ASP NONPROFIT CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

FIRST MONDAYS DISCUSSION

TOPIC: Lessons from the Front Lines: Creating and Sustaining a Nonprofit Collaboration

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018
Monday, October 1, 2018

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Please click here to access the recorded discussion.

Discussion Background:

Read a nonprofit blog, attend a conference, talk to a funder and you’re almost certain to encounter the word “collaboration”. Everyone is talking about it, many organizations are thinking about, and a growing number are actively working to create or maintain collaborative efforts—often with mixed results.

In October, we’ll get an inside look at a model community collaboration built to identify and address the health needs of two large and growing counties in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Topics will include an honest appraisal of what it takes to get a collaboration off the ground (spoiler alert: addressing the WIFM—What’s In It For Me—must be part of the conversation) and hard won lessons on what it takes to sustain both the structure and momentum of a collaboration. Gary Zaborac, Director of the Clay County Public Health Center and one of the founders of the Northland Health Alliance will share his insights about:

- **The long and winding road to collaboration**— the importance of alignment in policy, financial, and individual organizational interests.
- **Collaboration infrastructure**— it must be built on a foundation of trust and in the end requires someone to “own” it—to invest time, staff, dollars to drive the effort.
- **Ensuring engagement**— defining clear expectations (the time required, financial commitment, work product expected etc.), as well as roles and responsibilities for all partners.
- **Establishing consensus and creating action**— how the Alliance engaged a group of more than 80 stakeholders in the creation of a consensus Community Health Improvement Plan and built in a process for driving implementation and tracking progress.
- **Overcoming the accountability speedbump**— many collaborations stumble when transitioning from vision to action. Finding ways to hold volunteer collaborative partners accountable is the true secret to success and involves equal parts inspiration, aspiration, and assignment of clear, measurable outcomes.

The Northland Health Alliance is gaining national recognition for the success of its health collaboration and the impact its efforts are having on the community. This webinar is an opportunity to hear a story from the front lines about what worked, what didn’t, and where they’re going from here.