



# COALITIONS 101

Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting

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# Disclaimer

*The views, opinions, and content expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).*

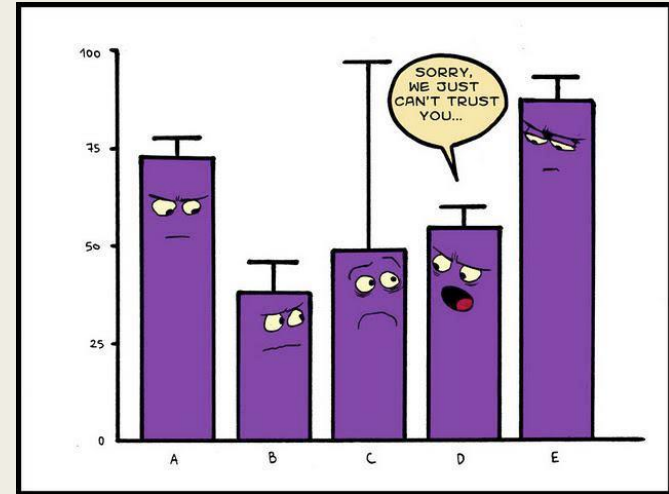
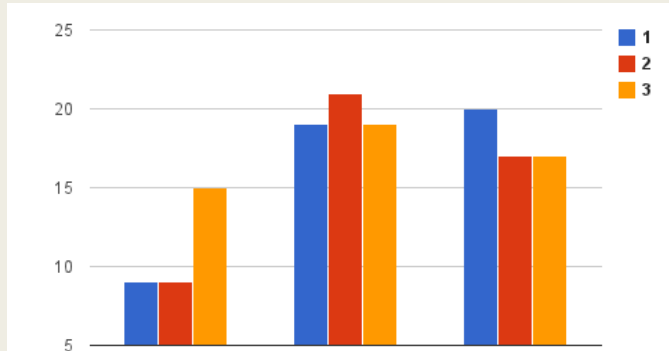
Keep in Mind these Two Things  
Throughout the Presentation

**Data!**

***Sustainability!***

# How do you determine when a coalition is needed?

- Data!
- Some **evidence** of need exists



# Why a coalition?

1. Leverage resources
2. Widespread reach within a community, larger than a single program
3. Organized setting for sharing information
4. Wide range of advice and perspectives on subject areas
5. Power in Numbers

# Coalitions can be informal or formal but ALL coalitions need:

- Common Goal and objectives
- Membership parameters (i.e. how many members, who)
- Decision making method
- Meeting format (frequency, length, location)
- Participation in between meetings
- **MEMBERS**

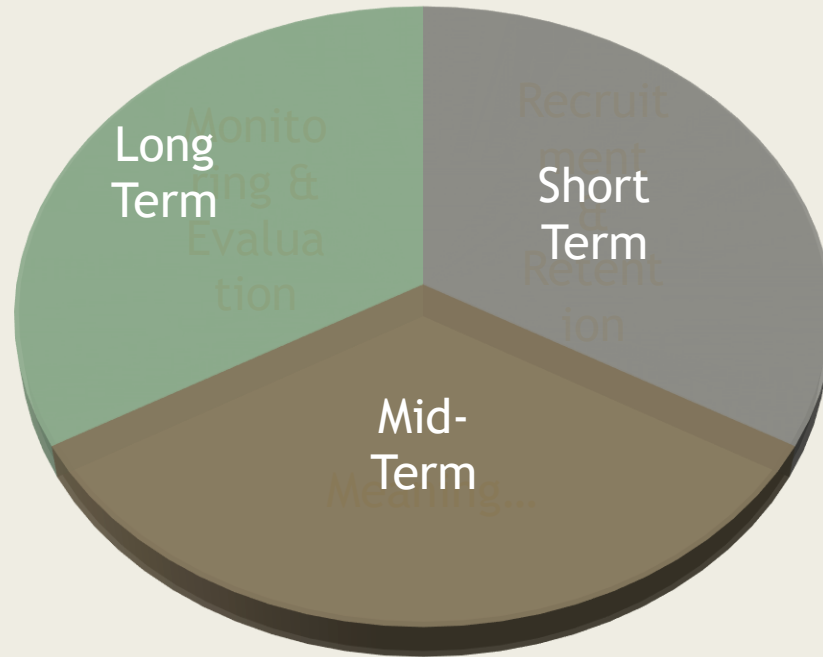
# Coalition Membership: Who should be at the table?

Your **priority area** determines who should be at your coalition table



- Youth
- Elders
- Service Providers
- Community Members
- Parents
- Tribal Leadership
- School Representation

# Components of a Healthy Coalition





# Membership Sustainability:

- Feel welcomed and appreciated
- Acknowledge upon arrival
- Celebrate small successes
- Feel like they have a voice (you invited them after all)
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Know the purpose of the meeting

## **Agenda and Outcomes**

# Coalition Evaluation: Two Strands

Process	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many meetings?</li><li>• How many people?</li><li>• Meeting format?</li><li>• Meeting agreements being followed?</li><li>• Agenda used?</li><li>• Objectives met?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Did we reach target population?</li><li>• Results of coalition work</li></ul>

**Some times process and outcomes are the same thing and that's okay.**

# DATA

- Not just for Evaluation purposes
- Should also drive programming at the front end

Data at the front end tells us:

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

# Avoid these common challenges

## ✓ Developing

Unnecessarily draining decision making

Tension over leadership and turf

Membership/Participation concerns not shared or addressed

Coalition emphasis on too many long term goals

Lack of planning

## ✓ Gaining buy-in

# By:

## ✓ Sharing

power/responsibility

## ✓ Practicing

Transparency

## ✓ Sticking to your meeting agreements

# Tools: Coalition Action Plan Template

Ideal Coalition Looks like:				
	Examples of how we do this well	How we would like to grow/improve	Who is at the table to do this?	Who would we like at the table?
Recruitment & Retention				
Meaningful Work				
Monitoring & Evaluation				

Recruitment & Retention	How will we grow what we do well or how will improve in the identified area	Who will take the lead? Who else is involved?	By when?
Meaningful Work			
Monitoring & Evaluation			

**See IHS resource: “Restoring Balance: Community Owned Wellness”**  
[www.sprc.org/resources-programs/restoring-balance-community-owned-wellness](http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/restoring-balance-community-owned-wellness)

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