



Working Differently - Working Collaboratively

Appropriate People + Constructive Processes + Good Information = THE BEST SOLUTION

The Collaborative Premise

“If you bring the appropriate people together, in constructive processes, with good information, they will create authentic visions and strategies for addressing the shared concerns of organizations and communities.” -David Chrislip, Collaborative Leadership

Why Collaboration?

“The civic culture in most communities is characterized by fragmentation, dissension, stagnation, gridlock, alienation, powerlessness, and burnout. We need to learn to include all people and work together to productively solve issues.” -David Chrislip

Leadership around most community issues is very difficult because:

- We don't fight the issues – we fight other people.
- We don't think we have the time to truly deal with the causes of the issue – only the symptoms.
- Shortsighted politics that are driven by need to elected.
- Hidden/different/ self-serving agendas.
- Losing sight of big picture – NO VISION.
- Turfism—we are jealous of others' success.....

So, These Times Call For the Practice of Collaboration

Setting Up for Success

1. Be inclusive – identify and convene appropriate stakeholders.
2. Be open minded and willing to reconsider your position.
3. Identify the REAL problem – search for the root causes.
4. Agree on processes for working together.
5. Gather information needed – make sure content reflects all concerns.

Working Together

1. Build relationships and the capacity to work together.
2. Practice listening and engaging others in dialogue.
3. Share information with stakeholders.
4. Understand the information content.
5. Analyze content – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, barriers.
6. Decide what needs to be done – use collaborative problem solving, visioning, strategic thinking.

Moving to Action

1. Reach out – build a broader constituency.
2. Engage with implementing organizations.
3. Facilitate the action.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

- *We listen*
- *We are Inclusive*
- *We are Open*