

Effective Collaborative Leadership: Seven Success Factors

1. Institutional Partners that Link to the Goal

- The number of partners is not a measure of success, rather who is the partnership and what role does each partner play in terms of accomplishing the overall goal.

2. Evolving Structure and Partners

- Effective partnerships require trust and confidence. Changes will occur therefore partner flexibility is essential.

3. Leadership in Key Positions

- Ensure that leaders if not the most senior staff has ability to speak for the organization and is able to key momentum and energy going.

4. Inclusive Decision-Making

- Decision making should be team effort; otherwise partners very quickly become disenfranchised, disengaged and uninterested. Ensure that the partnership stresses communication and decision-making on equal footing. Keep communications open.

5. Appropriate Governance Structure

- Establish a structure that works best for local system. Examples may include sub-committee structure; a management team, a democratic system where everyone has their say or a combination of the three.

6. Mutually Beneficial Interactions

- Partners should interact in ways that benefit individuals and their organizations, but most importantly contribute to the partnerships' overall goal of meeting the needs of the consumer.

7. Decision Making Based on Data

- Assessment and evaluation are important not only to measure impact but help promote the strategic plan, as well as development changes that may be necessary to ensure success. Focus on meaningful outcomes.