Community Membership for Everyone

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The ABCD Institute, located at DePaul University, Chicago IL
Who Is Here Today?
Questions???

What question would you like answered today?
Goals for Today

- ABCD 101: What is Asset-Based Community Development?
- How do we put ABCD into practice?
- How do we get beyond “Interested”? Practical ways of thinking about community membership.
What is Community?
What does Community mean to you?
Thinking about Community
community |ˈkʌmənəti| noun

1. A group of people **living in the same place** or **having a particular characteristic in common**

2. A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals
Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
The Dilemma . . .
The Dilemma . . .

People and Communities have *deficiencies & needs*

Individuals and Communities have *skills and talents*
Neighborhoods Needs Map

- Unemployment
- Truancy
- Broken Families
- Slum Housing
- Child Abuse
- Crime
- Graffiti
- “The Disabled”
- Welfare Recipients
- Illiteracy
- Lead Poisoning
- Dropouts

- Gangs
Consequences of the Needs Map

- “We are deficient.”
- Fragments efforts to find solutions
- Targets resources to service providers, not to residents – resources are narrowly defined
- Forces leaders to denigrate their own communities to receive funding
Ensures the deepening of the cycle of dependence—problems must get worse if funding is to be renewed

Emphasizes relationships with outside professionals at the expense of relationships within the community

A focus on maintenance and survival contributes to a sense of hopelessness
What is Asset-Based Community Development?

It’s not rocket science…
ABCD is... 

Building on...

• the skills of local residents, 
• the power of local associations, and 
• the supportive functions of local institutions, 

ABCD draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future.

~ adapted from www.abcdinstitute.org
ABCD is... an Art
ABCD as a Lens
Three Characteristics of ABCD

1. *Asset-Based*: Starts with what is present, not with what is absent

2. *Internally-focused*: Concentrates upon the agenda building and problem-solving capacities of local residents, associations, and institutions

3. *Relationship-driven*: Constantly builds and rebuilds relationships between and among individuals, associations, and institutions
How is the Community Building Model Different From the Social Service Model?

*In subtle, but very important ways…*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Service Model</th>
<th>Community Building Model</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on <strong>NEEDS</strong></td>
<td>Focus on <strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responds to <strong>PROBLEMS</strong></td>
<td>Builds from <strong>OPPORTUNITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHARITY</strong> Orientation</td>
<td><strong>INVESTMENT</strong> Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasis on <strong>AGENCIES</strong></td>
<td>Emphasis on <strong>ASSOCIATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on <strong>INDIVIDUALS</strong></td>
<td>Focus on <strong>COMMUNITY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal is <strong>SERVICE</strong></td>
<td>Goal is <strong>EMPOWERMENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power comes from <strong>CREDENTIALS</strong></td>
<td>Power comes from <strong>RELATIONSHIPS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAMS</strong> are the answer</td>
<td><strong>PEOPLE</strong> are the answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People are <strong>CLIENTS</strong></td>
<td>People are <strong>CITIZENS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most Important Question to Ask:

Are we strengthening natural community relationships and networks?

Or

Are we replacing them?
Six Types of Assets

1. **People:** Talents and skills of people
2. **Associations:** Our network of relationships
3. **Institutions:** Organizations and Service Systems
4. **Physical assets:** Land, Property, Buildings, Equipment
5. **Economic assets:** Productive work of individuals, Consumer spending power, Local business assets
6. **Culture & Stories**
Community Assets Map

Local INSTITUTIONS

Citizens’ Associations

Gifts of INDIVIDUALS

- Business
- Churches/Houses of Worship
- Income
- Older Adults
- Youth
- Cultural Groups
- Community Colleges
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Schools
- Block Clubs
- Artists
- Labeled People

