Reasonable Expectations Citizens' jury

Oversight Panel Brief

Background

The citizens' jury is planned to meet in Manchester on Wed 17, Thu 18, and Fri 19 January 2018. The jury will contain a cross section of adults from in and around Greater Manchester. They will be selected to include a mix of people in terms of age, gender, ethnic group, educational attainment and attitudes to privacy of health records.

The 3-day jury will be led by a skilled facilitator, Kyle Bozentko, Director of the Jefferson Center. The juries will be informed about the questions they are exploring, partly through expert witnesses who will make presentations and answer questions posed by the jurors. Jurors will also be given time to do exercises, and to deliberate amongst themselves before reaching their conclusions, which will later be published.

The above process, such as the choice of expert witnesses, is open to potential bias. It is not possible to completely eliminate bias, but it is important to try to identify and minimise it as far as possible before the juries take place. One way to try to achieve this is through asking an oversight panel who are independent from the process, and who have no conflicts of interest in the juries and their outcomes, to review the jury design and materials to be used at the jury.

Brief for oversight panel

The role of the oversight panel is to look for, and identify, bias that is evident in the plans and the design of the two citizens' juries, and the citizens' jury project more generally, so that where possible the bias can be addressed prior to the jury. The panel may also identify gaps in the documentation which could be sources of bias.

It is proposed that this is achieved through the following process:

- Jury design documentation (no more than 20 pages) is sent to oversight panel members for review in November 2017 (a week before the teleconference mentioned below);
- A two-hour teleconference is convened in mid-November 2017 at which members of the oversight panel can discuss the jury design documentation, and identify areas of potential bias;
- In response to the feedback from the oversight panel, the citizens' jury project manager Malcolm Oswald amends the design documentation, and informs the panel of the amendments made;
- The above process is repeated in December 2017 or early January in order to review the prepared content for the sessions e.g. witness slides, scenarios for the juries to explore (again, no more than 20 pages);
- Members of the oversight panel are asked to complete a short oversight panel bias questionnaire (see overleaf), which will then be published on the web.
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Oversight panel bias questionnaire

Having reviewed the jury design documentation, how satisfied are you that the citizens’ jury being run in January 2018 has been designed with the aim of minimising bias?

not satisfied  partially satisfied  mostly satisfied  fully satisfied

How satisfied are you that the January 2018 citizens' jury was successfully designed to minimise bias?

not satisfied  partially satisfied  mostly satisfied  fully satisfied

Comments and qualifications to your answers above

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Name

_____________________________________________________________________________

Organisation and role

_____________________________________________________________________________

Signature      Date

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