

Community Initiatives Group
October 17th, 2013
Meeting / Breakout Sessions'
Report

Introduction:

I attempted to categorize the statements from each group's flip chart sheets based on common theme/topic general categories. Topic categories are presented below in rank order determined by how many groups addressed that topic category. Some groups did not clearly address elements that could cause failure so it is fair to assume that not performing the listed features of success would cause failure. Where failure elements were called out specifically I have so noted. Statements below are very close to direct quotes from the sheets; some are modified for context.

Success, Sustainability or Failure Features / Components:

- **Purpose:** (Every group referenced "**Purpose**" in some way as an essential component.)
 - "Group must have a defined purpose."
 - "Be clear about purpose"
 - "Create a purpose statement of general principles for how to work together."
 - "Purpose/mission > same page 'same song'".
 - Group must have a "common vision".
 - Also includes concept of a "Compact"; a purpose and process MOU that participants would sign to create visible consensus.
 - Provides a "commitment to participate".
 - Also a "defined common vision".
 - "Must have a goal."

- **Inclusivity:** (Every group mentioned "**Inclusivity**" as an essential component.)
 - "Must be seen by community and participants as welcoming and inclusive."
 - Must be "transparent" and "unbiased".
 - Must be continually doing "Gap Analysis" and include "many diverse groups".
 - **Failure Item:** Mentioned by three groups as a component of failure if not inclusive or if group is viewed by community as being in any way exclusive or elitist.
 - "Focus on assets to build off > not gaps only".

- **Leadership/ Governance:** (Three of four groups referenced “**Leadership**” or “**Governance**” as an essential component.)
 - “A recognized leader is necessary.”
 - “Needs a home, not a leader – ensure community ownership.”
 - Agree that RAF can effectively “host” but not “own” the process/group.
 - Agreement with “Network Navigator” concept.
 - “Need organization to convene / ‘be backbone’”.

- **Process:** (Three of four groups listed “**Process**” items as key elements.)
 - “Consistent meetings for dialogue.”
 - Consistent model for conversation to acknowledge goals changing.
 - “We need something to organize us – can start with this – anything that keeps us talking is ++”.
 - “Light structure”
 - “Regularly scheduled meetings – predictability.”
 - **Failure Item:**
 - “Lack of Participation”
 - “Failure to attend and share info/data/plans.”

- **Outcomes:** (Two of four referenced expected outcomes as an essential element of sustainability.)
 - “Create value for everyone.”
 - **Failure Item:** “If participants do not see value of their time investment.”

- **Miscellaneous Comments / Notes:**
 (These comments do not quite fit into the general topics listed above and were mentioned by only one group.)
 - Data collection made available to all is a key purpose.
 - Media involvement is necessary.
 - “Has to influence an action > not directly this group but to create influence.”
 - “Organize around end result (topics) not existing structure.”
 - **Failure Item:** “If purpose is hijacked > strong players lead it somewhere to 1 or 2 areas.”
 - “Benchmark work that has already been done throughout model.”
 - “DMC cannot be the only driver for the community.”
 - “Can’t be seen as Mayo.”
 - “Can’t be open to ‘all comers’ (but must be inclusive) – Have to be able to contribute.”