



Key Components to Coalition's Success

Integration of Faith Based Communities and Substance Abuse Prevention

*Haysville, NC
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TTJ Group, LLC*

The 5 P's Pillars of Coalitions





Collaboration as faith-based organization

- Many people turn to faith-based institutions for guidance and spiritual support and may therefore be a key venue for communicating a message of compassion back to the community
- They provide and nurture social support for the well-being of those that share a faith
- People turn to faith leaders for guidance in times of crisis and need
- They help people cope with issues which they cannot deal with alone
- Communities of faith possess a unique authority and capacity to address needs of people

Why communities of faith have not been involved

- Communities have made it difficult for faith-based communities to respond to the risk factors in the community
- In the past, faith communities have been the voice on many social issues including poverty, homelessness, peace, and civil rights and risk factors may fall short from past issues
- The struggle for many faith institutions has been how to reconcile the parish's teachings and the behaviors that result in the risk behavior
- Many faith doctrines teach against drugs and alcohol use. In many faiths, the body is considered a "sacred vessel" not to be put at risk or harm.
- Communities are overwhelmed by all the issues they face and often do not have the necessary resources to address them

Key understanding when collaborating with faith-based organizations

There are three key understanding which are important to consider:

There is no cookie-cutter approach no one size fits all

It is very long process to build the trust necessary to do this work

Individuals creating or implementing the faith-based initiative/collaboration must be sensitive to the beliefs, norms and traditions held

Benefits of faith-based leaders in collaborations



Benefits of faith Based leaders in collaborations

Demonstrates Initiative and Drive:

- Has courage, self-confidence, and decisiveness.
- Has persistence and patience and will push ahead, particularly when things bog down.
- Knows themselves, their strengths and weaknesses and works hard to enhance their best qualities and minimize the impact of any weaknesses.

Benefits of faith Based leaders in collaborations

Demonstrates Initiative and Drive:

- Originates ideas and does not hesitate to make decisions when appropriate.
- Stands up for what is important, adjusts plans and actions as necessary, communicates the strategy of the organization as a whole and creates a positive vision of the future.
- Assumes responsibility, particularly when things don't go according to plan. The "buck stops here" is a phrase that not only applies to leaders of countries, but leaders of faith based organizations.

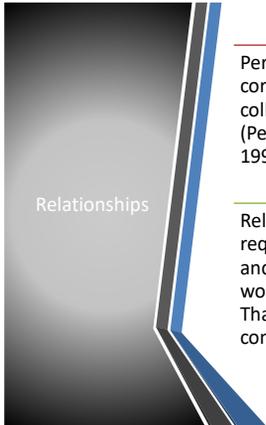
Elements of Successful Coalition-Building Strategies

- During the past two decades, researchers (Doherty, 2000; Perkins, Borden, and Knox, 1999; Thompson et al., 2003) have identified elements that are present in successful coalition-building strategies. Here are a few of their conclusions

Building Blocks of Coalitions

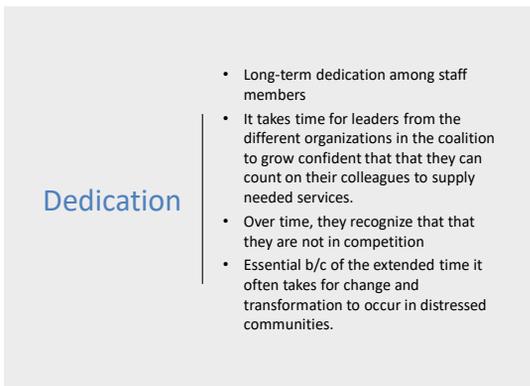
- Relationship
- Dedication
- Trust
- Shared Knowledge
- Leadership
- Assessment



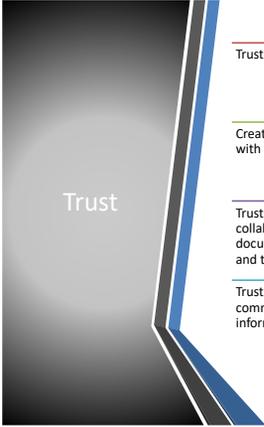


Personal relationships are the cornerstone for networking and collaborative agreements (Perkins, Borden, and Knox, 1999).

Relationships take time. They require repeated conversations and frequent occasions for working and planning together. That is how shared visions and common purposes emerge.



- Long-term dedication among staff members
- It takes time for leaders from the different organizations in the coalition to grow confident that they can count on their colleagues to supply needed services.
- Over time, they recognize that they are not in competition
- Essential b/c of the extended time it often takes for change and transformation to occur in distressed communities.

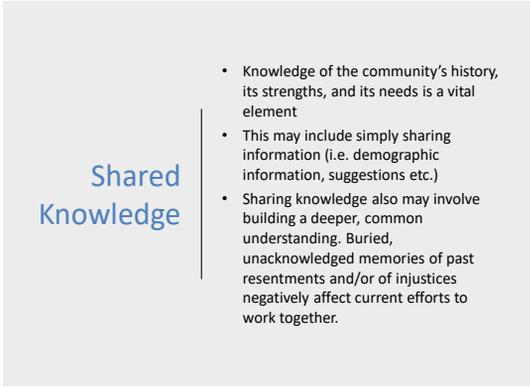


Trust facilitates communication

Creates a willingness and commitment to identify with the collaboration

Trust is nurtured when members of the collaborative network together produce a written document specifying their mission, expectations, and terms for exchanging resources.

Trust is cultivated & maintained through constant communication: a constant exchange of information; not one-sided



- Knowledge of the community's history, its strengths, and its needs is a vital element
- This may include simply sharing information (i.e. demographic information, suggestions etc.)
- Sharing knowledge also may involve building a deeper, common understanding. Buried, unacknowledged memories of past resentments and/or of injustices negatively affect current efforts to work together.



Strong leadership is required to move the cooperating organizations toward shared goals and objectives

Successful collaborative leaders focus on intentional and goal-directed relationship-building

Assessment

- Ongoing process of assessment is always present in successful networking.
- Assessment is the vehicle through which networks maintain and reinforce their shared visions and missions.
- Clarity about how success will be measured is essential to the network's health.

Resources

- Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)- www.samhsa.gov
- Center For Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)- www.samhsa.gov
- President's Office of Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) – www.ondcp.gov
- Evidence Based Practices Resource Center Programs (EBPRC)- www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center

References

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Questions/Feedback

SPF Process