

TOOL #14: BRINGING BOARD MEMBERS TOGETHER

It is important for Board Members of the merging organizations to come together to build rapport and trust. There are many ways to bring Board Members together, from working on joint projects to social gatherings. This list may help you decide on an event or events to help both sets of Board Members work together and feel comfortable with one another:

- Joint meeting to help craft the vision for the merger
- Joint meeting to discuss the merged organization's new mission statement
- Smaller working meetings of analogous board committees to craft language for the MOU or another such task
- Joint meetings to discuss drafts of the MOU
- Attendance at annual meetings of each organization
- Attendance at fundraising events of each organization
- Dinner, lunch, drinks, or coffee at a mutually accessible location
- Tours of each other's programs and facilities
- Joint volunteer events
- Joint staff presentations on programs
- Social gatherings held at each Board Chair's home or other location
- An externally hosted team-building exercise