Parks
Gifts of Individuals
# Wisconsin Adult Long Term Care Functional Screen

## ADLS (Activities of Daily Living)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coding for Level of Help Needed to Complete Task Safely</th>
<th>Coding for Who Will Help in Next Eight (8) Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Person is independent in completing the activity safely.</td>
<td>U Current UNPAID caregiver will continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Help is needed to complete task safely but helper DOES NOT have to be physically present throughout the task. “Help” can be supervision, cueing, or hands-on assistance.</td>
<td>PF Current PUBLICLY FUNDED paid caregiver will continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Help is needed to complete task safely and helper DOES need to be present throughout task. “Help” can be supervision, cueing, and/or hands-on assistance (partial or complete).</td>
<td>PP Current PRIVATELY PAID caregiver will continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Need to find new or additional caregiver(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BATHING

The ability to shower, bathe, or take sponge baths for the purpose of maintaining adequate hygiene. This also includes the ability to get in and out of the tub, turn faucets on and off, regulate water temperature, wash, and dry fully.

- Uses Grab Bar(s)
- Uses Shower Chair
- Uses Tub Bench
- Uses Mechanical Lift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help Needed (check only one)</th>
<th>Who Will Help in Next Eight Weeks? (check all that apply)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ 0</td>
<td>□ U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ PF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ PP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ N</td>
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</table>
Discover Individual Gifts
Paradigm Change

Problem
Client
Recipient
At risk population to be dealt with
Tomorrow’s Leaders
Adult in the making

Problem Solver
Change Maker
Co-Participant/Co-producer
Leadership asset to be cultivated
Part of today’s Leadership team
A citizen today
Gifts I Can Give My Community

*The Four Hs*

- Gifts of the Hands
- Gifts of the Head
- Gifts of the Heart
- Gifts of Human Connections
Hands

Things or skills I know how to do and would like to share with others, e.g., carpentry, sports, gardening, cooking
Head

Things I know something about and would enjoy talking about with others, e.g., art, history, movies, birds
Heart

Things I care deeply about, e.g., protection of the environment, civic life, children
Human Connections

Important relationships in your neighborhood, community, and beyond – Knowing people & spending time with people
What Are My Gifts?

- Gifts of the Hands
- Gifts of the Head
- Gifts of the Heart
- Gifts of Human Connections
Local Associations
What are Local Voluntary Associations?

- Groups of two or more residents joined together around a common activity, often sharing a common vision and goal

- Might have a small paid staff, but

- Members always create the vision and engage in the work to achieve the goal
Examples of Associations

- **Advisory Community Support Groups**
  - Friends of the Library
  - Neighborhood Park Advisory Council
  - Hospital Advisory Group

- **Animal Care Groups**
  - Cat Owner’s Association
  - Humane Society

- **Anti Crime Groups**
  - Children’s Safe Haven Neighborhood Group
  - Police Neighborhood Watch
  - Senior Safety Group

- **Block Clubs**
  - Condominium Owner’s Association
  - Building Council
  - Tenant Club

- **Business Organizations/ Support Groups**
  - Jaycees
  - Local Chamber of Commerce
  - Economic Development Council
  - Local Restaurant Association

- **Civic Events Groups**
  - Local Parade Planning Committee
  - Arts and Crafts Fair
  - July 4th Carnival Committee
  - Health Fair Committee

- **Cultural Groups**
  - Community Choir
  - Drama Club
  - Dance Organization
  - High School Band
Examples of Associations (cont.)

- **Education Groups**
  - Local Book Club
  - Literacy Councils
  - Tutoring Groups

- **Environmental Groups**
  - Neighborhood Recycling Club
  - Sierra Club
  - Adopt-a-Stream
  - Bike Path Committee
  - Clean Air Committee
  - Pollution Control
  - Save the Park Committee

- **Family Support Groups**
  - People First
  - Teen Parent Organization
  - Foster Parents’ Support Group
  - Parent Alliance Group
  - Neighborhood Historical Society
  - Senior Fitness Club

- **Health Advocacy and Fitness Groups**
  - Weight Watchers
  - Child Injury Prevention Group
  - Yoga Club
  - YMCA/YWCA Fitness Groups

- **Hobby and Collectors Groups**
  - Coin Collector Association
  - Stamp Collector Association
  - Arts and Crafts Club
  - Garden Club of Neighbors
  - Sewing Club
  - Antique Collectors

- **Neighborhood Improvement Groups**
  - The Neighborhood Garden Club
  - Council of Books Club
  - Neighborhood Anti-Crime Council
  - Neighborhood Clean-Up Council
Examples of Associations (cont.)

