

Caregiver Coalitions

What It Takes To Build & Maintain An Active, Thriving Coalition

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Utah Coalition for
Caregiver Support

Great Opportunity

- Having the chance to reflect on what the uccs has done since its inception has truly been a great opportunity
- I realized I would need a long, long time to discuss this today
- I know I always pick up information and ideas when others share their experiences – I hope you do too



Resources

- Coalition Building Tip Sheets (and other great resources)
 - <http://www.tomwolff.com/healthy-communities-tools-and-resources.html>
- Coalition Building Article From The Community Toolbox
 - <http://ctb.lsi.ukans.edu/>
- "Family Caregiving in Utah: *A Resource Guide for Family Caregivers*"
 - www.caregivers.utah.gov
- Creating SMART Goals
 - <http://www.topachievement.com/smart.html>



Coalition Intension

- To bring about **POSITIVE CHANGE**, to make someone or something better.
- To partake in an organic process that can be started when a group of individuals come together, face to face, to address issues they share a common concern or passion about. In our instances, we all address caregiving issues.



Planning

- Many guides and resources
- Essential to have a structure and some kind of hierarchy
 - Someone to instigate the planning
 - Develop a workable process to move toward a desired result



UCCS

- We had many ideas
- Different values amongst members
 - Planning process can refine direction
- Members come and go---and some stay
- Learned the importance of the WIIFM for members



Harness The Energy

- The work of coalitions is about harnessing the energy that exists regarding a specific issue – for us caregiving.
- It's often chaotic and at times hard to believe that anything is happening or will ever happen.
- Know you can't fix everything



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Keep Working Together

- Keep moving forward
 - Sustain your visions
 - Create the focus
 - Inspire leadership
 - Keep the ideas flowing
 - Allow the action to take place



Listen To The Voices

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- Let leaders emerge
 - Listen to their voices and their passions
 - Realize they are not always in front of the room
- Keep new voices coming to the table
- Keep leaders and organization alive
 - Generates energy and ideas and action
 - Gives life to new and innovative ideas



Some Critical Steps

- Vision/mission
- Organizational development
- Gather information and analyze it
- Develop objectives
- Develop strategies
- Develop action plans
- Implementation of plans
- Monitoring actions/evaluation



Deciding Where To Start

- Can develop organizational structure parallel to developing a product (Tom Wolff's tip sheets)
- Smart to take baby step
 - Go for the low hanging fruit
 - Develop cohesiveness and confidence



Infusion of Resources

- The lifespan respite grant put a great deal of wind beneath our wings.
- As we purposefully grew our membership to include community partners from all aspects of caregiving, not just aging, we positioned ourselves to receive funding on the second go around of funding.
- The lifespan funding enabled us to strengthen our commitments to our communities and many old and new members are working hard to fulfill the scope of work for the grant.





**“Ideas without action are
worthless”**

Harvey Mackay
American Businessman, Speaker, Author



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Best Practice

- Keep trying
- Understand growth & success is not always linear
 - Sometimes it takes the right combination of people to move things forward



Focus

- How do you focus?
- What do you focus on?
- Who will help with focus?



Growth

- Innovations can lead to growth as you hone your focus and expend the energy to develop the old or new ideas



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