

Leveraging Partnerships for Program Success

National Summer Learning Association



Vision & Mission

- Our vision is to ensure that **every child is safe, healthy and engaged in learning during the summer months.**
- Our mission is to **connect and equip schools and community organizations to deliver quality summer learning programs** to our nation's youth to help close the achievement gap.



The Association works to:

Increase the number of providers offering high-quality summer learning programs to young people living in poverty;

Increase the number of organizations and policymakers that identify summer learning as a public policy priority; and

Increase funding for high-quality summer learning programs for young people who currently lack choices and opportunities.



Why Summer Learning?

- Compelling research base
- Laboratory for innovation in teaching & learning
- Support for working families
- Spans transition periods
- Growing importance in the education reform / time and learning debate
- Significant opportunity for partnerships



Objectives for Today

- Understand what meaningful partnerships look like in the summer setting
- Discuss strategies to build effective partnerships with community partners to enhance summer learning experiences for young people



Partnerships to Support Summer



Reflection

What has your experience with partnerships been like?

- Positive
- Ups and downs
- Generally stressful
- No experience with partnerships

Pair Share - share a successful partnership that you have been a part of.



Why Build Partnerships?

What are potential benefits of partnerships?

- Sharing resources
- Increase # of youth served
- Broaden participants' experiences / Add new activities for youth
- Share expertise
- Share program responsibilities
- More money for programs
- More opportunities for families / wrap-around services
- Access to unique services
- Provide program with mentoring and staffing



Why Build Partnerships?

What are the different ways you can partner?

- ✓ Professional development and staffing
- ✓ Family involvement
- ✓ Technology and communication tools
- ✓ Research and evaluation
- ✓ Public and private funding
- ✓ Physical Resources
- ✓ Social Resources



Defining Strategic Partnerships

- **Linkages** are described as specific relationships between organizations involved in implementing summer programs for youth
- **Collaboration** is a process that leverages resources to reach common goals that cannot be achieved by one single agent

