



## Building Bridges to Community

*Several of the original workshops hosted by AHC are reflected in Dialog 6. The original aim of the workshops was to support participants to explore how to build relationships with community stakeholders to increase the capacity of communities to be more inclusive. To read more about the original workshops see the Workshop Memories linked to this chapter.*

*Workshop 14 – Building Bridges to Community (Debbie Royer), Workshop 15 – Building Alliances (Lenore LeMay)*

Key themes that will be explored in this workshop:

Considerations needed to identify community partners

Strategies for initiating inclusive community partnerships

Strategies for initiating inclusive community activities

Time:

3 hours

Supplies:

Flipchart with paper

Markers

Overhead projector and gels (optional for displaying handouts)

Handouts

Facilitator Note:

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This dialog supports participants who have an idea for developing a community initiative. This dialog will take the participants through a process of identifying community partners and what strategies can be used to engage those partners to committing to the planned initiative.

This dialog can be done in two ways, as a full day workshop or as a half-day workshop. To create a full day workshop combine the activities from Dialog 5 with this Dialog. This Dialog is being presented as the second part of a full day workshop for ease of those participants who set aside a full day.

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Strengthening Partnerships

On the overhead projector, provide the handout labeled Chart Two: Strengthening Partnerships (Dialog 6, Handout I) for the Park Rejuvenation project. Talk through the example to provide some framework for the small participant exercise to follow.

Ask the participants to use the Potential Partners diagram that they created in Dialog 5 to identify who they might choose to approach as key partners for their community initiative. Encourage them to identify potential partners from a broad spectrum of the community including public institutions, business and individuals.

Have the participants use the Determining Partners And Their Roles worksheet to pick the 'best' partners for the initiative and what they might take in terms of roles.

Who: Are they community members? Are they the right partners for this initiative? Do they exhibit the values needed to take a leadership role?

Why: Do they have an interest (business or personal) in the initiative?

How: What roles might this partner play (i.e. fundraising, donations, time, skills, artistic, good public speaker)?

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Coffee Break

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

One-on One Relationships

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The goal of this exercise is to help participants learn to identify multiple partners as some will not work out. Also participants will learn to pick leaders for specific tasks.

On the overhead projector use the template labeled Chart Three: One-on-One relationships (Dialog 6, Handout IV) for the park rejuvenation project. Talk through example to provide some framework for the small participant exercise to come.

Using the same small groups have the participants use the a Flipchart paper to expand their list of partners into local institutions and identify potential roles and reciprocal opportunities for each of the relationships being proposed for the community initiative.

3:00 am – 3:30 pm

Role Taking Based on Personal Assets

In the large group (select one initiative for the purpose of this exercise) have the group reflect back on the Personal Asset Mapping activity from Dialog 4, Inclusive People. Ask the group to identify dialog participants who will take on the roles of building relationships with potential partners.

Determine dates that people will come back together for the initiative. (This will not make up part of the curriculum, but will provide a concrete timeline for the participants work in this area.

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Debriefing and Evaluation

Have a large participant discussion about what local institutions they did not pick as partners. Ask them why they decided against using those institutions as partners. (You may get answers like they do not provide diverse programming; they don't serve people with disabilities etc) Discuss the next session will focus on Inclusive Institutions. Describe that the next workshop will examine how to determine if institutions are inclusive and discuss ways of influencing institutions.

Have the participants complete the workshop evaluation. (Main Appendix)

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