

Collaboration: creating new opportunities together

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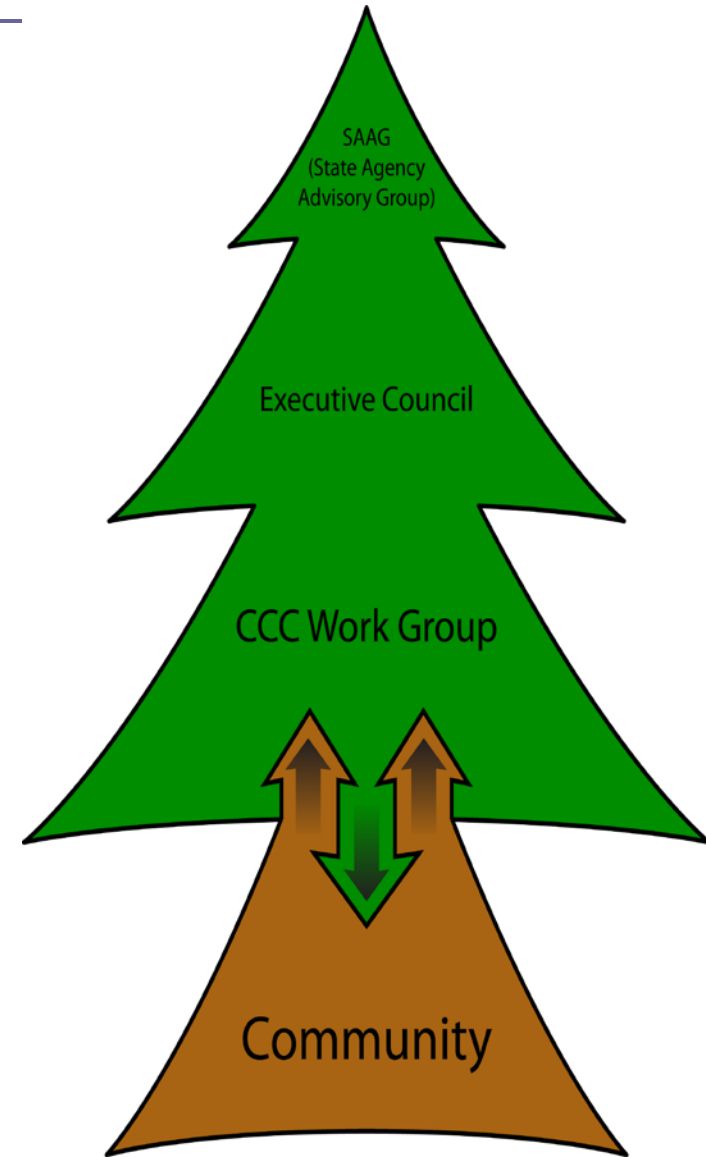


Story of the Community Caring Collaborative

- Washington County
- Epidemic of infants born at risk
- Increased number of children in special ed
- Late intervention
- Highest number of children under three dismissed from child care program
- 30% of infants born were at risk due to exposure to substances, exposure to trauma, teen parents or medical/developmental issues.

CCC Structure

- Work group
- Community Caring Collaborative Council
- State Agency Partnership
- Name changing



How our story relates to yours: What we learned about collaboration

- Concept of authentic collaboration
- Based on shared values:
 - ✓ Respect & Trust worthiness
 - ✓ Cultural Competence/awareness
 - ✓ Family Driven
 - ✓ Strength Based
 - ✓ Utilizing Natural Supports
 - ✓ Community based
 - ✓ Responsive to each individual

Shared Vision

- ❑ Desire to join together to create a responsive system of care utilizing the strengths and workforces of existing agencies and entities.
- ❑ Creation of a collaborative to share training, promote best practice and increase service access and array for infants and young children and their families
- ❑ Investment in a shared entity that will effect change in all our organizations and respond to the changing times and needs of our community.

Precursors to Collaboration

- Awareness of History interagency issues and skeletons
- Willingness to explore and deal with old issues
- Development of conflict resolution orientation
- Communication process available to all members
- Commitment of time and energy to the collaborative.
- Development of trust
- Willingness to share concerns
- Willingness to resources
- Willingness to work on collaborative strategies
- Dedication of time

Process of Authentic Collaboration

- Transparency of organization on all matters
- Communication
- Consensus process
- Agenda with input from all members
- Regular meetings

Outcomes

- ❑ Change in level of hope
- ❑ Change in how agencies problem solve
- ❑ Partnerships between agencies
- ❑ Development of training opportunities through the CCC
- ❑ Development of new dollars to support best practice /evidence base practice using contracting with agency partners
- ❑ Evaluation of all services with shared information for all partners

More outcomes

- Ongoing visioning
- Mechanism for removing barriers through State Agency Partnership
- Input from all members on future development
- Institutes
- Establishment of new programs staffed conjointly by collaborative agency
- Celebration of strengths and achievements
- Willingness and ability to look at issues and barriers as they occur.

What we have learned

- We laugh more
- Work is less lonely
- Agencies are interacting differently, referring more often and creating ways to simplify service delivery for families
- We can change how things are done
- The sum of the whole is greater than the Individual parts.