for intergroup projects: A first look. Gaithersburg, MD: ASDC.

Chavis, D. M. (1998) The Evaluation Plan for the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study (ASSIST). Rockville, MD. National Cancer Institute.

Chavis, D. M. & Florin, P. (1998) Measuring the Strength of Tobacco Control Efforts: SOTC Workgroup Report. Rockville, MD. National Cancer Institute.

Chavis, D. M. (1998) Report on the Evaluation of the Border States Initiative: Phase 1. Rockville, MD: Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (Circles Solutions prime contractor).

Chavis, D. M. & Lee, K. S. (1998) Roundtable on challenges facing national supporters of collaboratives: Summary report. Washington, DC: National Funding Collaborative on Violence Prevention.

- Chavis, D. M. (1997). Cross-site Evaluation of the Community Building Initiative: Annual Report for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Washington, D.C.: COSMOS Corporation.
- Chavis, D. M. (1997). It takes a just and capable village: Prevention strategies for community justice. Research Seminar on Community, Crime, and Justice. National Institute for Justice and the Center for Communitarian Policy, George Washington University.
- Chavis, D. M., & Nsiah-Jefferson, L. (1992). The State of Hispanics in Camden County. Camden, NJ: Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- Chavis, D. M., & Mumm, A. (1991). Evaluation of the First Year of Project BABIES: Prospects for Comprehensive Care and Family Stability. Newark, NJ: Protestant Community Centers.
- Chavis, D. M. (1990). Systems that enable community development and health promotion. Toronto, Canada: Ontario Ministry of Health.
- Chavis, D. M. (1990). Feasibility of a community development support center: Issues, experiences and recommendations. Menlo Park, California: H.J. Kaiser Foundation.
- Chavis, D. M., Kopasci, R., & Tatum, W. (1989). A retrospective examination of the Around the Corners of the World Program. Washington, D.C.: M. Eisenhower Foundation.
- Chavis, D. M., Kopasci, R., & Lazarus, A. (1989). Community problem study: public opinion information. Newark: United Way of Essex/West Hudson.
- Chavis, D. M., & Vliet, M. (1989). The Kansas Initiative Wichita, Kansas: Wesley Foundation.
- Chavis, D. M., & Tatum, W. (1988). A retrospective examination of the Dorchester Youth Collaborative. Washington, D.C.: M. Eisenhower Foundation.
- Chavis, D. M., & Florin, P. (1988). A reconnaissance on the potential for a community development approach to substance abuse prevention. San Jose, CA: Santa Clara County Department of Health.
- Chavis, D. M., & Florin, P. (1988). Community development and substance abuse prevention. San Jose, CA: Santa Clara County Department of Health.
- Chavis, D. M. (1988). Poverty Amidst Prosperity: A Crisis in New York's Neighborhoods (2nd Edition). New York Citizens Committee for New York City.
- Chavis, D. M. (1986). Poverty amidst prosperity: A crisis in New York's Neighborhoods. New York: Citizens Committee for New York City.

Chavis, D. M. (1986). Evaluation of the Police and Community Training program: Training evaluation and community needs. New York: Citizens Committee for New York City.

OTHER RELATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awards

- 2004 Fellow, Society for Community Research and Action (Community Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association).
- 2002 Outstanding Evaluation of the Year, American Evaluation Association.
- 1992 Distinguished Contribution to Community Psychology Practice. American Psychological Association and the Society for Community Research and Action.
- 1984 - 1985 Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Environmental Psychology Research, National Institute of Mental Health.
- 1980 - 1981 National Institute of Mental Health Traineeship

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND TRAINING PUBLICATIONS

Kaye, G. & Chavis, D. M. (1995) Community Assessment: A key tool for mobilization and Involvement. In G. Kaye & T. Wolff (Eds.) From the ground up: A workbook on coalition building and community development. Amherst MA: AHEC Community Partners.

Chavis, D. M., & Florin, P. (1990). Community development, community participation, and substance abuse prevention. San Jose, CA: Santa Clara County Department of Health.

Chavis, D. M., & Kaye, G. (1985). Block Association Basics. New York: Citizens Committee for New York City.