- **Hobby and Collectors Groups**
  - Coin Collector Association
  - Stamp Collector Association
  - Arts and Crafts Club
  - Garden Club of Neighbors
  - Sewing Club
  - Antique Collectors

- **Men’s Groups**
  - Fraternal Orders
  - Church Men’s Organizations
  - Men’s Sports Organizations
  - Fraternities

- **Mentoring Groups**
  - After School Mentors
  - Peer Mentoring Groups
  - Church Mentoring Groups
  - Big Brothers, Big Sisters
  - Rights of Passage Organizations

- **Mutual Support Groups**
  - People First
  - La Leche League
  - Disease Support Groups (cancer, etc.)
  - Parent-to-Parent Groups
  - Family-to-Family Groups

- **Recreation Groups**
  - Bowling Leagues
  - Basketball Leagues
  - Body Builders Club
  - Little League
  - Kite-Flying Club
  - Motorcycle Clubs

- **Religious Groups**
  - Churches
  - Mosques
  - Synagogues
  - Men’s Religious Groups
  - Women’s Religious Groups
  - Youth Religious Groups
Examples of Associations (cont.)

- **Service Clubs**
  - Optimist
  - Rotary Clubs
  - Lions Clubs
  - Kiwanis Clubs

- **Social Groups**
  - Bingo Club
  - Card Playing Club
  - Social Activity Club
  - Dance Club

- **Social Cause/Advocacy/ Issue Groups**
  - ADAPT
  - Get Out the Vote Council
  - Peace Club
  - Hunger Organization
  - Vigil Against Violence
  - Community Action Council
  - Social Outreach Ministry
  - Soup Kitchen Group

- **Veteran’s Groups**
  - Veterans of Foreign Wars
  - Women’s Veterans Organizations

- **Women’s Groups**
  - Sororial Organizations
  - Women’s Sports Groups
  - Women’s Auxiliary
  - Mother’s Board
  - Eastern Star

- **Youth Groups**
  - After School Group
  - 4-H
  - Girl and Boy Scouts
  - Junior Achievement
  - Boys and Girls Clubs
  - Explorers Clubs
  - Teen Leadership Club
What Are the Assets of Associations?

What Can Associations Offer to the Community?
Associational Assets

- The individual capacities of members
- The power of relationships
- Shared interests
- Common goals
- Local connections
- Employment leads
- Leadership potential
- Energy
- Local knowledge
- Commitment
Connections to Associations

You
Institutions
Institutions
What Are Institutions?

- Organizations that are structured to produce desired goods & services that are used by clients, consumers or customers.

- Provide consistency, reliability, sustainability, efficiency
Types of Institutions

- Nonprofit sector (agencies)
- Private sector (business)
- Public sector (government)
Institutions - Examples

- Schools
- Libraries
- Parks
- Law Enforcement
- Colleges, Universities, Trade Schools
- Health and Human Services Agencies
- Service providers
- Non-Profits
- Private Business
What Are the Assets of Institutions?

What Can Institutions Offer to the Community?
Institutional Assets

- Facilities
- Equipment
- Materials
- Purchasing Power
- Employment Capacity
- Training and Development Capacity
- Employees
- Financial Resources
- Political Clout
- Good Connections
# Associations & Institutions – How Are They Different?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Associations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td>Formal, Self-appointed leadership</td>
<td>Informal, Elected leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>Unpaid/voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating system</strong></td>
<td>Rules, efficiency, predictability</td>
<td>Processes, participatory, creative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff roles</strong></td>
<td>Manager, professional</td>
<td>Facilitator, organizer/connector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power orientation</strong></td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aura</strong></td>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>Familiar, casual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus on People as…</strong></td>
<td>Clients, customers, consumers</td>
<td>Citizens, members, participants, contributors</td>
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Putting ABCD into Practice
Putting ABCD into Practice: Working in the Gap
Working in the Gap

- What are the challenges?
- What is good about working in the gap?
We don't accomplish anything in this world alone.....whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.

~Sandra Day O'Connor