

TITLE: The Power of Neutral Conveners: Multi-sector collaborations to improve community health

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Governmental public health, non-profit boards, academicians, local public health accreditation, hospitals, coordinated care organizations, federally qualified health centers, behavioral health organizations, policymakers

ABSTRACT: A number of public health system partners have requirements connected to Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP). Approaching this work collaboratively maximizes both efficiency and community impact of the work, but competitive relationships between partners can be a significant barrier. Jackson and Josephine Counties conducted a process to produce a collaborative regional CHA and CHIP which involved all of the regions Coordinated Care Organizations, hospital systems, and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Key to the success of this effort was the use of a neutral backbone organization and core leadership team comprised of representatives from multiple neutral organizations. This presentation will contrast the most recent regional CHA/CHIP effort with past efforts, highlighting the unique and important role of neutral conveners in the process and presenting specific tools neutral conveners can use to build successful collaborative partnerships between competitive entities for the purpose of community health improvement. These efforts resulted in a community of organizations excited to advance the collaborative work of public health and improve population health outcomes in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Neutral conveners have important opportunities to support partners in efforts to reduce disparities and improve population health outcomes.

OBJECTIVE(S): Define neutral conveners and explain their role in collaborative health improvement planning and implementation. Design frameworks that support multi-sector health improvement planning and implementation.
