

2016 UCEDD TA Institute Enriching Cultural Efforts: What's in Your Toolbox? March 3 - 4, 2016

Session Notes

Theme: Personnel & Trainees

Objective: Establish collaborative relationships and share resources across the network.

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Part 1 of Session

- What works?
 - Collaborating with private organizations (who have more money) can be a useful strategy.
 - Centralized and regional training and collaboration may be a more efficient approach to sharing basic materials (ex. What is the DD Act? Materials), may make the money go further.
 - The creation of a database of what resources are available across the network might be useful. Sorted by place, content area?
 - NIRS is supposed to do that, but people do not feel it is meeting their needs.
 - Staff capacity and work scopes can be a limitation. Money was spent trying to maintain a collaboration rather than providing the service. Collaboration can be that one ball that makes everything drop.
 - Utilize the AUCD UCEDD TA team more to help identify collaborators.
 - Whose product is it causes issues. AIDD measures by deliverables. Making someone else's fact sheet means you can't list it in NIRS. UCEDDs need to get more comfortable using each other's resources. AIDD might need to restructure how deliverables are measured? AIDD should let UCEDDs count shared resources as dissemination.
 - Maybe translating each other's materials could count towards deliverables, particularly by added community involvement in translation.
- It was a challenge, but we figured it out by...
 - Our UCEDD tried hiring a translator. Unfortunately they were not culturally competent to the local community and the flyer didn't make sense when it was released. Involving the community lead to a more useful product.

- Are people responsive to each other?
 - Sorting AUCD digest by topic might be easier for directors.
 - AUCD should talk about the people who are working on products, not just the products themselves.
 - Webinars on what UCEDDs are working on might also be useful. There could be follow up discussions on who wants to join a project.
 - Some feel there is webinar overload.
 - Webinars aren't interactive enough. If we're the ones presenting, it's great, but the people listening are less engaged.
 - People tend to be more collaborative when they are together at meetings, but when they go home to their own UCEDD's, collaboration trails off.
 - We're very collaborative when it doesn't have to do with money.
 - For states with 2 UCEDDs, competing against each other means that your fellow UCEDD loses something. Similarly with territories vs. states.
 - Small population means grant amount may not be scaled appropriately.
 - If ACL has grants coming out, why doesn't it require that UCEDDs work with other UCEDDs? May be a way to help smaller UCEDDs distribute funding more effectively.
 - Collaborating can sometimes lead to unequal results. Private institutions in particular sometimes promise a lot but don't deliver.
- What's still a challenge, and what can we do about it?
 - UCEDDs are undergoing an identity crisis.
 - Collaboration doesn't have to be at the UCEDD level. Individuals in the UCEDDs can collaborate.
 - Mentorship may be a solution to this?
 - TA should provide more reminders that collaboration, especially new collaboration, is important, useful, viable.
 - Maybe collaboration itself would be a good focus for a future TA Institute or meeting.
 - A poster session that features UCEDDs could facilitate collaboration.
- What do you want to leave this group with after this discussion?
 - How can we better collaborate?
 - How can we improve information dissemination?
 - How can we partner more effectively and without it eating our budgets?
 - How do we find collaborators?

- People at conferences would gather at tables by topic areas. That may have been effective in the past.
 - Unhappiness expressed about posters in the most recent AUCD poster sessions. Posters were in a side room, few people looked at them.
- How can we be most strategic?

Part 2 of Session

- What works?
 - Act Early could be a good model. The listserv is very active, everyone in the network chips in. Less duplication, more sharing.
 - LEND has been a good collaborative program.
- What was a challenge, but we figured it out by...
 - The annual meeting is a great place to meet collaborators.
 - If you have a place in your budget that's duplicative, collaboration is good because it allows centers to spend money on other projects.
- What is still a challenge, and what can we do about it?
 - There seems to be a network of programs that collaborate. If your predecessor wasn't keyed in to that collaboration or you're new, it's hard to break in. How can we do better with that?
 - Funding is shrinking. Duplication often happens because of competition, expertise doesn't get shared.
 - UCEDD Director listserv isn't necessarily useful. SIG listservs vary in usefulness. Some are more active than others.
 - Listserv overload is also a problem. It's hard to follow everything.
 - ACL is inconsistent in reinforcing collaboration between DD Act partners too.
 - There often isn't enough time to put a grant together through collaborative process. Collaboration takes longer.
 - Collaboration should be facilitated more and on a macro level.
 - We could highlight collaboration at the national meeting. If someone is new to the network, they might not know it's OK to ask about collaboration. We need to model that collaboration is an OK thing to do.
 - There's so much going on that finding the time to collaborate is hard.
 - Sometimes there isn't enough time to find funders.

- AUCD should put calls out on available funding. Our regular emails about grants are really helpful, but they don't cover private foundations. Andy and Michael have personal connections that can be leveraged. Can we add private foundations to the email?