

Forming a Community Coalition

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For the purposes of my school counseling internship, I formed a community coalition. This coalition was created as part of the development and implementation of counseling curriculum at my internship site. We took the following steps, and found that our experience was viewed very positively by most of the participants.

? **Identify the issue/concern**

In our case, we selected harassment, intimidation and bullying.

? **Interview stakeholders and community members for coalition membership**

? **Select coalition members**

We had two counselors, an assistant principal, two staff members from the sheriff's office, two community members, three students, and two members of a local non-profit domestic violence/sexual assault prevention group and shelter.

? **Undergo coalition process**

Coalition Process:

✘ **Coalition Meeting**

Clarify the issue/concern

Determine coalition process

Determine the roles of coalition members

Between Meetings

Research theoretical basis for curriculum

✘ **Coalition Meeting**

Sort through research

Select theoretical basis for curriculum/institutional basis and expectations

Between Meetings

Research activities/materials for curriculum

✘ **Coalition Meeting**

Sort through research

Select activities/materials for curriculum

Between Meetings

Pre-test the population using the curriculum

Implement the curriculum

✘ **Coalition Meeting**

Interview coalition members about activities/materials for curriculum

Between Meetings

Post-test the population using the curriculum

✘ **Final Coalition Meeting**

Re-interview coalition about outcomes/provide results of assessment

After Final Coalition Meeting

Thank you notes

Notes: Not all coalition members attend all meetings. Be prepared to evolve through the process. Look for unlikely coalition members in order to see that disenfranchised segments of the population are included.

Tips for involving coalition members: Ask for equal participation, ask authoritative members to hold back, ask members to step outside their traditional roles and expectations, explain the relevance of the issue to coalition members, trust them, ask for their creativity, contact members frequently, and thank them.