



**WORKSHOP: *Forming Strong Inclusive & Multicultural Partnerships.***  
*Discover New Partnerships during Collabro-dating*  
**HOST:** Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee  
**SETTING:** 2012 NW Public Employees Diversity Conference  
**DATE:** October 30, 2012

## **SUMMARY OF TIPS FOR FORMING STRONG INCLUSIVE & MULTICULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Shawn DeCarlo, Metro Services Manager at Oregon Food Bank (OFB)**

contact at: [sdecarlo@oregonfoodbank.org](mailto:sdecarlo@oregonfoodbank.org) or 503-282-0555 x2263

- 1) Identify priority groups using data analysis and community surveys.
- 2) Take advantage of existing community assets, especially community groups serving priority groups, when identifying potential partners.
- 3) Build on ground relationships with community groups when working with both new and existing partners.
- 4) Build impactful programming by being evaluations-based, culturally specific and inclusive.  
OFB action steps based on priority group data:
  - a. Seniors— roughly 14% of Oregon's population are seniors, but represent only 7% of those served by emergency food boxes.  
Response: *Harvest to Home program provides supplemental fresh produce to those who need it by delivering directly to seniors' homes.*
  - b. Kids— roughly 22% of Oregon's population is aged 17 and under, and represent 34% of those served with emergency food boxes.  
Response: *knowing that children are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, create programming in schools (e.g., backpack programs, school pantries) since that's where kids are located.*
  - c. Veterans— 20% of households receiving emergency food report at least 1 veteran living in their household.  
Response: *partner with programs serving vets.*
  - d. Communities of color— roughly 22% of population in Oregon is non-white and receives about 27% of those services.  
Response: *continue to partner with agencies that provide culturally specific services (e.g., Native American Youth and Family Association, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Black Parent Initiative).*

### **Tonisha Toler, Outreach Specialist at Regional Arts & Culture Council**

contact at: [toler@racc.org](mailto:toler@racc.org) or 503-823-5866

- 1) Think about the internal needs of your programs and identify qualities you seek from partners as well as qualities you may have in common.
- 2) Expect that building partner relationships is a slow process.

- 3) Take innovative and creative approaches when building partnerships. Think about working through resources and partners you already have when seeking new partnerships.
- 4) Be direct, honest and genuine with potential partners.
- 5) Actively participate in diversity outreach trainings and multicultural events at which you may be able to identify new partners. Also consider sponsoring multicultural events with them.
- 6) When conducting outreach, publicize accessibility to diverse populations and underserved communities. This includes:
  - a. demonstrating willingness to use translators and translate documents (e.g., use press release to publicize);
  - b. actively meeting with organizations and resources that are already connected with and have had success with multicultural communities;
  - c. connecting with leaders in those communities;
  - d. holding meetings off-site in these communities at times when people are available;
  - e. running service announcements in non-English newspapers;
  - f. doing outreach using grassroots tools like posters and postcards with appealing images to target particular audiences. Do outreach in places where your target audiences may frequent, like beauty salons and churches.

**Serena Stoudamire Wesley, Coalition for Communities of Color**

contact at: [crm3@aol.com](mailto:crm3@aol.com) or 503-889-6079

- 1) Understand what the work is going forward.
- 2) Remember you are mentoring each other.
- 3) Decisions are made collectively and sometimes you won't agree, but you must support your partnership and trust the relationship.
- 4) Remember communication is key.
- 5) Help each other clarify the direction.
- 6) And remember the WHY.....



**Multnomah County Office of Citizen Involvement**  
Reach us at: (503) 988-3450 or [citizen.involvement@multco.us](mailto:citizen.involvement@multco.us)  
[www.citizenweb.org](http://www.citizenweb.org)

*Keep track of us on Facebook at Office of Citizen Involvement - Multnomah County and Twitter at MultcoCitizens!*