

2015 TA Institute Navigating the Currents of Change



Session Date/ Time: March 26, 4:00 pm

Session Title: Collaboration and Funding Relationships between AIDD partners

Note Taker's Name: Dawn

General Discussion:

Review collaboration language in DD Act

HHS secretary reports on collaboration Q2 yrs

Aren't true measures of collaboration

Councils develop 5 yr state plan, including comprehensive review & analysis, including collaboration with network partners in state & other entities.

Annual reporting – Councils report on collaboration with 1) UCEDD, 2) P&A, 3) both, and 4) other entities

Review DD Act language of 5-year plan of UCEDDs complement 5-year plan of Council & P&A

Core grant includes description of collaboration, PPR includes report on collaboration and how DD network jointly identifies issues facing PWD & families, and collaborates to support them

Examples of Different Collaborations/ Relationships

1. Collaborate together on self-advocacy, the group has made significant progress in past 3 years. UCEDD contributes 20% FTE to support SA. UCEDD is part of one of PNS SA project
2. UCEDD, DD Council, P&A all financially support to employ state advisor for self-advocacy group – People First of Nebraska. UCEDD gives \$ for travel to SA meetings. Boards of all 3 network partners meet annually, execs meet monthly. Committed to People 1st of NE to provide curriculum for SA and advisors – looking for resources for more than policy, also self-advocacy, self-determination, etc. DD Council used to fund more projects, but stopped that, felt it wasn't fair for trainees or academic staff to compete against other community partners for DD Council \$. Also conflict of interest to sit on council and be funded by council.

3. Multiple levels of collaboration. There is a response cost to collaborating on too many things – reporting, tracking, assessing. Get involved in planning, prioritizing, programmatic goals, plan to complement and avoid overlap. Pick a project of common interest, bring unique elements to table, constrained (manageable), can run over time. Currently training SA to train first responders. Have used this model for 15 years.
4. Funded by DD Council on competitive grants. Is innovative funding that fed, state funders don't put \$ to. Ex: abuse/neglect, self-advocacy. Provides UCEDD with opportunity to plant seed with something to move forward. Donna sits on council, recuses self during vote, don't participate in formulation of RFP.

Sheryl – most Councils have processes in place to manage conflict of interest. Unique in role to bring critical people to the table, and give them money. If Council members compete for \$, how does that impact ability to be at the table to discuss issues?

5. Developed project around training for direct support staff that led to becoming general practice. When constrained from applying for Council funds, restricts innovation. Felt expertise felt foreclosed.
6. Differing interpretation of “conflict of interest” across networks. Might recuse self from setting priorities if thinking UCEDD might apply to that priority.

Sheryl – collaboration and granting/contracting are separate things. Good to keep them separate.

7. Set up collaborative effort on other project, no bidding, no competing, DD Council provides funding as part of collaboration without RFP. Sheryl clarifies that this should not happen, should not be a line item in DD Council budget. Must be part of a systems change project.

How to ensure Council member doesn't benefit financially from membership – ex, not taking \$ from council-funded grant if grant goes to UCEDD.

Donna also talks about how funding from Council to UCEDD or P&A can keep ability of other community entities to enhance their skills in model demonstration project. If UCEDD has sole area of expertise in area that Council is funding, then seems OK

Questions/ Expected Outcomes:

How to navigate collaborative relationships with \$ on the line, conflict of interest, perceived conflict of interest

How to enhance collaboration with partners

Sole source contracts from Councils? If Council sits in state gov't (76% of Councils), then sole source is very difficult. Moving money from RFP to contract is slower than a snail. Easier mechanism to have MOU with UCEDD to move \$ through UCEDD to expedite project.

Do Councils have rules on conflict of interest? If in state gov't, then state rules/policy/law apply. DD Act takes it further to also reference "perceived" conflict of interest. AIDD stance is that UCEDD recusing self from vote is all that is needed (not taking setting priorities, writing RFP into consideration). AIDD considering developing guidance on this, clarifying what DDAct means in exchange of \$\$ between network partners.

What is gold standard of collaboration? There is none. Brainstorming: self-advocates need to be involved. Should not be 20/20 hindsight at time of report writing – needs to be forward thinking, intentional, regardless of personality conflicts. Also see promising practice identified by AIDD where all network efforts in a state were focused on the issue, no exchange of \$ between:
http://www.aucd.org/docs/urc/Promising%20Practices%20Final/2009_04_ga_childrens_freedom_initiative.pdf

Can be difficult to respond quickly and spontaneously to critical emerging needs.

The big issues don't change over 5 years time – can align efforts across timing of 5-year planning cycles. Is power in diversity of requirements. AIDD considering changed regulations.

Some other collaborations – personnel, space, trainee interns, other.

Need to focus on other more broad collaborations – not just DD network. There are significant limitations to what the DD Network alone can impact in their state – many other players are at the table who drive systems in states. CMS drives systems more than any other entity.

Need to collaborate as network in reaching out to all entities in state re: needs assessment. Great place for different network entities, skills, constituencies to come together to create something bigger.