

COMMUNITY COORDINATION & COLLABORATION

Formerly listed as 'Systems Coordination/Collaboration'

Definition	<p>Developing and maintaining professional partnerships with programs, agencies, organizations, key stakeholders, and culturally specific groups in the community that serve or otherwise impact survivors; such partnerships may be formal (such as a Sexual Assault Response Team or a Coordinated Community Response Team), or informal</p>
Goal	<p>To promote consistent, inclusive, comprehensive, survivor-centered services for survivors and co-survivors of sexual violence in the community</p>
Minimum Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the various organizations in and surrounding the community that serve or otherwise impact all survivors (including those from communities that have been under-resourced and underserved) • Sharing information and resources, as appropriate, with other programs and organizations in order to provide the most effective services to survivors and co-survivors • Speaking with collaborative partners on a regular basis to discuss best practices, barriers to service implementation, gaps in services, and strategies for effective collaboration; includes documentation of meetings (i.e. minutes), if applicable • When possible, memoranda of understanding should be developed with collaborative partners to formally define each partner's responsibilities in responding to survivors in the community • When possible, protocols should be established with collaborative partners for responding to sexual violence in the community, and to formally identify each partner's role in supporting survivors

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Program Checklist

1. Group Participants

- Staff member(s) who participate in systems and community coordination possess the following:
 - Demonstrated knowledge/expertise in dynamics of sexual victimization and the needs, concerns, and rights of survivors; includes completion of all training and continuing education requirements
 - Extensive knowledge of the Program's mission, structure, and function
 - Extensive knowledge of agencies and entities in the community that provide services to/interact with survivors
 - Authority (bestowed by the Program) to make decisions and recommendations on behalf of the Program
 - Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a group/team setting, including excellent communication skills, meeting facilitation, and professionalism
 - Demonstrated knowledge of the components of Systems and Community Coordination & Collaboration
- Ideally, the community in which the Program operates has, or develops, a formal Coordinated Community Response Team (may be titled Sexual Assault Response Team [SART], Sexual Assault Advisory Committee, etc.), including the following partners:
 - Rape Crisis
 - Law Enforcement
 - Prosecution
 - SANE/SAFE/forensic examiner
 - Social service providers
 - Mental health providers
 - Campus representative (if applicable)
 - Survivors
 - Culturally specific organizations
 - Other entities, as appropriate for the specific community
- In addition to being representative of the groups listed above, collaborative groups also reflect the cultural diversity of the community in which the Program operates
- If a formal collaborative group does not exist in the community, the Program actively and consistently pursues coordination/collaboration with professional partners through meetings, memoranda of understanding, and/or other forms of deliberate and direct communication

2. Purpose and Basic Tenets

- The overarching purpose of collaboration is to improve both system and community responses to sexual violence survivors in the community; all

activities of any collaborative group work from this basic mission

- Basic tenets/principles of collaborative partnerships include:
 - Adherence to a shared vision
 - Trust and mutual respect
 - Continuity of active membership/personnel
 - Open, honest, and professional communication
 - Commitment to problem solving and compromise
 - Regular meetings/communication
- Tasks of the collaborative partnerships include:
 - Meeting regularly to discuss strengths and challenges to survivor response, and strategies for improving response; may include case review (with appropriate protocol for confidentiality)
 - Developing/revising protocol and guidelines for a standardized response to sexual violence survivors in the community
 - Providing interdisciplinary training/sharing of knowledge
 - Promoting/facilitating community education regarding sexual violence and the response to it
 - Developing memoranda of understanding, protocols, or other formal agreements regarding the provision of specialized services to survivors
 - Maintaining regular communication among partners, including the distribution of meeting minutes (if applicable) and other communications as appropriate

3. Policies

- Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) are developed and signed by members of the collaborative partnership, defining the role of each partner
- Protocol outlining the frequency of collaborative meetings, composition and duration of membership, and goals/deliverables of the group
- A confidentiality policy describing the sharing of case information among the group, as appropriate, and the agreement not to share information outside the group
- Protocol for reviewing the work/accomplishments/shortcomings of the group; may include community surveys, focus groups, listening sessions, etc.
- If an individual is hired to coordinate the collaborative group, a protocol exists outlining specific duties and other personnel considerations

4. Evaluation

- The collaborative partnership/group maintains meeting minutes accessible to all group members, if applicable
- The collaborative partnership/group seeks feedback from the community about response services for survivors and efficacy of the group through needs, asset, and/or readiness assessments; other feedback surveys; focus groups, or other methods