
Team Member Engagement

It can be difficult to retain membership on a CCR team for a variety of reasons. In rural areas where there is only one judge, it may be nearly impossible to pull this person away from their docket to attend a two hour meeting each month. Or, a school counselor who regularly attends meetings may find that many of the conversations are centered around the criminal legal system and are not relevant to her job, so she dismisses the committee altogether. It can be easy for teams to slip into a mindset that having a representative from an agency or system at the meetings is a successful recruitment effort simply because they “came to the table.” It can be helpful to consider other ways in which members can maintain involvement with the team without having the responsibility of regularly attending meetings.

Regular Members – Regular members attend and actively participate in the CCR meetings. Often the information discussed at the meetings directly pertains to those in the “regular member” category.

Ad Hoc Members – Members brought in for a specific purpose or project. An example could be bringing in a representative from the Area Agency on Aging to identify gaps in serving victims of elder abuse. They may attend for a short period of time to help write protocols and provide input on how to best serve older victims, but when their expertise is no longer needed for that purpose they may no longer attend.

Subcommittee Members – Larger teams may find that having a subcommittee structure works best to keep everyone engaged, because members can decide which committee’s focus interests them the most. Subcommittees typically meet separately from the larger CCR and develop their own working goals. A representative from each subcommittee is a “regular member” of the full CCR and acts as a conduit between the two entities.

Specialty-focus Members – Some communities have found it successful to have periodic meetings focused on particular agencies or systems. For example, two meetings a year might be dedicated to inviting all of the police chiefs from local jurisdictions in the county. Issues that come up throughout the year which would best be addressed by a response from that level of authority would be tabled until these meetings occur. This can also be useful for developing consistent responses across systems simultaneously. Perhaps all of the police chiefs come together annually with the CCR team members to go over their DV arrest packet and make modifications as necessary to improve the odds of successful prosecutions. The changes can be made and integrated across all jurisdictions at once.