



Positive Community Relationships Examples

Community Resource Fair

Invite various community providers such as food banks, mental health agencies, child placement agencies, school systems, and advocacy agencies for a one-day event. The event offers agencies the opportunity to communicate their mission and services to the wider community audience. As the convener, the agency will invite exhibitors, arrange for logistics, invite community participation, solicit media coverage, and conduct other activities to make this community event a success.

Visits to Each Other's Agencies

Find out more about community partners by scheduling visitations and tours of community facilities. Reciprocate and invite the community partners to your agency for a tour as well.

Excerpt from WRRRP SMARRT Manual. Butler Institute for Families. (2006). *Strategies Matrix Approach to Recruitment & Retention*. Denver, CO: Author.

Cross Training

In CDA, Idaho Child and Family Services (CFS) is not only educating staff about trauma and providing training on trauma-informed practices, CFS is also training all the providers, CASA volunteers, and other community members. CFS partners with the faith-based community and has in place the "One Church One Child" program. CFS also trains/educates churches about the impact of trauma so that church members understand the impact that a history of trauma has on the family/child.

Community Connections Poster

Use Google maps to make a map of your community. Use colored pins to locate contacts in the community. Use colored wool to connect the contacts. Aim to have a complex social network web.

Job Expectation

The Administrator of CFS in Idaho is a champion of being in front of the community and sends a strong message to all staff about involving and educating the community in and about their work. Staff are expected to present and work with the community by participating in activities such as:



- Going to churches/faith-based community agencies to talk to members and explain the work of CFS
- Meeting with a local coffee shop owner to explain Family Group Decision Making meetings and why they are important, asking owner if they can hold FGDM meetings at the coffee shop, and how they can help.

Partner with Local High Schools

Since 2011, the Child and Family Services program (CFS) in CDA, Idaho has participated in a partnership with their local high school to the mutual benefit of the school and the agency.

Senior high school students are required to complete a "Senior Project" in an area of interest they might want to pursue in a college setting. The students who come to CFS are required to complete 15-20 hours in their placement and then write a paper. Students spend the 15-20 hours observing work, going with the worker on a family visit or during visitation (with the family's permission), attending court hearings, etc.

CFS stays connected with those students after graduation, sending emails, seeing how they are doing in college. Through this partnership the agency has created a positive impression of CFS and its work for the school, the students and school guidance counselors, as well as a career path for future workers.