SPRC Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Collaboration Continuum

**Contemplating**

What is Contemplating?
At this stage, we are thinking about collaborating. We have potential partners in mind, but we have not approached them.

What does Contemplation look like?
- We are discussing our goals.
- We are learning about our strengths.
- We are learning to trust each other.
- We are considering each other’s priorities.

- Build trust through small wins.
- Take time to understand partners’ contexts.
- Use key champions, friends and allies to build relationships.
- Identify opportunities to support each other’s goals.

**Cooperating**

What is Cooperating?
At this stage, we have decided partnering makes sense. We are engaging partners, but have no formal agreements.

What does Cooperating look like?
- We have informal and supportive relationships.
- We exchange information for mutual benefit.
- We attend each other’s events.
- We have positive & intermittent interactions.
- There is little to no risk.

- Use data and information to find shared intersections and goals.
- Get clear on why you need a partner; identify what can’t you do alone?
- Create and sustain positive dialogue and interactions.

**Coordinating**

What is Coordinating?
At this stage, our partnership is growing stronger, and we are modifying our activities for mutual benefit. We are engaged in projects, initiatives and work together.

What does Coordinating look like?
- We care about the same things.
- We are engaged in short-term and long-term projects.
- We engage each other using informal or formal agreements.
- We share time, decision-making, and/or resources.
- We each retain autonomy.
- There is low to moderate risk.

- Commit to the partnership in a formal way.
- Define the terms and boundaries of the partnership.
- Recruit strategic, high-capacity partners that know how to nurture collaboration.
- Structure the partnership for engagement and inclusion among partners.
- Develop long-term strategic directions and shared vision.

**Collaborating**

What is Collaborating?
At this stage, our partnership has formal agreements. We are working toward developing enhanced capacity to achieve a shared vision.

What does Collaborating look like?
- We employ creative, synergistic, and innovative approaches.
- We have new organizational structures and financial agreements.
- We have long-term engagement.
- We are an institutionalized and credible collaboration in the community.
- We have a well-defined mission based on member interests.
- We have an effective leadership team.
- There is high risk but also high trust.

- Engage in regular strategic planning.
- Manage and measure performance.
- Nurture your membership and team.
- Identify processes for managing conflict.