

Community Collaborations

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BEST Conference

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What are we doing here?

- provide tips on how to form community collaborations
- identifying people who have an **interest** in community issues, bringing **stakeholders** to the table around an issue
- working with people in the community to form **relationships** based on **values** and **shared vision** rather than strongly held positions.

The Next Hour of Your life

- **Reviewing approaches & tools:**
 - **Systems based - How we understand “the problem”**
 - **ABCD- Asset Based Community Development – tool for growing strong collaborations**
 - **Appreciative Inquiry- tool for getting to the heart of our strengths and values**
- **Share our collective wisdom**
- **Wrap up and share!**

Why collaboration?

The social, economic, and political issues that we confront as citizens are interconnected, as are their causes and effects... Collaborative problem solving in the context of work, family, and community both addresses public issues and helps citizens gain experience with the process of negotiating differing perspectives and recognition of shared values." – Dr. Alan Knox

What is collaboration?

Systems based approaches

help us understand WHEN collaboration makes sense and evaluate HOW to best intervene

Systems thinking: The art of seeing the world in terms of wholes and the practice of focusing on the relationships among parts of a system

Systems and Collaborations

Characteristics of a functioning system

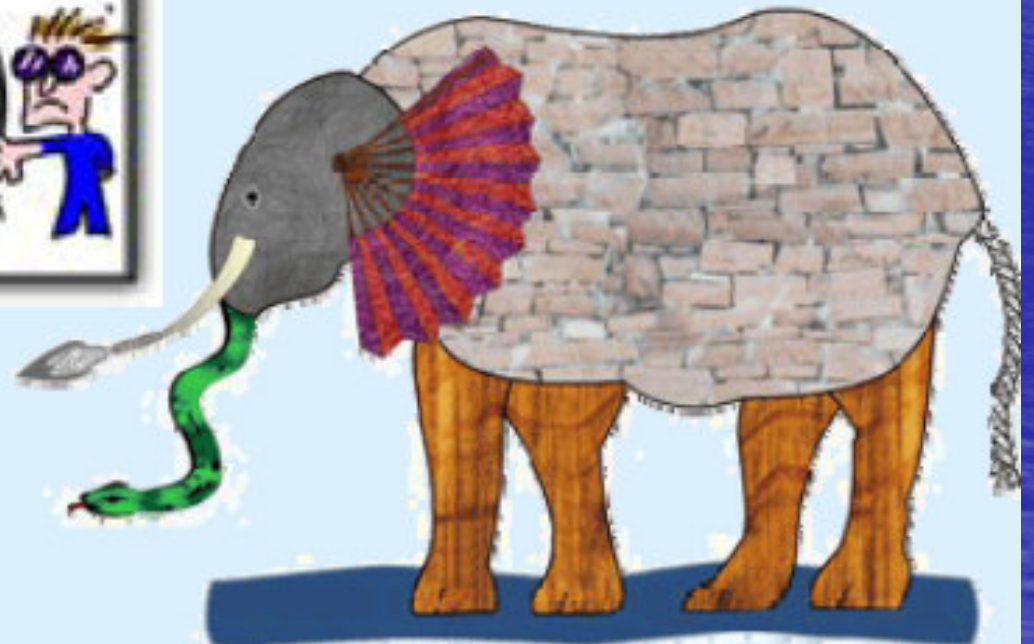
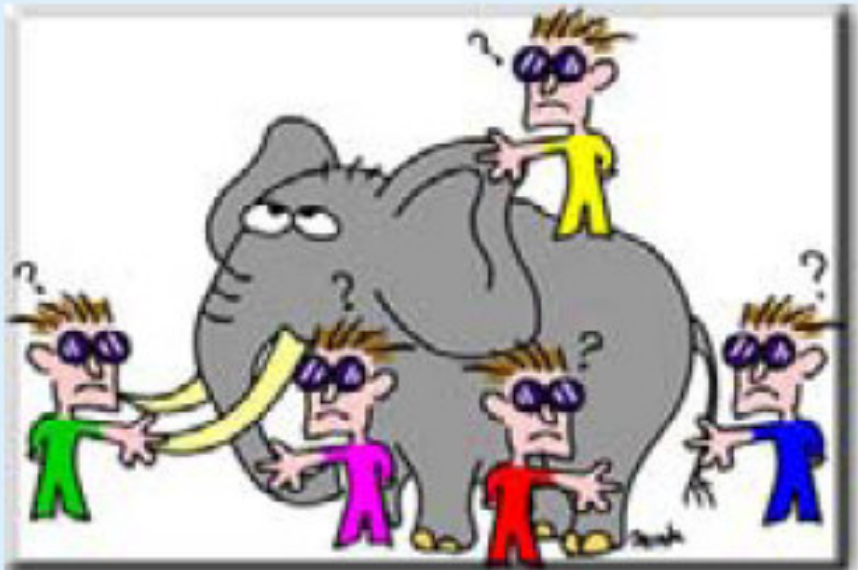
- They have a purpose
- Parts are interconnected- give and take
- Parts must be arranged in a certain way
- All parts must be present

