

Ignite! Getting Your Community Coalition “Fired up” for Change

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Ignite! Getting Your Community Coalition "Fired Up" for Change is a concise, user-friendly book that was created precisely for community practitioners, leaders and activists who want to build and sustain innovative organizations and coalitions to improve the health and well-being of their communities. The elements that make strong coalitions are essential for building any solid organization, scout troop, club, or neighborhood association. That is why Ignite! appeals to volunteers and professionals who are ready to build and sustain innovative organizations and community coalitions that change policies, systems, and environments. In Ignite! building and sustaining a coalition is compared to planning, building, fueling, and sustaining a campfire. The book's four parts-Before You Build It, Build It, Make It Work, and Sustain It-are filled with useful tools that will spark ideas and resources to "fire up" any community for healthy, lasting change.

Part 1: Before You Build It

This chapter describes the definition and purpose of a community coalition. There are useful tools included throughout this chapter for assessing if a coalition will work for your community.

Part 2: Build It!

This chapter gives you the tools to build your coalition. There is information on the different types of governance, leadership, and multiple templates to help a coalition fit to its goals and resources. This chapter also talks about recruiting a diverse population of members and what is necessary to retain membership. The end of this chapter (pages 58-59) lists several resources with more information on coalition building coalitions, including the author's website, www.coalitionswork.com

The Community Tool Box website: www.ctb.ku.edu is a great resource for building tools and templates on building community coalitions.

Part 3: Make It Work!

This chapter outlines the six steps to developing and sustaining a community action plan. Throughout the chapter are tools for choosing coalition issues and prioritizing strategies. Pages 88-90 are a tool to evaluate what to do when things go wrong. The end of the chapter, pp 92-96, has resources for community assessment, planning, and implementation. There is a great website for creating logic models: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/evallogicmodelworksheets.html>

Part 4: Sustain It!

This chapter explains sustainability and has useful tools for evaluation of your coalition's efforts. It also addresses how to evaluate the effectiveness of the coalition and when to decide to disband the coalition. Pages 125-130 give many resources for evaluation. Pages 130-131 give resources on sustainability.

Copies of this book are available to WA State CAM Coalitions upon request through the Medical Home Partnership Project. Contact Amy Carlsen for more information at carlsa@uw.edu