

How do Porcupines Hug?

Stephen P. Wernet, Ph.D.
Professor
School of Social Work
and
Department of Public Policy Studies
Saint Louis University

Focus of Workshop

Cultural differences between social ministry organizations and congregations;

- Reasons for differences
- Variations in contexts
- Barriers to collaboration
- How SMOs and congregations can work together

Structure of Workshop

- ❖ 30 minutes highlighting the contexts and differences
- ❖ 20 minutes discussing challenges and opportunities
- ❖ 30-40 minutes in small groups discussing how SMOs and congregations can collaborate

Structure of the Nonprofit Sector

Donative Nonprofits

or

Civil Society Approach

Commercialized
Nonprofits

or

Marketization Approach

Nonprofit Sector

Civil Society Approach

Nonprofit organizations provide people opportunity:

- to organize
- to discover shared views and advance those views
- to provide facilities or services to be used by themselves or by others
- to encourage active participation and
- to build social capital

- Develop local community capacity to solve social problems;
- Support individuals;
- Mobilize residents for collective action

Donative Nonprofits

- Type of Organization
 - voluntary associations
 - very small organizations
 - congregations
- Type of Resources
 - donations
 - volunteers



Nonprofit Sector

Marketization Approach

Nonprofit organizations as a special class of economic firms:

- Public serving or charitable entities
- Service delivery
 - Commercial revenue generation
 - Competition
 - Entrepreneurship
- Professional management

Commercialized Nonprofits

1. Type of Organization

Different subsectors

Formal, bureaucracies

2. Type of Resources

Diversified resources



Nonprofit Sector



Congregation

A face-to-face assembly for:

worship

religious education

mission

stewardship

fellowship

a voluntarily gathered community for the
nurturance of religious commitments....

- Emphasis is on community
- Offer values and moral structures
- Are local organizations
- Have unique resources.....people

Concerned with

- welfare of the group
- relations that are emotionally satisfying

bound by common membership

Reduce

- alienation,
- anomie and
- isolation

while helping with association

Distinguish between

- the worshiping community and
- those who do acts of charity within their communities.

sources of

- awareness about social need
- the value of caring and
- building community

1. think about people rather than changing systems
2. think about inward versus outward emphasis on service
3. Discern the will of the congregation

- staging grounds for service provision
- connections with surrounding community involves either evangelism or service.... Or combination of both
- adopt a portfolio of causes and ministries
- Attention and focus is cyclic

Congregations are more likely to think first about the needs of real people of their communities:

- cared about youth and their need for education and employment,

- about the elderly and their health and housing needs
or

- about families and their many basic needs

Collaborations between congregations and SMOs

collaboration:

what occurs when different organizations work together to address problems through joint efforts, resources, and decision making and shared ownership of the final product or service

Common elements of a collaboration:

- ✓ Shared mission and values,
- ✓ personal connections and relationships,
- ✓ expectation of mutual benefits,
- ✓ shared power and risk, and
- ✓ mutual trust

The primary outcome of a collaboration is
service

Types of Collaboration:

- Service and caring community
- Formal and informal

Crucial elements of any alliance are the stakeholders and their motivations.

- mutually compatible goals and joint benefits

The intersection of core beliefs and values.

- Congregations have at their center a ministry of word and sacrament. Faithful service

- SMOs receive resources: access to populations, funds, volunteers,

Indicators for success of collaboration:

- must speak a common language
- Clergy blessing
- Lay leader energy
- Planning
- Time
- Relationships between and among people

