**What’s the Key Ingredient for a Successful, Sustainable Coalition?**

A diverse group of **people** working together to achieve a shared vision.

**People in successful collaborative partnerships believe change is possible and goals can be achieved.**

**Coalition members belong to or are connected with at least one of the systems in the checklist.**

**A sustainable coalition has a core team of at least 3—the backbone of the coalition. They’re knowledge-keepers, connectors, and champions.**

**Among the members are people:**
- With decision-making authority.
- Connected to others with influence knowledge.
- With first-hand experience as a family caregiver or care recipient.

The number of meetings people attend is **not** a reliable indicator of successful collaborations. A better indicator is the quality of the relationships within the group.

**The coalition’s most productive work usually happens outside of meetings.**

**Different sized groups work in different ways. Pairs and threes work well for focused tasks to be brought back to the larger group. Four to 10 work well generating and refining ideas. More than 10 brings a diversity of great ideas and influence, but larger numbers may inhibit reticent members from participating, and leadership struggles are more likely.** ([www.faculty.londondeanery.ac.uk](http://www.faculty.londondeanery.ac.uk))

**WHO are the people in your coalition?**

Your coalition should include or have strong connections with people in the following systems.

- Make sure each box on the left can be checked.
- **Personal experience with respite**
- **Professional knowledge of respite**
- **Political clout and connections**
- **Decision making power**

- ✓ Faith communities
- ✓ Private sector non-profit organizations
- ✓ Private sector businesses and employers
- ✓ Volunteer organizations and clubs
- ✓ Health care sector
- ✓ Children’s, aging, and disability groups
- ✓ Education community
- ✓ Charitable foundations
- ✓ Philanthropic individuals
- ✓ Legislators and other policy makers
- ✓ Veterans and military families

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