

Discussion of Community Health Issues and Collaboration

***Hosted by the
Community Advisory Council (CAC)
of the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH)***

Overview

- Why is collaboration important
- Challenges & Opportunities
- Successful efforts in Missouri
- Open discussion

What is Collaboration?

1. *to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor*
2. *to cooperate with an agency with which one is not immediately connected*
3. *to cooperate with or willingly assist an enemy of one's country and especially an occupying force*

merriam-webster

Three Reasons to Collaborate

- Improved ability to deliver comprehensive, high quality programs and services in the community
- Leveraging of resources
- Funder required

Why collaborate?

- Access knowledge, skills and resources from multiple sectors
- Expand stakeholder base
- Mitigate risk
- Increase ability to change the underlying system that shapes environment

Leverage your strengths to support other organizations' weaknesses

Why are collaborations important to funders?

Best practice research emphasizes the power of partnerships to increase interventions' ability to meet intermediate and long term goals

- Easier to develop community buy-in when multiple sectors are engaged
- Reduces duplication of efforts/competition and maximizes effectiveness
- Leveraging of skills, strengths and networks

Collaboration Questions

What makes you choose to collaborate or decide against it?

What are some of your concerns about collaborating with others on a project?

MFH Efforts and Interest

- 2009 Report- *Missouri Health Coalitions: Success through Collaborative Efforts*
- MoCAP Pilot Project- provided TA to 12 groups interested in formalizing coalition efforts towards a federal grant application
- Gateway Center for Giving- Intermediary Project.

Ideas for Continued Work

- Community- based collaboration simulations
 - RWJ “Scenarios on Vulnerability in the US”
- Web-based presentations on successfully building and providing programming through collaborations
 - “Partnership Check List,” as first topic
- Journal / Book club— opportunity to discuss evidence base & best practices with peers.

Your Ideas?