



Community Coalition Building Through PAR Models for Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs

Richard N. Roberts, Principal Investigator
Diane D. Behl, Co-Principal Investigator

Early Intervention Research Institute
Utah State University
Logan Utah 84322-6580

Contacts

Richard.Roberts@usu.edu

Diane.Behl@usu.edu

Paper presented at the 2009 City Match Conference, New Orleans, LA
August 23, 2009



What Is ChampionsInC?

- National center funded by DSCSHN
- Within USU's Early Intervention Research Institute/UCEDD (www.eiri.usu.edu)
- Based on 25 year history of research, evaluation, PAR approach
- Supports states and communities in achieving Outcome 5: *Community-based service systems are organized so families and youth can use them easily and are satisfied with what they receive. (HP 2010)*
- Works in partnership with other national centers



What Can ChampionsInC Offer?

Resources:

- ✓ Provide promising practices from communities across the country.
- ✓ Connect you with other states/communities for networking.
- ✓ Identify funding opportunities and resources.
- ✓ Share evidence-based practices to guide community coalitions and coordination efforts.
- ✓ Emphasize family/professional partnerships.

TA:

- ✓ Conference calls
- ✓ Onsite visits
- ✓ Funding may be negotiated based on intensity of request



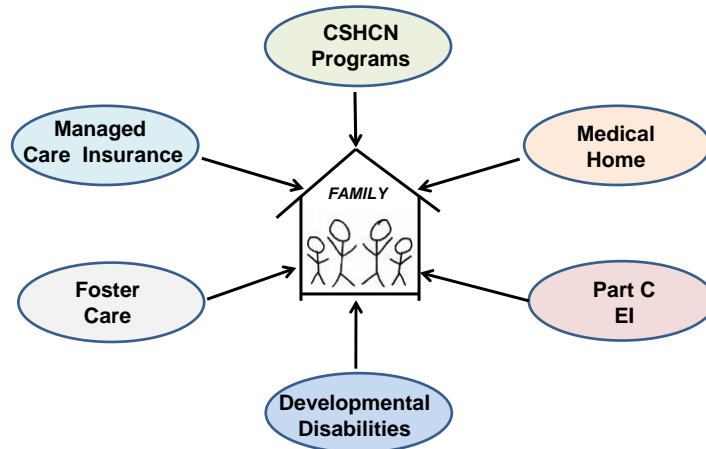
What Are the Outcomes of Care Coordination?

Based on literature review from 1999 to 2007:

- ✓ Improved access to services
- ✓ Improved family satisfaction with care
- ✓ Improved child health and development
- ✓ Improved family well-being
- ✓ Decreased emergency room costs



Who Provides Care Coordination?



How do you “coordinate” the coordinators”?

- Ask families what makes sense to them
- Create one coordinated care plan
- Common application process
- Coordinated team meetings
- Coordinate at the policy level via *coalitions*....

What is a Coalition?



Collaborative partnership
Community forum
Task force
Consortium
Coordinating council

–Dynamic, ever-changing



What Can Coalitions Do?

Distal Accomplishments

- Lower heart disease risk for populations
- Reduced lead poisoning rates in young children

Community-wide Accomplishments

- Increase healthy opportunities (new bike trails, fewer tobacco outlets)
- Increase awareness and knowledge of issues (information campaign)

Process Accomplishments

- Increase attendance at coalition meetings (more informed members)
- Increase participation by diverse community sectors (more voices)
- Build capacity of leaders (conflict resolution, negotiating)
- Build group capacity (create new links, learn social marketing techniques)



What Can We Learn From the Literature re: Effective Coalitions?



Effective Coalitions Implemented a CQI Process



Preparing for Effective Coalitions

1. Clearly define roles of coalition members: Families/youth and other coalition members know why they are there, encourage participation
2. Make sure benefits of involvement are clear, outweigh the costs
3. Provide New Member packet w/ rules on decision making, conflict resolution
4. Recruit many, diverse families/youth through different doors
5. Value everyone's time, esp. families –honoraria, child care, transportation; convenient meeting locations & times
6. Coalition chair provides skilled leadership for conflict management



Taking Action for Effective Coalitions

1. Embed everyone's viewpoint into discussions, esp. family perspective
2. Tap talents of families/youth to share their talents (job skills, special interests, technology)
3. Design "billboard messages"-- First step is often changing community attitudes
4. Access training opportunities, TA, and support for the coalition;
5. Allocated/paid staff, materials, work space to support the work of the coalition
6. Secure financial resources for program activities, staff pay, and future needs



Knowing if the Coalition is Making a Difference (Measuring and Monitoring)

1. Work with families/youth to identify meaningful indicators of change
2. Establish measurement plan that is based on these indicators
3. Hold members accountable for creating change—Even if they do not change the policies themselves, they are responsible for getting the public opinion behind them
4. Celebrate coalition accomplishments—frequently
5. Keep records of the work accomplished, ranging from meeting attendance and minutes to documentation of policy changes
6. Plan for set backs and be flexible about changing specific implementation plans



Thank you!

1-800-887-1699

www.ChampionsInC.org

