

Building a PAMI Coalition: Purpose and Function

Parenting Awareness Month Indiana Coalition

PURPOSE: Local PAMI coalitions bring diverse people and resources together, for a focused and systematic approach to increasing parent education and involvement in the community.

FUNCTION: In a PAMI coalition, individuals and organizations retain their identity but agree to work together to achieve local Parenting Awareness Month Indiana goals, during the April initiative.

POSSIBLE FUNCTIONS FOR A PAM COALITION:

- Setting local priorities
- Planning events
- Providing a forum for community issues or concerns
- Creating awareness about or ensuring ready access to parenting education and resources
- Working with the media
- Getting information to local organizations
- Involving more parents and community members
- Advocating for policies that support parents

POSSIBLE COALITION MEMBERS:

- Parent organizations and networks
- Faith communities
- Businesses
- Civic organizations and clubs
- City councils and county commissions
- Local public health, mental health, social services, substance abuse services
- Youth organizations
- Law enforcement, judicial systems, juvenile justice
- Neighborhood organizations
- Child welfare organizations
- Senior citizen programs
- Schools kindergarten through college
- Health care providers and hospitals
- Child care centers
- Community leaders
- Local media

CHARACTERISTICS OF COALITIONS THAT WORK:

- Clearly defined and agreed upon operating procedures; democratic decision-making
- Clear and agreed upon goal—both short term and long term
- Facilitative leadership and delegation of responsibility
- Meaningful roles for everyone; clear definition of roles
- Processes for bringing closure, for evaluating efforts, and for revising or renewing mission and goals
- A coordinating “headquarters”
- Good communication—within the coalition and with the community
- Responsiveness to community input
- A working relationship with media
- A collaboration mentality, which includes:
 - **Focus** – setting aside turf issues to accomplish a common goal.
 - **Trust** – believing others will do their part and do it well and will let you do yours.

