

Bridging the Gap: Collaborating with Other Organizations

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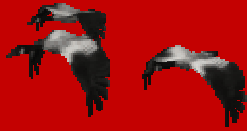
What does it mean to Collaborate?

- Working together especially in a joint intellectual effort.
- The act of working with another or others on a joint project

The Sense of the Goose



- People who are part of a team and share a common direction get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the trust of one another.



- If we have as much sense as a good, we will share information with those who are headed the same way we are going.
- It pays to share leadership and take turns doing hard jobs.

Why is it beneficial to collaborate?

- Increased capacity
- Discovery of existing strengths, assets and resources.
- Share and collect information for your organization
- Shared leadership, decisions, ownership, vision and responsibility.

Working Together Strategies

Collaborating

Exchange Information

Alter Activities

Share Resources

Enhance the Capacity of Another

Create Shared Vision

Cooperating

Exchange Information

Alter Activities

Share Resources

Coordinating

Exchange Information

Alter Activities for Mutual Benefit to
and Common Purpose

Networking

Exchange Information



Principles for Effective Functioning

- ***Shared Vision***
 - Vision is starting point
 - Re-visioning is done periodically
 - Vision represents visions of broad range of stakeholders
- ***Inclusivity and Participation***
 - Membership is open, representative, diverse
 - Workload is shared
 - Meetings and discussions are user-friendly
- ***Open and Informed Decision Making***
 - Decisions are made based on data
 - Members know how decisions are made and participates accordingly
 - The group can resolve conflict
- ***Effective Communication***
 - Information is freely shared
 - Results of our work are shared with larger community
 - We communicate well internally and externally
- ***Facilitative Leadership***
 - Leadership and accountability is shared
 - Ideas are heard and respected
 - We celebrate success
 - Capacities are recognized and used

How to Build Collaboration...

- Start with a unifying purpose
- Create, maintain, and update simple and practical mission and vision statements
- Set goals and objectives. Goals are where you want to go and objectives are how you are going to get there.
- Believe in what you are doing and the people who are doing it
- Coordinate-Organize
- Show Respect for People and time
- Be open-minded; share ownership; empower others; share leadership

Things to remember...

- Stay motivated
- Take responsibility and give credit
- Continuity; consistency; dependability
- Be flexible
- Build relationships
- Communicate
- Show gratitude
- Celebrate success!

Let's put words into action

- Brainstorm ideas on how you could collaborate with other organizations.
 - What organization(s) would they be?
 - What program/activity could you do?

Adapted from:

- Robison, C.C. (2009). *Collaborate self-assessment workshop*. Sacramento, CA: Center for Collaborative Planning. Retrieved October 18, 2009 from <http://www.civicpartnerships.org/docs/services/OLE/09OLEConf%20Presentations/Collaborative%20Self%20Assessment/Connie%20Chan%20Robison%20%20Collaboration%20PPT%20%5BCompatibility%20Mode%5D.pdf>
- Unknown. (Unknown). *What is collaboration and how to use it*. Retrieved October 18, 2009 from http://www.collaboration.me.uk/Collaboration_PowerPoint.php.