

Blueprint for Effective Partnerships

1. Developing the Machinery and the Process

- A. Know what you want the partnership to accomplish
- B. Focus upon common objectives but recognize special interests and differences
- C. Goals and objectives need to be based on a solid foundation
- D. Make sure all partners feel they have a hand on the steering wheel.

2. Operating the System

- A. There needs to be a facilitator/coordinator for lasting partnerships to be sustained
- B. Implement a systems-focused approach
- C. Effective and open communications among partners and with stakeholders a must
- D. Spread the credit around for each achievement

3. Monitoring and Measuring

- A. Establish a baseline against which progress (or lack thereof) can be measured
- B. Periodically assess the impact of the partnership and the partners
- C. Reassess and strengthen the roles, processes, and output of the partnership
- D. Evaluate the impact

4. Make the Partnership Environment an Enjoyable One

- A. Learn how to laugh and “dance” together

References:

1. “Ten Principles for Effective Partnerships” presented by Phil Butler, President of Interdev, at the 1995 Church in the 21st Century” Conference.
2. “Principles of Good Community-Campus Partnerships,” developed by the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) Board of Directors, UCSF.
3. “Principles of Successful Partnerships,” developed by the Quilt Project—involving the Community Development Institute, Education Development Center, and the National Child Care Information Center.
4. “Guiding Principles for Partnerships,” Hawaii Medical Services Association.
5. Personal case histories of the presenters.