

Week 3: Effective Coalition Leadership

Discussion Forum: Locate a state or national coalition advocating for your approved healthcare policy concern. Who are the coalition partners and is there an identified leader? Can you identify successes indicating strong leadership? What can you add to the content for your upcoming interview from the work of this coalition?

The writer's chosen healthcare policy concern is based on the opioid epidemic and how it affects vulnerable populations in Wake County, NC. A statewide coalition known for advocating for the opioid crisis in NC is known as the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC). This organization is committed to transforming drug policy, employing harm reduction interventions, introducing public health tactics, and influencing justice reform (Reynolds, Causey, McKee, Reinstein, & Muzyk, 2017).

There are several coalition partners working together to form a common goal of transforming the opioid epidemic in NC. The coalition partners include a Board of Directors and staff members labeled as prevention specialists, outreach specialists, program managers, case managers, administrative coordinators, case managers, and executive directors. There are also key contractors working within the coalition including a medical director, outreach workers, special law enforcement project consultants, and policing consultants.

The executive director of the organization provides strong leadership skills that enables members of the team to work together to reach the common goal of ending the opioid epidemic by advocating and providing resources for those individuals that are affected by drug abuse through harm reduction activities. The NCHRC mission and vision of the organization, along with the programs success in providing harm reduction strategies signifies that strong leadership skills and organizational skills are present. In 2016, NCHRC effectively advocated for legalizing syringe access programs, which made NC the first state to make these programs legal (Cloud, Castillo, Brinkley-Rubinstein, Dubey, & Childs, 2018). The program has also allowed for over 60,000 kits containing the reversal drug, Naloxone to be distributed with over 10,000 kits being used in reversing the effects of overdose (Kansagra & Cohen, 2018).

The research performed on the NCHRC can aid in the development of content used in the writer's upcoming interview with the county commissioner Mrs. Adamson. The NCHRC aimed at preventing overdoses through the inclusion of a overdose prevention project (OPP) that was created to prevent deaths by educating individuals that abuse drugs about what an overdose looks like and how to respond if one is witnessed (Reynolds et al., 2017). This information and the other successful solutions provided through this program can aid in my solution of educating providers on key prevention efforts, along with identification of risk factors to protect vulnerable populations. The inclusion of preventative efforts offers the ability to prevent a problem from occurring in hopes to decrease the negative effects that the opioid epidemic has already caused. The writer will use the information provided via implementation of multiple preventative efforts with a focus on education to decrease the deaths associated with overdoses that occur in vulnerable populations.