

Partnership for Results

Goal: Foster positive youth development through the implementation of a continuum of evidence-based programs.

About Partnership for Results: Partnership for Results (The Partnership) is a model of local governance designed to make system-wide improvements in Cayuga County, New York as a step toward improving outcomes for vulnerable youth. The Partnership was formed in 2000, after a wide-ranging community assessment conducted with the support of a federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant from the helped public agency leaders recognize that they were often serving the same children.

Collaboration Model: The partnership is a quasi-governmental, 501©3 organization, with its own professional staff and a board comprised of the directors of the County's youth-serving systems, including social services, health, education, law enforcement, and juvenile justice. This leadership structure and team allows the partnership to:

- *Use a data-driven decision-making process, including regular evaluation* – The Partnership, guided by data and regular evaluation, selects evidence-based programs to implement in the community.
- *Implement protocols for collecting data across agency lines* – Agencies use a common consent form and new operational principals and legal structures to aggregate data for the purposes of assessment, treatment planning, and service coordination.
- *Establish joint fiduciary responsibility to braid funding* – Shared fiscal responsibility in a sustainable structure has allowed the Partnership to braid many sources of funding in new ways to support programs that address multiple adverse circumstances affecting children.

Promising Practices used in the collaboration:

- *Fostering cross-agency awareness and providing cross training* – The Partnership forms a single point of integration through its database and interagency expertise and conducts cross-system training and provides technical assistance to agencies on an ongoing basis.
- *Focusing on sustainability from the start* – Multi-agency involvement in the selection, implementation, and monitoring of evidence-based programs ensures that programs continue to be supported and maintain efficacy over time, even in the face of leadership turnover.

Lessons Learned by the collaboration:

- *Develop instruments and databases designed to meet your need* – The Partnership developed and validated new screening tools and assessments because available tools were not sufficiently interdisciplinary to meet the comprehensive needs of their multi-systemic model.
- *Engage stakeholders to manage relationships and conflicts* – A consortium of community stakeholders meets regularly and provides advice to the Board, which has helped community-based organizations to continue to communicate easily with the public agencies that were essential to their ongoing activities.
- *Actively manage the change process* – To reduce negative reactions from stakeholders when replacing long-standing programs with evidence-based versions, the Partnership and their committed staff maintain responsibility and re-direct blame away from public leaders.

Be sure to check out the *Research to Results Brief* by Child Trends on the Partnership for Results: *Evidence-based Programs in Action: Policy and Practice Insights from a Success Story*

Learn more at youth.gov/collaboration-profiles/partnership-results