

COLLABORATION CHALLENGES

Instructions: Prior to the training, cut out the statements below and put them in an envelope. Following the instructions on page 66 of the guide, select 20 volunteers to make two lines of 10 each (A&B), facing each other. Each person in Line A will select a statement from the envelope and read out loud one of the common frustrations to collaboration listed below. In response, the person opposite them in Line B will say "I can see why that frustrates you..." or "I can see why you feel that way..." followed by a personal statement offering a suggested solution, encouragement or alternative positive perspective on the circumstance.

Example: Line A: "Collaboration is impossible when you have too many cooks in the kitchen."

Line B: "I can see why you feel that way. Most of the time, the people on multi-disciplinary teams are leaders in their agency which means there are a lot of opinions to harness if you want to accomplish your goals. On the positive side, those are the same people who have the energy and ambition it takes to work together for a solution. Don't give up."

Task forces, coalitions or other multi-disciplinary team meetings are a waste of time because we rarely accomplish anything and none of us is paid to be there.

Working with service providers is frustrating because they won't cooperate with law enforcement investigations or encourage their clients to cooperate.

Communication styles create conflict in a group of various professions and we spend more time being defensive than working together.

Working with law enforcement is hard because they are insensitive and may re-traumatize the victims .

Collaborating with other groups or individuals is frustrating because no one wants to share resources. They act as if we aren't on the same team.

I find it difficult to speak up in coalition meetings because I'm the only one who sees a problem with the way things are.

Each group generally has its own agenda and pursues that agenda to the detriment of others' priorities.

We spend more time focused on working out the conflicts in the "coordination" of multiple agencies when we could be focusing on our primary responsibilities.

The task force/coalition/team has big goals but a lack of funding to accomplish them.

I can't trust anyone but myself to have the victim's best interests at heart.