

Open Answer Summary Responses 5.28.09

[Please note, these are direct survey responses. No grammar or writing has been revised]

Q1. In your opinion, what is working best for the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking?

- Movement of organizational development process. Finally have mission and structure. On the verge of moving from forming to norming/storming and accomplishment of community changes on alcohol.
- Guidance from dedicated leadership.
- The coalition needs to use the SPF. And bring law enforcement, and media to table in their collaborative efforts.
- The name of the coalition
- Collaboration among service providers and working together toward reducing UAD in GA
- I only receive communication from the state level, nothing locally or regionally.
- They are a favorite of their funder/s. They have the potential to be a hub of information and resources for communities addressing underage drinking.
- The diverse group of individuals that attend meetings and participate in the process.
- Maintaining the membership it currently has participating in the coalition meetings; the meetings have been moving along their specific timeline very efficiently (THANK YOU!)
- The leadership has a good grasp of issues. The problem is one which is clear. People will follow strong leadership. Staff is wasting time by not finding leadership persons who they can work actively with.
- Members are working in collaboration with one another
- The Georgia Summit to Prevent Underage Drinking. The Coalitions participation in Town Hall Meeting, and information dissemination. The RASS Project and special attention to counties in Georgia that are target areas for Underage Drinking.
- Early efforts to bring various agencies together for a common cause; networking among members has enriched statewide collaborations.
- good group with good intentions
- Excellent core leadership
- The fact that there is a coalition for underage drinking means that the communication works well. It is a difficult message to sell.
- I am very new to the coalition so I am not aware of all the activities the coalition is involved in. Therefore I cannot give an opinion on what is working best for the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking.
- The development of leadership and subcommittee teams. Define the mission and the way in which business will be conducted.
- continued mention of ability to work together and hear each other

Q2. In your opinion, how can the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking be improved?

- Continue implementing organizational development...i.e. fill board positions, establish working committees, determine objectives and policy agenda. Determine 1-2 realistic policy objectives/goals and mobilize stakeholder support for a policy win.
- If ownership can be fostered among the different members across Georgia, and more active leadership by members and committees, I think the Coalition can improve effectiveness.
- Continue to follow recommendations of members spelled out in our meetings. Look for applicable funding.
- Better leadership
- More involvement from rural area, better conference call system, and more represent from Hispanic community
- Organize, focus, and hire people without hidden agendas.
- The coalition should partner with community groups already making progress on reducing underage drinking, and be part of a team rather than a hierarchy.
- Greater grass roots and media advocacy.
- use Constant Contact to reach out to the state, move the meetings around the state so it is convenient for others that do NOT live in Atlanta, utilize key influential figures in the state, provide resources to those who do participate (give us something that makes it worth being part of the coalition)
- Leadership needs to be identified that can spend the needed time to advance the goals of the coalition. Volunteer members are too absorbed in their own agencies, etc to be considered for active leadership roles. The paid staff need to be generating more proposals for action, generating commitments with government and business leaders, etc. It will not work to look to a volunteer board for sustained active leadership.
- Keep making efforts to get the word out
- They are currently doing a very good job.
- Follow through on committee formation/meetings has been sketchy.
- funding by joining existing group
- Key stakeholders (power decision makers) need to be enlisted.
- I think, continue to support grass roots education efforts and state advocacy.
- SAA
- Connect with local/county resources that already exist to broaden the reach and effectiveness of the message. Schedule meetings and events in a way that is more geographically accessible.
- Continue to bring all the players together and identify what issues will be addressed initially.
- be even more specific with roles

Q3. In the space below, please provide comments or suggestions regarding future directions for the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking.

- Keep going, don't stop - create an insiders club, throw a wide net, use the power of a plan, take it to the street and make some noise!
- Taxation policy work, increase in penalty for provision to minors, grassroots work to further limit alcohol advertising in grocery/drug stores/convenience stores, youth mobilization across Georgia.
- Better leadership
- To ensure the schools and department of education get involved w/ the Coalition
- Comprise the coalition of member representatives of communities working on underage drinking prevention and partner in local efforts. The organization receiving the funding is acting as if it is the coalition rather than a facilitator of coalition-building. It should be almost invisible to the process.
- Provide a more visible and vocal presence to impact public policy within Georgia.
- This is a repeat, but I feel that the staff have been trying too hard to get volunteers to step forward and become a board that makes decisions. Coalition members are not ready for this role. They want a strong staff to prepare action steps, come with recommendations, and then carry out the actions. Success or failure rests with the staff, not with the board.
- The Coalition should try harder to recruit members and provide educational material to existing coalitions.
- More parental involvement
- Many communities operate at the lowest level of underage drinking advocacy. The economic crunch will bring additional pressure to local govts and maintaining a presence that offers a positive educational message will position the coalition to grow in respect and interest.
- SAA
- Make sure that membership is given meaningful projects to work in order to keep interest up in the UAD cause.
- clarifying role of the initiative and the coalition