



Collaboration Experiences in Multisectoral Networks For Vulnerable Youth: A Multiple Case Study

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AIDES: WHAT IS IT?

AIDES Action intersectorielle pour le développement des enfants et leur sécurité (intersectoral action for children's development and safety)

Aim To improve collaboration between professionals and organizations concerned with the well-being and safety of children

- with complex needs
- who are neglected or are at risk of being neglected

Innovative practice

- Systematic approach for professionals concerned with the child's situation
- Practical tools to discuss with the parents, child, and partners
- Implemented in six catchment areas, province of Quebec, Canada
- Modelled on British Common Assessment Framework



BROADER ASSESSMENT

Purpose Better understand the challenges related to intersectoral partnerships and effects on meeting children's needs

Case studies

- 6 catchment areas
- 24 families





PRESENTATION

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How does the AIDES initiative support the teamwork of partner organizations?



METHOD

- Multiple cross-case study
- **Cases:** Six local health and social services networks implementing AIDES

Coordinating committee members	Practitioners in field
Focus group (pre/post)	Telephone interviews (post)
44/59 members (pre), 40 members (post)	49 people
<u>Topics discussed</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ History of partnerships prior to AIDES✓ Actions to be taken✓ Conditions for effective implementation✓ Progress in collaboration	<u>Topics discussed</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Experience✓ Acceptability of AIDES✓ Relevance and added value✓ Winning conditions for continuation
<u>Analysis</u> Qualitative content analysis of all material Summary per area, comparison of summaries	



FINDINGS

EXPERIENCES COMMON TO ALL AREAS

1. Recognition of relevance and added value of AIDES initiative
2. Challenge of getting crucial sectors on board
 - Schools, community groups, health services
3. Reform of health and social services system
 - Hindrance or opportunity





FINDINGS

UNIQUE DYNAMICS IN EACH AREA

Conditions for implementation

1. Prior partnership among committee members and backdrop to setup
2. Familiarity with and adoption of AIDES
3. Partners on board and participating on committee
4. Relations between institutions and community organizations on committee

Intensity of committee activities with regard to AIDES

Changes in field in relations between partners attributed to AIDES



False start, followed
by step backward

Promising start, then
stagnation

A good start,
followed by uncertain
developments in
committee, but
promising in field

Despite divisions,
small steps forward

Initial challenges,
followed by
promising take-off

Clear progress

FINDINGS

UNIQUE DYNAMICS IN EACH AREA





DISCUSSION

AIDES AS A SOCIAL INNOVATION

Rome wasn't built in a day—and neither was AIDES!

Stages

1. Exploration of needs and options
2. Decision to introduce innovation
3. Site preparation and program setup
 - First focus group
4. Initial implementation
 - Second focus group & phone interviews
4. Full operation
5. Sustainability

(Aarons et al., 2011; Durlak & DuPre, 2008; Fixsen et al., 2005; Rogers, 2003)



DISCUSSION IMPLICATIONS

1. Continue activities to support the implementation of AIDES
 - Active committees with a diversity of members and a motivational leader
 - Offer practitioners clinical coaching
2. Count on tangible support of management of organizations
3. Translate AIDES principles in terms of various partners' missions
4. Develop culture focusing on children and individual and social responsibilities to them



CLOSING REMARKS

AIDES is perceived as **useful and relevant** to encourage teamwork

Changing practices takes a long time!

The **way the AIDES initiative helps** support collaboration **varies**

- from one catchment area to another
- from one level (committee and field) to another within the same catchment area

Current challenges in field

- Maintain and develop expertise respecting AIDES
- Keep AIDES going against backdrop of major reform (sustainability)