

Conversations that Matter:
The art of mobilizing community



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Roundtable thinking

The follow flow chart outlines a simple sequence of community engagements designed to move from open discussion to the development of a concrete Policy statement that reflects the principles of full inclusion.

Imbedded in the process are questions for both in-person engagements as well as questions appropriate for social media that link the discussions with a broad community base of thinking.

These are facilitated sessions. For information on facilitation skills see the Skill Development section of this website

Each stage has different goals, model(s) of engagement, participant group and exploratory question(s)!!

Refer to Mapping Dialogue and Social Media and Digital Engagement Tools for options!

Stage 1 and 2

Stage 3 and 4

Community Engagement

Stage 1: In small groups talk with one another about what you feel contributes most to a vibrant and healthy social community!!!

- What elements are essential do you think?!!!
- What is most important for long term health and prosperity?!
- What values are reflected in your selection?!

Categorize the elements and record community values!

Stage 2: Join a group to examine one of the category of elements presented in the first activity!!!!

- What is the history of this community in regards to this element of social life?!!!
- Where are the strengths in our community in regards to this need?!
- How might we enhance our commitment in this area?!
- What new possibilities do you see?!!!

Follow with general debrief/closure/next steps!

Online Data Collection

Do what is appropriate to ensure community ideas are included in deeper discussions!

Weekly survey questions (local media and/or online) to parallel the unfolding process!

Stage 1: What do you think constitutes a healthy community?!

Stage 2: What are the social strengths of the community?!

Stage 3: What aspects of community life could be further developed? What do you want to see more of?!

Stage 4: In what ways might you become involved in building a more healthy and vibrant community?!

Facilitator training and Capacity building & (continuous)



Policy Formation/plans of action

Stage 3: Given what you have come to understand and the new possibilities outlined in Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the process discuss:

- What should be protected by a formal social policy do you think?!
- What are the implications of the policy on generational sustainability: economic, environment and cultural?!

Articulate a policy statement for each of the categories from day one that captures the fundamental values of the community!

Stage 4: Follow up and follow through!

- How might governance over policy be managed?!
- How might ideas be implemented?!
- What assets might be leveraged to meet policy goals?!
- What measures of accountability will inform future plans?!