Overview of Collaboration Science Frameworks

What is collaboration?
Two or more entities (organizations, organizational systems, programs, community groups, or individuals) working together for a common purpose.

Collaborations form the bedrock of public health work to address community needs.

Why collaborate?
To address complex issues, we need stakeholders from multiple sectors and levels of operation to work together toward a common vision and goal[1].

The Role: Engage with and build consensus among diverse organizations and individuals in a community to address a community-level issue or problem[2].

The Format: Collaborative partnerships vary by level of commitment, activities undertaken, membership composition, and intensity (e.g., meeting frequency).

ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory boards serve multiple functions, i.e. informing the design, implementing/evaluating public health programs, identifying resources, reviewing policy, making recommendations.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

A formal group whose membership may be elected.

May provide oversight, strategy development, governing, and planning function for a larger entity.

TASK FORCE

An action-oriented group tasked with addressing an issue or priority.

Members are brought together by an overseeing committee or institution.

COALITION

A formal alliance of organizations that act jointly, with defined leadership structure.

Created at a community, state, regional, or national level, and time-limited or sustained over time.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

A Learning Collaborative is a time-limited system that brings together teams that seek improvement in focused topic areas.

Teams may convene for periodic training sessions, conduct quality improvement activities, and share successes, challenges and strategies.

[1] Butterfoss, F. D. (2007). *Coalitions and partnerships in community health*. John Wiley & Sons.

[2] Butterfoss, F.D., & Kegler, M.C. (2009). "The Community Coalition Action Theory" 238-276, In: DiClemente, R.J., Crosby, R.A., & Kegler, M., eds. *Emerging Theories in Health Promotion Practice and Research*. 2nd ed. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass;

MISSION: The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs is a national resource, partner and advocate for state public health leaders and others working to improve the health of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs.

VISION: AMCHP leads and supports programs nationally to protect and promote the optimal health of women, children, youth, families, and communities. AMCHP envisions a nation that values and invests in the health and well-being of all women, children, youth, families, and communities so that they may thrive.

What are the components of successful collaborative efforts?

A systematic review of how to create successful partnerships identified the following critical success factors[3]:

- Shared, mutually agreed on vision
- Clear, consistent communication
- Effective means of making decisions, ensuring accountability
- Focus on process and outcomes
- Leadership, especially in managing change
- Working across boundaries

How do you develop and implement strategies for collaboration and partnership?

- Determine the best strategy/approach
- Include multiple perspectives
- Delineate roles and responsibilities
- Have collaborative and partnership agreement with various stakeholders on specific projects
- Maintain open and clear communication
- Rely on collaborative and transformational leadership

Measuring collaboration:

WHY To identify strengths and weaknesses in collaborative partnerships, networks or processes; to "unpack" the complexity of collaborations by identifying measurable components of collaborative structures, processes, and outcomes; to create a roadmap for improvement.

HOW Tools to help measure collaboration include logic models, driver diagrams, and strategic plans.

Frameworks for measuring collaborations will get at different aspects of how collaborative partnerships work including the structures and processes in place and measures of progress and outcomes that are desired.

WHAT Measure structure and functioning: Are there components of the collaboration that are problematic and need attention? Are there enough people at appropriate levels doing their allocated work? Are training and finances properly allocated?

Measure processes: Are activities are being carried out as planned? Establish and check in on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders; measure performance and list shared accountability; assess activities/ tasks that have been achieved and progress made on each.

Measure progress and outcomes: Use logic models to examine whether the collaboration is aiding in the achievement of program outcomes.

Examples of Measurements for Collaboration:

QUALITATIVE	QUANTITATIVE	SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS	SPATIAL ANALYSIS
Interviews	Surveys	PARTNER Survey	GIS mapping
Discussion/Focus groups	Program data analysis	Collaboration study	Interactive mapping
Observational methods	Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory		
Photovoice			

What should you take from this resource?

- ✔ Measuring collaborations helps you to improve relationships and maximize effectiveness of efforts
- ✔ Measures of collaboration (structure and process) and measures of collaborative efforts (progress and outcomes) can come from tools like project logic models
- ✔ Use both qualitative and quantitative methods to improve credibility and confirmability of results

[3] Wildridge V, Childs S, Cawthra L, Madge B. How to create successful partnerships—a review of the literature. Health Info Libr J. 2004;21(suppl 1):3-19.

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