

Combining – Identifying the Team's Common Ground

Directions

- Assign a (or continue with the same) Facilitator and Recorder
- The group starts the discussion by reviewing the SWOT category list of 10 – 15 Strengths
- To start the discussion, ask: Which of these items are common as a strength to ALL of the agencies represented on the Core Team?
- Use the Additional Questions to the right to keep the discussion moving rather quickly
- Make revisions and edits as necessary.
- Eliminate or add items as agreed.
- Keep the focus on your Team's common ground
- Use 'Fist to Five' as needed to check for consensus
- Try to end up with about 4 statements. If there are more than 4, agree on the 'top' 4
- Repeat this discussion with Weaknesses and then Opportunities and Threats, ending up with about 4 in each factor category.
- Write the top 4 statements in the appropriate cell on the SWOT Analysis Worksheet (see example)

Facilitator Tips

- You will need: The 2 SWOT charts completed in the previous activity and the SWOT Analysis Worksheet
- Additional Guiding Questions:
 - Can some be combined with each other?
 - Should some be restated or clarified?
 - Are there some that just do not fit and can be eliminated?
 - Are some less relevant to serving transition youth and can be eliminated?
 - Are there ideas not included that should be?
 - Other questions?
- The top 4 items represent your Team's collective strengths and will be critical for your Team to use in strategically crafting powerful goals that have a likelihood for success and that address the root cause of problems and barriers.
- Keep the original SWOT lists. Your team will want refer to and update them as goals and strategies are added to your plan over time.
- SWOT items can lead to new problems to analyze for root cause, using the 5 Whys.