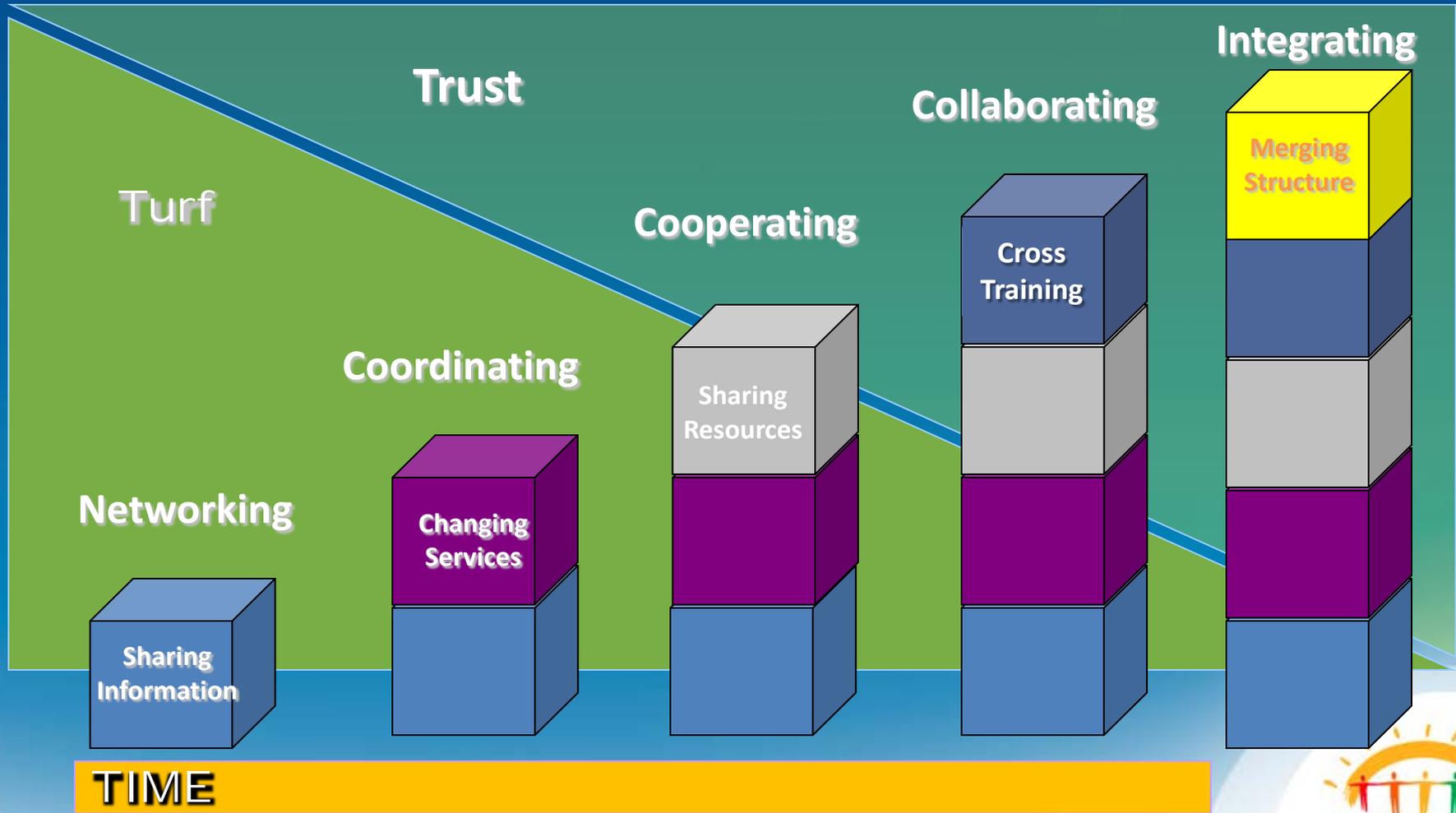


Defining Strategic Partnerships

1. *Stakeholders* – involved as necessary to maintain interest & support
2. *Collaborators* – invested in the work; exchange information & services as necessary; focused on current work
3. *Partners* – fully invested; regularly share information & services; aligned with future work & outcomes



Defining Strategic Partnerships





Defining Strategic Partnerships

What are potential challenges of partnerships?

- Shared space
- Data sharing
- Insurance and liability
- Lack of autonomy to enter into formal relationships
- Short planning time
- Shifting policies and funding streams
- Competing priorities / goals
- Meeting needs of both partners
- Funding
- Staff Turnover



Thriving Partnerships

Characteristics of Effective Partnerships

1. Shared Mission
2. Advanced, Collaborative Planning
3. Partner Staff Collaboration
4. Partner Communication Structure
5. Joint Funding
6. Family Involvement, Communication & Relationship-Building



Thriving Partnerships Have

Shared Mission

- Select partners who have, or can develop a shared mission that compliments your program; if the mission is too different the partnership will not be successful.
- Partners must have a clear understanding of one another's mission and why the partnership is beneficial.
- Partners must share a commitment to a broader set of values and goals and complementary vision of instructional delivery for the summer program.
- Partners need to be willing to alter activities to enhance youth outcomes and experiences.



Thriving Partnerships Have

Advanced, Collaborative Planning

- Include partners in year-round planning practices for summer programming.
- Partners should have a voice in selection, development, or review of programming, and jointly review data from previous summers.
- Hold regularly scheduled meetings, and consistent informal communication (email, phone, face-to-face contact).



Thriving Partnerships Have

Partner Staff Collaboration

- Partnerships should involve staff at all levels, from those who make decisions in program design to those that are responsible for implementing and running the program.
- All staff work together to align program activities and coordinate services for youth.
- Strategies such as joint training, team-teaching, co-facilitation, shadowing, and mentoring are discussed and implemented.



Thriving Partnerships Have

Partner Communication Structure

- Partners must establish a clear means for exchanging information and sharing resources.
- Develop a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of each partner as well as the distribution of resources.
- Schedule regular planning meetings during the year and summer to address program implementation and management.

Joint Funding

- Pursue joint funding opportunities with partner organizations.



Thriving Partnerships Have

Family Involvement, Communication & Relationship-Building

- Families are considered primary stakeholders and there are both required and voluntary opportunities for families to participate in the program.
- Program communicates with families in advance of the summer program, at regular intervals during the program, and throughout the year. Families are given access to the complete daily program schedule.
- All staff makes an effort to learn the names of all parents and caregivers and greet them personally. All staff makes a regular effort to share positive information and constructive feedback with parents and caregivers about their child through both written updates and conversations.





Planning for Partnerships: Let's SUMMER Together



Approach Potential Partners

Do your homework

Know “who to know,” how funds flow, and where the dollars already go

Make friends

Expand your options and work together to influence allocations

Be creative

Don't change your mission, reframe it



Establishing Partnerships

- What groups do you plan to partner with?
- How would you best partner with those group(s)?
- What do you bring to the partnership?
- What do you need from the partnership?
- How do you reach those groups?



Developing a Clear Message

- ✓ Need for your program
- ✓ How your program meets that need (what it offers & goals / outcomes it achieves)
- ✓ How you know your program works (evidence & anecdote)
- ✓ How the partnership could strengthen you program
- ✓ How the partnership will benefit them
- ✓ Desired actions you want them to take



Action Planning Together

Let's SUMMER together framework

Set the Foundation

Unite as Partners

Mobilize to Action

Maximize the Resources

Evaluate the Model

Redefine Summer Learning





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