S.A.R.A. Model

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Steps	Details
1. SCAN Define the problem	Gather together enough perspectives so the group can look at the problem from different angles, but keep the group small enough to avoid what has been sometimes called "analysis paralysis." Be sure to note subtle differences in the way participants define the problem. For example, everyone may agree that the drug house is a problem, but what aspect causes the most crime and fear of crime: the mid-level drug dealers selling to the smaller dealers at the house? The burglary and auto theft around the neighborhood caused by the buyers? The young kids being recruited as lookouts? These differences can affect how the group will study and take action.
2. ANALYZE Study the problem This can become the most important step in problem solving.	Take time to look at some of the root causes of the problem. For example, street drinking is a problem, but a root cause could be the availability of large containers of beer. However, avoid tracing the problem back to root causes that can't adequately be addressed in a partnership agreement. One could argue the root causes are poverty or lack of education, but these do not have short-term solutions. Identify the who, what, why when, how: who is creating the problem? Why are they selecting this neighborhood or this business? When is the problem occurring? How has this problem been addressed in the past? Given this information, what conclusions can be drawn?
3. RESPOND Take Action Consider documenting the action plan in a partnership agreement	Actions generally take one of three forms: **Enforcement:** target worst offenders for arrest, create new ordinances (Specified Crime Property/drug house ordinance), create new regulations (drug free zones), ask for tougher sentences, set conditions for parole and probation. **Engineering:** add lighting, cut shrubbery, install stop light, use photo radar, change the hours a business operates, get the business to agree not to sell items (graffiti request not to sell spray paint to minors), create a hotline (drug house reporting, graffiti reporting). **Education:** publish problem solving information to the community, conduct community workshops, teach neighbors new prevention skills (landlord training), teach citizens how to log drug house complaints (no buy search warrants), conduct press conference to publicize efforts, propose new laws to legislators, lobby agencies to provide new or enhanced services.

| 4. ASSESS
Evaluate how well the actions worked | Identify how often the group agrees to follow up on this problem (every sixth months? Every month for a year? Every week for three months?) Identify which actions were completed, which ones are still in progress and which ones were dropped or can't be completed until additional resources are added, and evaluate which actions were effective at helping to resolve the problem. |

(The S.A.R.A. model was developed by Eck and Spellman (1987) in conjunction with the U.S. National Institute of Justice and Newport News Police Department.)