



WI FACETS

WISCONSIN FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER
FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING & SUPPORT

Leading by Convening: Developing Family Partnerships

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What is Leading By Convening?

- Developed by IDEA Partnership with OSEP Funding
- Many stakeholders including Council of Special Ed Administrators and National Association of School Psychologists
- “Blueprint for Authentic Engagement”
- Format: Booklet with supporting activities

Success Story

- Rural district in Manchester, GA
- Declining test scores, absenteeism, low parent involvement, low graduation rate & high turnover

Success Story

- Principal created “Circles of Adults Focusing on Education” (CAFÉ)
- Funded by Georgia SPDG – GraduateFIRST initiative
- 4th year -
 - Regular ed graduation rate went from 60 to 94.7%
 - Special ed graduation rate went from 28 to 63%
- 5th year – award from state for highest percentage meeting or exceeding standards

Success Story

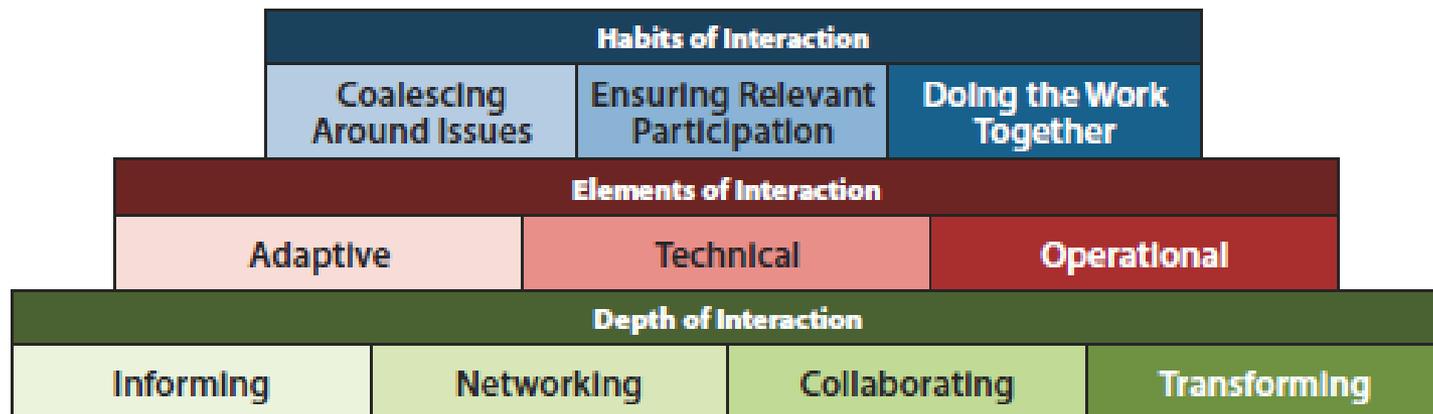
- CAFÉ used Dialogue Guide & Communities of Practice
- Created community awareness of situation
- Next, created academic support initiatives and mentorship programs, homeroom monitors, FBI (Fathers Being Involved)
- Able to focus on social issues impacting students beyond normal school capacity



*“Together, we switched
from a defensive
position to an offensive
one” – Principal
Medders*

The Partnership Way

The Partnership Way Leading by Convening



Depth of Interaction

- **Informing** – Sharing or disseminating information with others who care about the issue.
- **Networking** – Asking others what they think about this issue and listening to what they say.
- **Collaborating** – Engaging people in trying to do something of value and working together around the issue.
- **Transforming** – Doing things The Partnership Way (leading by convening, cross-stakeholder engagement, shared leadership, consensus building).

Day one - September

- Coalescing Around Issues
 - Identify technical and adaptive challenges in schools
 - Supporting changes in our people and our organization
 - Examining our mission, vision, values & norms
 - Outreach and trust building

Day one - September

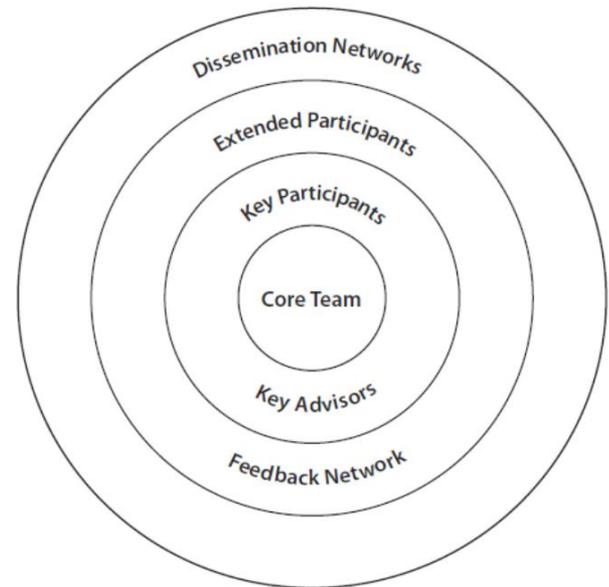
- Activities
 - Experts unite
 - Change management & Implementation
 - World Café
 - Seeds of Trust
 - Stakeholder identification

Day Two - October

- Ensuring Relevant Participation
 - Identifying & engaging the right stakeholders
 - Changing our expectations for meetings
 - Elements of ensuring relevant participation
 - Moving participants to partners

Day Two - October

- Activities
 - Mapping your networks
 - Developing a shared vocabulary
 - Data and Confidentiality Workshop
 - What's in it for me?
 - Invitation design



Day Three - November

- Doing the Work Together
 - Focus on quality interactions between members
 - Develop purpose & structure of the group
 - Begin action plan development

Day Three - November

- Activities
 - Unbundling our problems
 - Action planning: building engagement
 - Defining our core
 - Onboarding training

Day Four - January

- Bringing it All Together
 - Learn family perspective of serving on decision-making group
 - Increase family member confidence and competence to be a decision-maker
 - Evaluate individual & group progress

Day Four - January

- Activities
 - Participate in Serving on Groups Curriculum with chosen family members and apply learning to the work of your group
 - Further develop action plans

How will this help us meet our goals?

- Teams need assistance to welcome family members onto their teams
- Adding family members onto the team is only the beginning
- Family member engagement must be authentic in order to achieve positive outcomes

How will this help us meet our goals?

- Leading by Convening is **scaffolded to create readiness**
- Teams are allowed to ease a family member(s) on **while**
- Being held accountable to progress to deeper levels of engagement
- Gives tools for sustainable change



QUESTIONS?