Learning Targets 1. I can describe authentic stakeholder engagement.

- 2. I can recognize characteristics of three approaches to leadership.
- 3. I can identify one or **more** Leading by Convening tools that will assist my stakeholder team develop, sustain, or improve its impact.

There will never be enough laws, policies, processes or documents to force change. Change is best realized through the relationships we build with those people and groups that have a common interest toward solving a persistent problem or seizing an opportunity.

Bill East, Jr., Ed.D.

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), 2012





 $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{H}$ PARTNERSHIP A partnership of families, Practitioners, administrators and policymakers

Leading by Convening



What do we learn by asking these questions?

- What shared concerns are going to bring people together in meaningful ways?
- Who should be at the table to ensure real progress in practice?
- What should participants be doing together to increase their individual and collective learning and ability to act?
- Who has the skill, legitimacy and leadership to convene these groups?

Authentic Stakeholder Engagement

Three questions about authentic stakeholder engagement:

Why is authentic stakeholder engagement important? What does it look like? How do we make it a reality in practice? Sustainable change depends on change in the system <u>and</u> on acceptance and integration of the change into *individual identities*.



Adapted from: IDEA Partnership, 2014

What does this statement mean to you?



What is your relationship with stakeholders?



Stakeholder Management





Involvement is controlled Involvement is open

Vs.

- Share information
- Request feedback
- Invite select group

- Involve multiple stakeholders
- Share leadership
- Build consensus
- Work together



Stakeholders Expect to Be Engaged

- Avoid miscommunication
- Maximize resources
- •Leverage deep and durable networks
- •Support implementation and fidelity of evidence-based practices

Grounding Assumptions for Stakeholder Engagement

IDEA Partnership @NASDSE 2016

Systems are made up of	The deeper the				
people who form relationships and these relationships are central to the change process.	feelings of trust and respect across these relationships the more willing people are to create a shared vision.	The stronger the sense of shared vision the more robust the ownership for the outcomes of change.	The more robust the ownership, the more solid the commitment to take risks, break-down barriers, and share resources in order to	The more solid the commitment to the changes the more sustainable the changes.	Even with deep trust, shared vision, robust ownership, and solid commitment, sustainable systemic change is

N

What Does Authentic Stakeholder **Engagement Look** Like?









Choose the image that resonates with you













Choose the image that resonates with you

How do we make authentic engagement a reality in practice?

Learn the Language: Make the Connection

When we started bringing different groups together, it quickly became apparent that groups had different ways of talking about the issues we share. Vocabulary, programs and funding streams contributed to the lack of clarity around shared interests. At first we thought we had to create a common vocabulary, but then we thought, "Why would we add more terminology?" We decided to be intentional about learning how our partners described our shared work. We called this strategy *learning the language*.

	Major Initiative Being Discussed			
Initiativ	e:			
[Major Goal	Funded by	Promoted by	
1	lading One Challed and	err Belleve Are Connect		

Initiatives Our Stakeholders Believe Are Connected to the Major Initiative Be

Initiative:

major	Goal		Fund
Key Poin	its That M	ust Be	Comr
Align	ment of Goal	s	





Leading by Convening

Bringing It All Together

Give Value First

Give Value First means to "enter a new relationship without contingencies...enter as though you are already partners."

—Jeffrey Gitomer

Think About It

What does it look like to approach collaboration as if you are already partners?

Leading by Convening

Ensuring Relevant Participation

utline expectations ut responsibilities

What's in It for Me?

Creating Professional and Personal Value

One error that we made as we began to work across groups was mistaking participation for involvement. When you are convinced of an opportunity or a course of action, it's easy to become very focused on convincing people of your viewpoint. In our early work we found ourselves reviewing the participant lists and feeling good that so many had come to hear our message. Soon we learned that a participant list is just that; nothing more. To engage people, we had to support and encourage interactions, exchange views and form opinions about the personal and professional value of continuing to engage.

