Coalition Building: Partnerships in Mental Health and Aging

Worksheet

DEFINING AND PREDICTING SUCCESS

1. List three issues that you would like your coalition on mental health and aging to address:
   
   A. Expansion of MH Parity
   B. Training/Creation of Older MH Consumer Advocates
   C. Increase Public Awareness/Education - Battle Stigma

2. List three activities through which your coalition might do to accomplish each of the three issues above:

   **Issue A**
   - Get the Facts Campaign in IA legislature
   - Get ICMHA members to attend legislative forums around the state
   - Push for adoption of 10 pt. agenda - with parity out front

   **Issue B**
   - ICMHA members help to recruit participants for Peer Support Training Academy
   - Encourage ASTA to focus on geriatric MH issues
   - Reach out & enlist organizations w/aging networks, AARP, AAAs

   **Issue C**
   - Make next adg. of ICMHA into a MH+IA Conference, w/CME's ½ day & CEU's
   - Get media attention for the conference
   - Have ICMHA get on agendas at other conferences

3. List three factors that are critical to the success of your coalition:

   A. Leadership commitment to shared mission, focus
   B. Take a brief time @ subsequent meetings to report, individually, what I did since last adg.
   C. Partnership Development, which will lead to provision of resources
4. List three challenges that your coalition on mental health and aging is likely to face and then list possible solutions for each challenge:

A. Challenge: Development of leadership/passion outside of state government
   Solution: Development of strong connections w/aging resource networks

B. Challenge: Creating a focus on MH within existing aging advocacy networks
   Solution: Development of local coalitions, dissemination of get the facts type info into the hands of the existing networks

C. Challenge: _____
   Solution: _____

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

List the organizations whose participation is critical to the existence of your coalition on mental health and aging: (I.e. substance abuse organizations, mental health organizations, etc.)

* AARP

* Other 2 Regents Schools & IA University

* Key partners from the entire geographic area of IA

List the organizations whose participation is preferable, but without whom your coalition could still exist without:

* SA Provider Agency
  Reps from MH geriatric inpatient programs
  DBSA
  CRIP
  Orgs that represent the interests of cultural minorities
List three strategies for encouraging consumer involvement and input in your mental health and aging coalition:

1. Get information into the hands of local consumer groups and leaders/PSTA
2. Recruit all members to attend Coalition meetings
3. Share info with consumers that let them know what other coalitions have done and that make them know their presence is critical.

List three strategies for fostering consensus and managing conflict among your coalition members:

1. Develop basic protocol/procedure for meetings & review that at the beginning of each
2. Make sure agenda is clear & agreed upon & homework is done before meeting
3. If/when issues/mission/action steps are adopted - that everyone sings from the playbook

MANAGING THE LIFE OF A COALITION

How could you ensure that your coalition members are united on an issue?

How could you ensure that your coalition members carry their own weight? Is there a membership application that outlines what is expected? On the website, put a list of expectations/responsibilities & have people agree to the steps/actions as part of registration.

List three of the most important rules under which your coalition will operate:

A. Roberts Rules of Order will determine

Discussion & Disagreement is welcome, but once a decision is made, everyone must move forward in agreement, united around the position

C. Structure of membership must be addressed, renew commitment annually on web, remove those who haven’t attended, consider differentiating voting vs non-voting membership
What human resources will your coalition require to maintain its existence and motivation?

- Web maintenance, meeting coordination, food & logistics, consumer travel reimbursement
- Offering of CMEs & CEUs, at low or no cost
- # for meeting sites - occasionally

How will you meet these human resource needs?

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- 
- 

What financial demands will your coalition have?

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- 
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How will you meet these financial needs?

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- 
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How will you know if your coalition is a real "good" coalition?

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PLANNING GUIDE

1. When do you intend to conduct your next coalition meeting?
2. What do you intend to accomplish at the next coalition meeting?
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

3. Who are the primary agencies you will invite that have not been involved so far?
   • 
   • 

4. Who are the other agencies you will invite to become involved?
   • 
   • 

5. What potential problems will arise during the first meeting and how would you deal with these problems?
   • 
   • 

6. What type of staff support will you require to organize and keep your coalition going?
   • 
   • 

7. What logistics will you consider when arranging your meeting?
   • 
   • 

8. Who will provide the financial support for your coalition building meeting (computer time, mailing cost, supplies, etc.)?
   • 
   • 

9. What type of technical assistance will you need to improve the effectiveness of your coalition?
   • 
   • 
   • 
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