Chavis, D. M., & Florin, P. (1985). Block Booster Users' Handbook. New York: Citizens Committee for New York City.

Chavis, D. M. (1979). The Buffalo Landlord-Tenant Handbook Buffalo, NY: City of Buffalo.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS, SYMPOSIA, AND WORKSHOPS

The Safe Start Demonstration Project: Design, Approaches, and Outcomes of Evaluating a Systems Change Continuum of Care for Children Exposed to Violence. Presented at Evaluation 2007, Baltimore, MD, November 2007.

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Community Prevention Coalitions: An Interim Report on the Evaluation of the Drug-free Communities Support Program. Presented at Evaluation 2007, Baltimore, MD, November 2007.

Building Community to Make Change. Presented at Ciclo de Conferências em Psicologia e Ciências do Comportamento, Lisbon, Portugal, November, 2006.

Sense of Community Development for Healthier, Just, and Equitable Communities. Presented at the First International Conference on Community Psychology, San Juan, Puerto Rico, June, 2006

Community, Cash, and control: Catalysts for Healthier and Safer Communities. Keynote presentation at 2nd Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities, Prince Edward Island, Canada, August, 2005.

Minigrants: Goals and Objectives. Paper presented as part of Symposium (P. Foster-Fishman, Chair). Tenth Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action. Champaign, IL. June 2005.

Building Community Readiness and Capacity: Research and Practice. Paper presented as part of Symposium (R. Pearson, Chair). Tenth Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action. Champaign, IL. June 2005.

Building Readiness and Capacity For Community Change: The Yes We Can! Strategy. Paper presented as part of a symposium on Assessing Community Readiness and Capacity for Change (M. Mahaffey, Chair). Annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association. Atlanta, GA. November, 2004

Principle for Evaluating Community Initiatives: Rigor Amidst Chaos. Paper presented at the National Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation. Sponsored by the National Institute of Justice. July 2004.

Building Evaluability: Doing First Things First. Paper presented as part of a symposium on Collecting and Processing Data in Small and Mid-sized Service Organizations (K. Bolland, Chair). Annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association. Reno, NV. November, 2003

Are You Ready for Evaluation? (with Kien Lee) Workshop at the 5th Annual Public Private partnership Conference. Washington, DC. October 2003.

Commitment to Diversity: It's All in the Mix. Presentation as part of a panel on AEA Investment in Diversity through Sustained Commitment (E. Thomas, chair). Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association. Orlando, FL. November, 1999.

Evaluating Community Collaborations and Building Their Capacity. Two day Seminar conducted by the Evaluator's Institute. Washington, D.C. July, 1999.

Evaluating the Strength of Policy Change Efforts: Conceptual and Methodological Issues. Paper presented as part of a symposium on Evaluating State-level Capacity Building for Prevention and Health Promotion: The Virtual Realty (J. Stevenson, Chair). Annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association. Chicago, IL. November, 1998

Evaluating Collaborative Capacity Building Initiatives: Working in Reality. Presentation at the Annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association. Chicago, IL. November, 1998

Partnering for Results. Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore MD. June, 1998. (faculty for five day international institute)

Learning Communities: The next step in the evolution. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association. San Diego, CA. November 1997.

Learning, Power, and Comprehensive Community Initiatives. Organizational Development Gathering, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. Norcross, GA September, 1997. (workshop)

Evaluating Community Collaborations. Milan, Italy. June, 1997 (workshop)

Training of Trainers in Community Development. Johns Hopkins University, Golisano, Russian Federation. June, 1997. (four day workshop)

Evaluation of Community Collaborations. E.M. Kauffman Foundation. Kansas City MO. December, 1996. (workshop)

Report on CSAP's Cross-site Evaluation of the Community Coalitions Program. Annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association, Atlanta, GA. November, 1996.

Local and National Evaluator Collaboration in the Community Coalitions Program. Symposium. Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association, Atlanta, GA. November, 1996.

Evaluation of Community Collaborations. THE Evaluation INSTITUTE. Baltimore, MD July, 1996 (workshop)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Evaluation Association (Secretary/Treasurer 1999-2001)
American Public Health Association
Association for Community Organization and Social Administration
Community Development Society
National Community Building Network
Society for Community Research and Action
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues