



Resource Mapping: Identifying Community Partnerships



Resource Mapping: What is it?

A method to begin to link regional, community, and school resources with an agreed upon vision, organizational goals, and specific strategies for addressing problems and expected outcomes so that youth and families have access to the full array of service that they need

(“ISF Tools At A Glance”, Susan Barrett)

Why Resource Mapping?

- Helps to better organize the heterogenous resources and assets that are available within a larger system into a standardized, understandable, and centralized format
- Provides community partners, school staff, families, and youth with more flexibility, autonomy, choice, and a better understanding of the resources and services that are available within the school and larger community

(“ISF Tools At A Glance”, Susan Barrett)

Activity 1

- Find the Broad Brainstorming section on page 1 of the Community Partnerships: Resource Mapping handout
- Complete Table 1: Community Partnership Brainstorming (work together with your district colleagues if they are in this session with you)
- List every community partnership that you know exists within your school district and describe the current connection
- Also make note of any shared goals or common vision that may exist between your district and

Existing Committee Membership

- Many administrators in school districts, including the superintendent, sit on community groups and committees
- Often school staff are unaware of this community connection and involvement
- This current relationship between district administrators and community can be leveraged for further collaboration

Example: Early Childhood Spec Ed Supervisor at ISD

- Served as 1 of 2 educational representatives on a county-wide Building Stronger Communities Council
- Vision was to “build and support a stronger, healthier, and safer community
- Mission was to “develop and maintain interagency support and collaboration in order to foster and safeguard a comprehensive and effective human service network to improve and enrich the quality of life in XYZ County”

Example continued...

- Group met monthly and included such members as chief of police, juvenile court judge, youth probation officer, board president of hospital, director of district health dept, director of local community mental health office, city councilman, and director of economic alliance for county
- Great opportunity for strengthening relationships with other community partners; this administrator hosted monthly brown bag lunches for her staff with different agencies in order to learn more about what services they provided

Activity 2

- Find the Superintendent/Building Administration Committees section on page 3 of the Community Partnerships: Resource Mapping handout
- Complete Table 2: Administrative Membership in Community Committees
- When finished writing down what you know exists, complete Table 3, assigning team members to talk with each administrator to gather information about their committee membership and community partners with whom they have a connection

Existing Entities with Community Partnerships

- There are entities within the school district that have already created strong partnerships due to the nature of their work
- We need to uncover these connections!
- We can leverage these well-developed relationships to broaden the district connections and collaboration with these community partners

Example: *Early On* Michigan

- *Early On* services are coordinated by each ISD/RESA in Michigan
- Each service area is required to have a Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC), which includes community agencies, such as health department, hospital neonatal staff, and community mental health
- The relationships established through the LICC collaboration can be built upon for collaboration within the district

Example: School Social Worker

- The school social worker in a school had established a good working relationship with a local youth probation officer who had a connection to a youth summer camp
- The district had a desire to offer summer programming to support a handful of students who had been identified as “at risk” behaviorally
- The district leveraged the SSW’s relationship with the probation officer, who then used his camp resources to work with the district to develop summer programming

Activity 3

- Find the Existing Entities with Community Partnerships section on page 4 of the Community Partnerships: Resource Mapping handout
- Complete the tables for *Early On*, Great Start Readiness Program, Local SSW/Counselors, MSU Extension, and Local/County/State Police Departments
- Make sure that you have someone assigned to gather information listed on each table

Searching for Further Connections

- The more community partner connections you uncover, the more questions you will have
- There are many agencies that you may want to ask questions of, such as Parks and Recreation departments and service clubs (e.g., Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Elks)

Activity 4

- Find the Searching for Further Connections & Next Steps section on page 9 of the Community Partnerships: Resource Mapping handout
- Complete each tasks listed in this section and put a checkmark in the box when completed
- Project staff will float around to check on your progress