Characteristics of successful collaborations

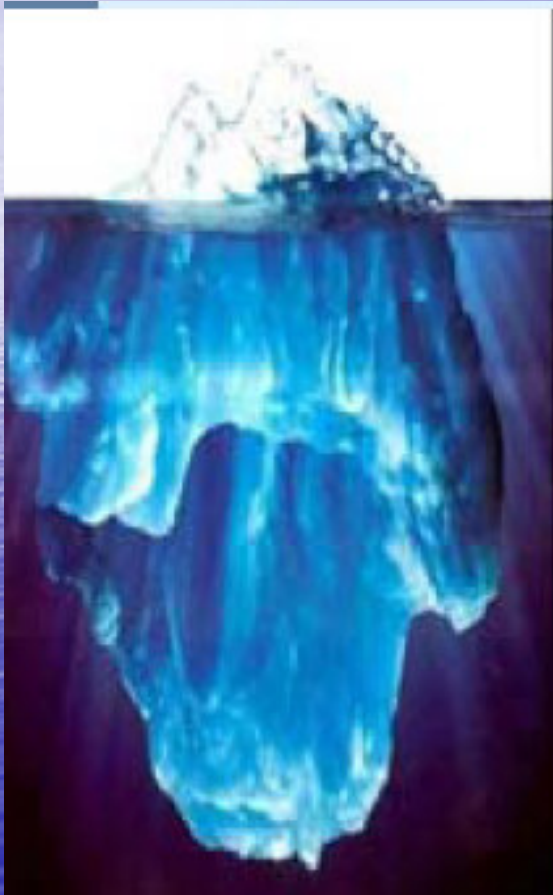
- Shared mission
- All parties bring something of value- mutual benefit
- Clear understanding and focus
- All stakeholders at the table



Systems thinking is learning how to see the whole!



How do we know if our issue is a systems issue?



Events: What just happened?

