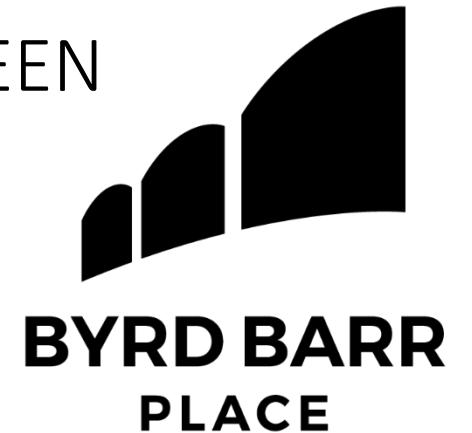




ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN
COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATIONS



Introductions

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Chief Operating Officer

Byrd Barr Place

Land Acknowledgement

We want acknowledge that we are currently living on and inhabiting Duwamish and Puget Sound Coast Salish land.

“I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the indigenous people who we now know as tribes. I want to honor and respect their people, past – present – and future, and acknowledge their presence in these lands since time immemorial.”

Welcome and Recognition

- Gratitude for your presence
- Sharing our experiences
- Appreciation for your commitment



Purpose

- Considerations for successful partnerships
- Our steps for creating meaningful partnerships between government agency and community organizations
- Application of these concepts to our Calling All Sectors project



Calling All Sectors Initiative: State Agencies Joined Together for Health

Health Impact Project:

- Forge lasting collaborations among government agencies and community nonprofits
- Develop solutions for complex public health problems rooted in the social determinants of health
- Combine resources and expertise to address poor health outcomes
- Current focus on improving birth outcomes in the Black and African American community

*This project is supported by a grant from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Washington State Team

- Lead Agency: Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
- Community Partner: Byrd Barr Place
- Department of Social and Health Services
- Department of Children, Youth and Families
- Health Care Authority
- Women Infants and Children (WIC)



Our Focus

To increase protective factors for Black and African American Women during pregnancy and through their infant's first year of life.

- How can our policies and programs better align across agencies with community at the center?
- Where are there opportunities for community and participant expertise to guide the work?
- Identifying core program: Women Infants and Children (WIC)



Women, Infants and Children

- WIC serves a broad geographic range
- a substantial portion of the Black and African American birthing families qualify for the program
- families can participate in the program across multiple years
- WIC is a highly recognized program in the community
- WIC eligibility often aligns with eligibility for other state programs such as home visiting or Medicaid enhanced services
- Aligns with goals of Washington State's WIC program to reduce disparities

Considerations for Partnering

Considerations for Successful Partnerships...

- Is there a good reason to partner?
- Does the local environment support partnership?
- Is the opportunity mutually beneficial?
- Is my organization ready to be a partner?
- What does my organization need or expect from a good partner?



Additional Considerations

Community...

- Do we understand how the government department works?
- Does the project activate the appropriate levels of government?
- Does our contact have decision making authority?
- Does the government agency leadership support the project?
- Will the project be threatened by leadership change?

Government...

- Why are we asking community to partner?
- What specific contributions do we expect community bring to the work?
- Are there legal or legislative obligations to consider?
- Does the work align with existing efforts?
- Does the staff have capacity?
- Are there other opportunities to integrate community into the processes?

Setting the Stage for a Successful Partnership

- Bring past learnings and experience to the partnership
- Partnerships crystallize at the individual level
- Establish and articulate “Common Ground”
- Transparency, Transparency, Transparency
- Articulate and formalize roles and expectations
- Build trust through “Assurances”
- Governance/Accountability structure
- Capturing Lessons Learned/Reflections
- “Wonder Twins” Dynamic



Calling All Sectors Initiative - Core Team Partners



- Team members that are **Committed, Connected, Collaborative**
- Invest in building relationship with each other
- Developing a shared understanding of roles and expectations
- Be flexible and supporting each other

Community Partner As a Broker



Serving as a “Broker”

- Ensuring meaningful community role
- Identifying Potential Partners
- Building active collaboration between the Home Team, Core Team, other stakeholders
- Encouraging the kinds of behavior that will help the partnership to function effectively
- Promoting the principles and vision of the partnership

Calling All Sectors Initiative - Home Team Partners

Building the “Home Team”...

- Know the Community
- Carefully consider should be included? (Who should not be included?)
- Identify community “Influencers” who can help garner support
- Identify government agency “gatekeepers” who can move the project forward
- Partnership should increase, not diminish Community capacity
- Look for opportunities to align with current work or initiatives

Getting to the Work

- Onboarding is a deliberate process
- Confirming agreement and purpose of goals
- Calling out Power Dynamics
- Establishing Governance/Accountability Agreements
- Establishing Roles
- Joint understanding of the problem
- Using and Sharing Data
- Letting Community Lead



Implementing the Community's Solutions

Considerations for

- Policy Change Solutions
- Process Change Solutions
- Measuring Success
- Reporting back



Ending the Partnership

When the project ends...

- Give your partners accolades
- Capture final Reflections/Lessons learned
- Share out all materials
- Identify ways for community to sustain its momentum



Cross Sector Collaboration Summary

- Partnership needs to be intentional and planned
- Honest and transparent
- Mutually beneficial
- Power and Equity is available to all partners
- Continue to grow relationships to impact the work

Sector Specific Questions: Government Organizations

- What are the primary challenges you face when partnering with community organizations?
- What are some of the benefits you see from partnerships with community organizations?
- Have there been any surprise successes from partnerships with community?

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Questions?

- What questions do you have for us?
- What additional thoughts would you like to share?





Thank You!

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