Office of Citizen Involvement

MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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MEMORANDUM

FROM: Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC)
FORUM: CIC Workshop at Northwest Public Employees Diversity Conference
WORKSHOP TITLE: Strengthening Foundations of Community Partnerships-Why and How It's Done
SUBJECT: Summaries of Panelist Presentations
WORKSHOP DATE: October 25, 2011

Sean Suib, New Avenues for Youth

1) Establish a common framework for practice and shared values (we use a fidelity scale to track how close we are all getting to the ideal practice).

2) Establish common language between organizations to define key terms and check shared meanings (i.e., tool-use cultural guides to ensure common meanings of staff, consumers, stakeholders).

3) Establish common goals/metrics (i.e., use a logic model to memorialize agreed activities, outputs, outcomes). Share use of data when possible.

4) Leverage each other's strengths.

5) Know when to compete and when to collaborate (put consumers needs above agency needs).

6) Establish decision-making structure. This involves creating procedures for clear decision-making, accountability and an opportunity for input.

7) Invest in relationships, which take time and serious commitment to build, but pay off with the abilities to leverage and create synergy in the future.

Shalonda Menefee, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI)

1) Research, seek out, meet and introduce yourself and your program to agencies that work with the same client base you also serve. Have the other agencies share what they do too.

2) Share ideas for what you each need, and explore ways that you can benefit one another. For example, we provide a service connecting to community agencies and we focus on communities of color, and I know most agencies want to reach communities of color. Consequently, we have something to exchange that benefits both of us. We also try to establish partnerships that will allow for providing warm referrals, set asides, and priority services.

3) Hold quarterly resource forums with community agencies that either work with the same client base or provide services helpful to your clients. This gives you an opportunity to learn about other programs as well as to share your own program.

4) Use the quarterly resource forums as a basis to create resource teams. From the quarterly forums we formed a resource team of about eight or nine organizations who come together once a month, and discuss ways we can support one another's outreach efforts as well as provide referrals to one another. We discuss and brainstorm solutions or options for clients who may have challenging situations. We find ways to maximize our resources and leverage funding that can help each of our programs be successful. In the future, we will begin sharing our resources during outreach events. We have already created a purpose, mission, and vision statement.

Holly Whittleson, SE Works

1) Before seeking partnerships, conduct a needs analysis, identify areas of expertise that are required, develop a plan, and reach out to organizations that have the same vision.

2) After identifying potential partners, ensure both of you are clear about objectives and why you are partnering. This means identifying a common vision and purpose.

3) Build on each other's strengths and identify communities the partnership can reach.

4) Develop trust by being open and honest.

5) Be clear about partner roles and responsibilities.

6) Communicate openly and be prepared to resolve differences when they arise.

7) Develop and define the management model you will use (cooperative, collaborative or integrated).

8) Identify how decisions will be made (consensus, autonomous or vote).

Becky Black, Oregon Outreach

Also focus on building collaborative efforts with others who may not share your organization's same goals or ideas. This is hard. It means potentially crossing political lines to advocate for your clientele even when no one else seems to see the need or wants to put their resources there.

Ebony Lawrence, Oregon Health & Sciences University

Resources that the Center for Diversity & Multicultural Affairs can provide in terms of building partnerships:
- Academic success strategies
- Annual Health, Science and Engineering Career Conference
- Internships: Cure Program (high school students only) and Equity Summer Research Program (undergraduate students only)
- Academic advising/student support
- Scholarship list

- Campus visits
- Cultural competency lectures series
- Diversity and multicultural events

Please visit our website for more information: www.ohsu.edu/academic/diversity! I look forward to talking to the conference attendees more in regards to building partnerships.