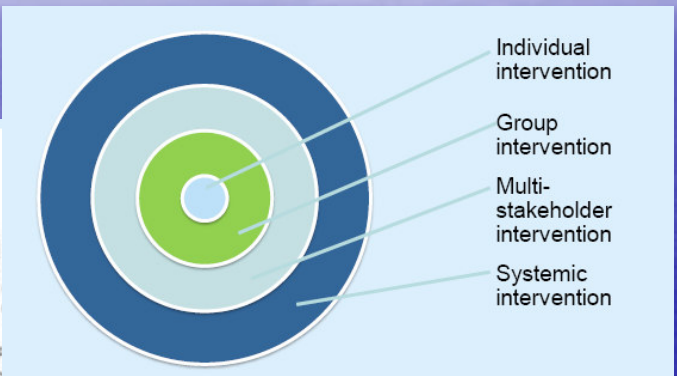
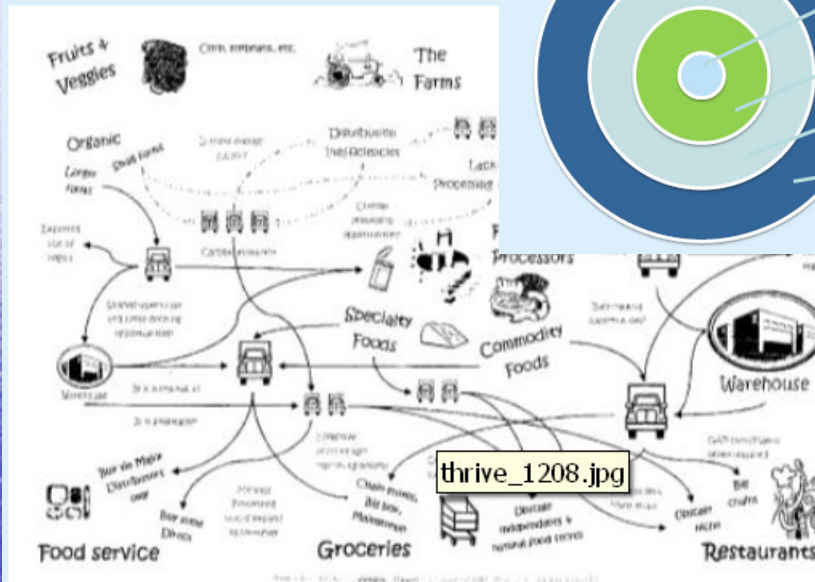
Patterns: What's been happening?
Have we seen this before?

Structures: What are the forces at play contributing to these patterns?

Mental Models: What about our thinking allows this situation to persist?

Maps help us understand relationships

Systems maps



Section I: An Asset-Based Framework to Explore Your Project 16

Your Community Asset Map

Now that you have completed the questions on pages 5-14 and have reviewed a sample community asset map (page 15), please fill in the types of assets that can be found in your community. Use the next page to connect these assets to your community based project.

Associations		Physical Space
Institutions	Individuals	Local Economy

Asset maps

Asset-based community & economic development

- **Assumes that** successful community building involves rediscovering and mobilizing resources already present in any community
- Is asset-based, internally-focused, and relationship-driven

Structures in ABCD

Individuals

Associations

Institutions

Physical environment



ABCD

"...finding and connecting existing assets is the most important work a community can do. And the more assets that are connected and mobilized, the stronger a community becomes."