Leading by Convening

An overarching idea
A guiding framework
A new discipline for leaders at every level



Convening is...

More than a meeting

More than facilitation

The *beginning* of a **relationship** focused on *practice change*

Leadership Approaches





Top-down Leadership Approach

- •A single authority figure or small group
- Formal channels of influence
- •May consult others
- •Present the final plan to those who will carry out the work



Top-down Leadership Approach

Urgent problem or crisis situation
Laws, rules, and regulations to be followed

•High degree of risk for the decision-maker



Bottom-up Leadership Approach

- •People affected by the proposed change
- Informal networks and relationships
- •Experience and knowledge
- Learning team



Bottom-up Leadership Approach

- •Analyze the problem, find solutions & create the action plan together
- •Share ideas and points of view
- •Role of leader is fluid
- •People stay the course



Partnership: A Hybrid of Topdown and Bottom-up

	Leading: Top-Down Model	Leading: Bottom-Up Model	Leading by Convening: The Partnership Way
Who	 Senior administrator(s) drive policy decisions. Designated specialists contribute and carry out work. 	 Representatives of a cross-stakeholder group have influence in guiding actions and decision making. Dynamic leader(s) convene(s) group. 	 Groups with authority over the issue join with groups that have influence in the field. Persons with expertise and/or experience share knowledge and skills. Representatives of diverse stakeholder groups engage through consensus to identify issues, solve problems and take action.
How	 Invite interested participants to a meeting. Solicit and consider input from participants. Administrators chart path, make decisions and empower others to take action. 	 Interested parties join together. Creative agreement strategies are used to bring the group to consensus. Group charts the path and direct action. Leaders emerge. 	 Leading by convening. Sharing perspectives among the members of the group. Sharing leadership opportunities and responsibilities, based on role, expertise and needs of the group in specific contexts or situations. Attending to both the human and technical elements of change; building relationships.
Why	 Responsibility resides with the leader. He or she has the most say. Leader driven; autocratic or small core group of people. 	 Buy-in across groups is desired. Responsibility resides with all. Grassroots investment engages participants and empowers action. Broad commitment to implementation. Sustainable after current leaders have moved on. 	 Decision makers, practitioners and consumers understand that collective influence has the potential to change outcomes. Stakeholders with authority and influence have a role and their interactions produce value. Building relationships across roles and levels broadens the area of impact and supports sustainability.

Leadership within Leading by Convening

Everyone can be a leader
Bring groups with authority and groups with influence together
Develops relationships to transform the work and improve outcomes



Characteristic	Top- down	Bottom -up	Leading by Convening
Persons with expertise and/or experience share knowledge and skills.			
Administrators chart the path, make decisions, and empower others to take action.			
Creative agreement strategies are used to bring the group to consensus.			
Solicit and consider input from others			
Sharing leadership opportunities and responsibilities based on role, expertise and needs of the group in specific contexts or situations.			
Broad commitment to implementation			
Group charts the path and directs action			
Leader-driven; autocratic or small core group of people			
Building relationships across roles and levels broadens the area of impact and supports sustainability.			
Dynamic leaders convene the group			
Attending to both the human and technical elements of change; building relationships.			

How did you do?

Characteristic	Top- down	Bottom-up	Leading by Convening
Persons with expertise and/or experience share knowledge and skills.			X
Administrators chart the path, make decisions, and empower others to take action.	Х		
Creative agreement strategies are used to bring the group to consensus.		Х	
Solicit and consider input from participants.	X		
Sharing leadership opportunities and responsibilities based on role, expertise and needs of the group in specific contexts or situations.			Х
Broad commitment to implementation.		Х	
Group charts the path and directs action.		X	
Leader-driven; autocratic or small core group of people.	X		
Building relationships across roles and levels broadens the area of impact and supports sustainability.			Х
Dynamic leaders convene the group.		X	
Attending to both the human and technical elements of change; building relationships.			Х
Invite interested participants to the meeting.	X		

Partnerships for Success - C.A.F.E.









