

Tensions of Turf- Making it Work for the Coalition

Activity

The Tension of Turf examines one of the harder issues of collaboration that often arises within coalitions, and offers recommendations to help leaders address this issue. *The Tension of Turf* was developed as a tool to help practitioners working within coalitions to identify, address, and manage turf issues.

Purpose: To strengthen skills in the areas of re-engaging partners and addressing challenges in collaboration. This activity will allow participants to “role-play” by putting themselves in the position of other sectors or disciplines they are seeking to strengthen partnerships with by 1) identifying that sector’s main interests, strategies and goals and 2) making the case you’re your efforts will be mutually beneficial.

Overall Instructions: This exercise will take place in two parts. You will work in pairs during each scenario and the groups will debrief after each scenario.

- **Scenario I-** One of the major activities in your HEAL workplan is a resident convening in which community members, with the support of the public health department, local school district and a trusted faith based institution, will prioritize strategies for the next six months. One of your central partners, a youth focused CBO with experience leading these types of events has been unable to attend the planning meetings and their role is smaller than originally planned which is an issue for all parties. How might this time-sensitive challenge be addressed?
- **Scenario II-** Your collaborative has made significant strides in engaging a small group of community members in your school-based healthy eating efforts. They’ve received multiple trainings and met with the district Superintendent and a number of school Principals, all of which has helped support your HEAL goals. However, one parent is now making the case that the group’s focus should be youth violence prevention and is encouraging the group to attend his/her meetings on the matter-which are scheduled on the same day and time as the regular HEAL Community Subcommittee meeting. What strategies might you employ to reinvigorate the strong collaboration that was taking place?

