





# Collaboration is the Key to Success

Counties with well-functioning collaborative groups are more likely to achieve population level change and sustain evidence-based prevention and intervention programming. Chances are your county has several collaborative groups that meet monthly or quarterly. Use this quick guide to check the quality of your collaboration and to identify ways to get more out of these meetings.

Characteristics of a Well-Functioning Collaborative		What part can you play?
	<p><b>Clear Communication:</b> Members are kept informed of meeting dates and given agendas ahead of time Meeting notes are taken and distributed Processes are in place for regular sharing of outcomes data, and community level indicator data, including PAYS data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ask to have evidence-based programs become a standing agenda item</b></li> <li>• <b>Share data with the group regularly:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Outcomes</b></li> <li>○ <b>Model fidelity</b></li> <li>○ <b>County statistics</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Task Focused:</b> The mission of the collaborative is clear Decisions are <b>data driven</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make your desired outcomes clear</b></li> <li>• <b>Justify requests for support with data</b></li> <li>• <b>Show how your request fits with the overall mission</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Strong Leadership:</b> Frequent participation from upper level agency &amp; county management and county policy makers Multiple-leaders: power does not sit with just one individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Attend regularly</b></li> <li>• <b>When you cannot attend send an empowered representative</b></li> <li>• <b>Identify who is not at the table and recruit them</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Social Cohesion:</b> Members relate positively towards one another Members feel safe sharing successes and barriers Meetings are solution focused</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keep communication solution focused</b></li> <li>• <b>Be willing to share successes and challenges</b></li> <li>• <b>Expect to give and get support</b></li> </ul>

## Looking for more information about building a strong collaborative group in your county?

Two EPISCenter staff specialize in the Communities That Care (CTC) model, a well researched and proven strategy for building collaboration. For more information contact Dr. Liz Campbell, Interventions Program Coordinator, at [ecampbell@episcenter.org](mailto:ecampbell@episcenter.org) or (717) 508-4778.

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