The Nuts and **Bolts** of Leading by Convening

Making Change Real

We have learned that we must do more than simply say we are attending to the elements of change; we must work at it. We must stretch individually and organizationally.



36
Leading by Convening means we.... Meet people 'where they are'



Bring people together Around the issues



Discover

why this is important



how it will improve practice

Translate challenges into contributions

Leading by Convening means We.... Help people 'lead in place'



Create new knowledge together

Solve complex issues



Cultivate the habit of collaboration



Leading by Convening Framework

		Habits of I	Interaction		Behavior changes on the part of both leaders and stakeholders
	Coalescing Ensuring Around Issues Particip			Doing the W Together	
		Elements of	Interaction		Contributing factors in making a behavior change
Adaptiv	ve	Technical Oper		U	
		Depth of Ir	nteraction		How effectively we integrate new
Informing	Netwo	orking	Collab	oorating	habits into personal practice
 		111			

45

Habits of Interaction

Coalescing Around Issues Ensuring Relevant Participation Doing the Work Together







	Depth of Interaction				
Coalescing Around Issues	Informing Level (Sharing/Sending)	Networking Level (Exchanging)	Collaborating Level (Engaging)	Transforming Level (Committing to Consensus)	
Acknowledging and valuing diversity.	A core group of inter- ested stakeholders dis- seminates information to potentially interested stakeholders, across roles, to inform them about issues and invite them into the discussion.	Stakeholders from diverse roles ex- change ideas and resources with one another. Clarification of role-specific vocabulary is at beginning stages. Outreach to others with a specific focus on roles not yet involved continues.	Diverse stakeholders engage in dialogue about issues. Differences are ac- knowledged and explored. A common vocabulary begins to emerge.	Diverse stakeholders with diverse perspectives are engaged through multiple ways in active collaborative dialogue about issues in order to reach consensus about priorities and future research, policy and practice opportunities.	
Researching and agreeing on relevant data.	Personal and profession- al experiences (anec- dotal) are the primary source of evidence for consideration.	Stakeholders consider what other data beyond personal stories could be a source of evidence and be- gin collecting relevant data and resources.	Stakeholders identify relevant data from across disciplines and examine for common themes for understanding (collective analysis).	Through consensus, stakeholders agree on the anecdotal and research data from various perspectives and sources relevant to the issue.	
Decision making through consensus.	Core group identifies an issue of importance.	Stakeholders contribute to the discussion, bringing in other perspectives.	Stakeholders contribute to and create a shared vo- cabulary. They reach across systems to review, critique and revise and/or confirm the issue to be addressed.	Through consensus, stake- holders determine the spe- cific aspects of the issue that the group will move forward to influence.	
Coalescing to move to future work together.	Core group intentionally shares with others, who are not already stake- holders, the reason for caring about this issue, meeting one-on-one with targeted persons, organizations, etc.	Stakeholders are intentional about inviting new members into the group work and being purposeful in getting the people in the same room to work together.	Stakeholders develop grounding documents (mis- sion, vision, guiding prin- ciples and ground rules). Stakeholders develop and agree on a process of con- tinued communication that fits their needs.	Through consensus, stake- holders develop a set of actionable goals that define the work scope of the effort. Relationships are built for strategic advantage.	

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Dr. Ronald Heifetz

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Adaptive vs. Technical

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	Habits of Interaction				
	Coalescing Around Issues		Ensuring Relevant Participation		Work er
		Elements of	Interaction		
Adaptive		Technical		Operational	
		Depth of I	nteraction		
Informing	Networking		Collaborating		Transforming

Bringing it All Together...

Individual Reflection

Leading by Convening

- FREE pdf version of LbC workbook is available online
 - Ideapartnership.org
- You may also order the workbook with a CD version of the workbook for printing
 - Also by contacting the IDEA Partnership

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60

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