Characteristics of Effective Coalitions

Effective Regional Coalitions have . . .

1. **Capable, credible leadership** with access to elected officials and community leaders. Able to build needed relationships, work together to set priorities, make decisions, implement plans, and hold partners and themselves accountable for achieving their objectives.

2. **Effective governance and decision-making structures** that enable the coalition and its workgroups to gain credibility among local, regional and state system partners by demonstrating transparency, engaging diverse communities, and setting and implementing priorities.

3. **Distributed leadership and action with clear roles** across executive leadership structures, a Coordinator, and other coalition workgroups and committees. Leaders represent and bridge multiple sectors, racial and ethnic groups, and areas of the region.

4. **Authority/influence** and ability to allocate, guide and change the way services are planned, delivered and customized among partners.

5. **Credibility** that is earned by demonstrating transparency of decision-making, fairness, and value to the community and to members.

6. **Savvy system-building and community-building skills** that bridge systems, engage communities, and influence regional and state systems and services.

7. **Effective relationships** and active engagement with:
   - *Regional Early Learning System Partners* (such as, K-12 schools, health, child care and early intervention) who work together to build effective systems and improve child and family outcomes.
   - *Families and providers* to learn and understand what works and what needs strengthening, and to create solutions and course corrections.
   - *Communities of color and low-income communities* to identify barriers, and create effective strategies for improving the learning and development of children who are furthest from opportunity.

8. **Ability to gather and use anecdotal and quantitative data** and measures to guide priority setting, program/system improvements and accountability.

9. **Establishment and revision of strategic direction** through analysis of useful anecdotal and quantitative data, fair and transparent decision-making, and use of a multi-year Action Plan that guides coalition action and connects local, regional and state priorities.

10. **Effective cultivation and engagement of champions** among the general public and elected officials to mobilize support for regional and statewide goals.

11. **Simple multi-level regional communication protocols/mechanisms** to understand emerging issues and offer insight to deliberations.