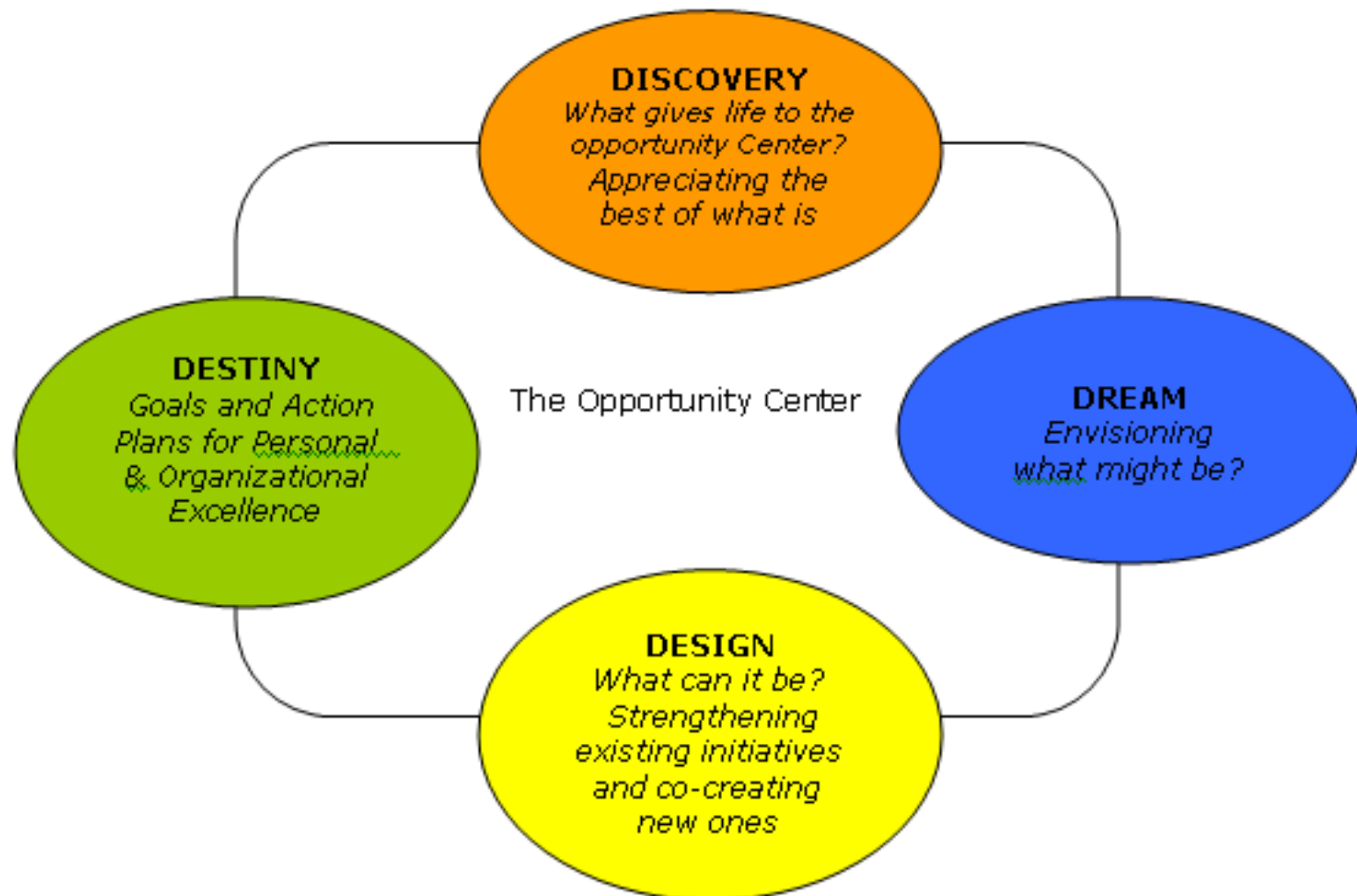
**ITS ALL ABOUT THE QUALITY OF
RELATIONSHIPS**

How do we grow more positive relationships in our work?

Appreciative Inquiry

- In every SYSTEM, society, organization, or group, something works
- People have more confidence about the future (unknown) when they carry forward parts of the past (known)
- We should carry forward what is best from the past
- There are many realities
- We value differences

Appreciative Inquiry "4-D" Cycle



Our assets are here!

- Sharing our stories
- Actively listening- ask for more information
- Hold your reactions and feelings

Choose someone to be the recorder (other folks can take notes, key words etc) and a reporter.
Everyone gets a chance to speak.

Questions for Discussion

- Question 1: Tell a story about an example of a successful collaboration. Where and when did this take place? What happened? Who was involved? What did you do? What did you think or feel? What made it so powerful and effective?
- Question 2: What is it about the group, association, business, or organization you represent that allowed successful collaboration to occur?

Sharing & Listening

- Our Stories and Reasons for success!
- Other examples?
- Community Leadership Program

Tools to Take Home

“Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization’s Capacity”- John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, Co-Directors ABCD Institute

References

- Asset Based Community Development Institute-
<http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/abcd/>
- McKnight, John. University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension CNRED Symposium 2009 Lecture
- Watkins, Jane Magruder. "Appreciative Inquiry For Organization Change: Theory, Practice, and Application." 2004.
- University of Wisconsin Systems Thinking Team Workshop Series: "Tools for Turbulent Times" <http://turbotools.wetpaint.com/>
- Rans, Susan A. "Hidden Treasures: Building Community Connections by Engaging the Gifts of People on Welfare, People with Disabilities, People with Mental Illness, Older adults and Young People" from the ABCD institute, John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, Co-Directors. <http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/abcd/>
- Knox, Alan. B. "Rationale for A Collaborative Strategy." Accessed at <http://www.education.wisc.edu/elpa/people/faculty/knox/futures.htm>
- Also referenced for presentation were lectures by Dr. Joseph M Sertich Junior, Kjell Knudsen, PhD, Dr. Alan Knox, and Dr. John McKnight.