



Post-Workshop Inventory,  
May 18, 2017

### **Compared to where you were 8 weeks ago,**

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being best, what is your assessment of your agency's capacity? Why? (Average Rating: 3.6)

- We have a long way to go in terms of generating revenue from individual donors.
- Tools help identify prioritization of strategies – to the most doable and to those that need to wait for capacity building
- Our focus has been on building capacity, i.e. infrastructure - to support growth. We are just beginning to get there.
- We have some challenges to address within the organization as uncovered by the OCAT. These areas are not insurmountable.
- Need to put into effect strategies developed in plan and engage stakeholders to implement.

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being best, how well do you think strategically? Why? (Average Rating: 3.7)

- Our ED is stellar in this area and has a lot of support and trust from the board.
- Pretty aware of what the environment is externally and realistic.
- I need to understand the homeless industry more - to understand how to think creatively and outside the box.
- Because we are involved in collaborative partnerships that require strategic thinking/also we've been resource strapped and as a result have to be analytical.
- This was hard. I am not a very competitive person and find it hard to "toot my own horn" so to say. But I do think that thinking about the organization's edge is important!
- Strategic thinking sometimes in background.

What about thinking competitively? Why? (Average Rating: 3.9)

- Ditto (above)
- Recognize that peer agencies are few and all strategies will benefit the sector but some peers have more clout and better infrastructure – board, etc.
- Have been working performance based contracts for 10+ years
- Always trying to find innovative ways to do more and quality work in order to pursue the greatest mission possible.
- Need to think more competitively.

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being best, how strong are your written presentation skills? Why? (Average Rating: 4.5)

- We are thoughtful and prepared
- Don't reinvent wheel – use talent and staff write, rewrite
- [Unreadable] I have learned to be concise and [unreadable].
- Lots of practice grant writing and also reading sector relevant materials

- I write well generally but this seminar made me cut to the chase and be more succinct.
- Redrafting takes time [to] complete

What about oral presentation skills? Why? (Average Rating: 4.5)

- We are thoughtful and prepared.
- Former educator and trainer; can engage audience; know my “stuff”
- I am comfortable speaking to our advisors. I know my stuff, I [unreadable].
- I have participated in numbers training and development initiatives around speaking and persuasive presentations. And I practice a lot!
- I think I am an impactful communicator. I like to tell stories. But them seminar helped me to use other tools more effectively to tell our agency’s story.
- With presentations. Tend to avoid having to make oral presentations.

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being best, how strong are your relationships with other like-minded executives where potential collaborations might thrive? Why? (Average Rating: 3.1)

- New to this field of social service.
- Haven’t [unreadable] who else might engage in providing need/capacity
- I am new to [unreadable] and just getting to know the players and [unreadable] of the system
- I spend a lot of time in collaborative settings and building relationships with like minded individuals.
- Collaboration is the name of the game currently and helps us all utilize our resources more effectively.
- Don’t explore avenues of collaboration, but would like to. I think shared experiences would increase knowledge.

What did you like about the Sustainable Strategy Project?

- I enjoyed the project because it gave our team the opportunity to focus on mission, values, strategy and where organization needs to focus for the future.
- Covered a lot about process of developing strategic plan. Introduced tools and methodologies from names I had heard of but not familiar with some specifics of their work.
- It made me get to 90% completion of my strategic plan. I need to go back and look at my plan for delivering the strategies.
- Opportunity to learn from others/the cohort model is good
- 1.) Energy of presenter 2.) Use of video clips 3.) Prezi 4.) Experiential exercises
- Mark Light; learned Prezi; Great participants
- I loved the new tools and the time to think strategically; I loved spending the time with my ED; the extra time/coaching from Mark was very generous; Mark does a good job keeping it interesting.

What didn’t you like about the Sustainable Strategy Project?

- Wish it could have been longer – need a few more days in between assignments and would also loved to have Mark out multiple times – even though he offered we just couldn’t find time in schedules.
- Would have like[d] to have had more time between sessions. Also, might have been helpful to spend some time in class working on reports.
- Lots of work in short period of time.

- Too little time between sessions
- 1.) Too much too fast 2.) Level of homework was too much too soon
- Not enough time
- Not enough time in between.

What other comments do you have about the Sustainable Strategy Project?

- Highly recommend to other agencies – very good opportunity and I am glad I was able to participate. Mark was awesome! He is fun and engaging, very generous with his time and classroom time was engaging and well planned materials and on-line tools were very helpful.
- Glad to have participated.
- Mark is extremely supportive, available, and responsive. I achieved my objective of completing the strategic plan. Just a little polishing to do. This gave me insight into how to communicate with my board more effectively believe it or not! I love BAM. I am going to use this tool a lot.
- All Chicago or whoever was responsible for organizing the funder panel needs some training: 1.) The funders were unprepared and did not know what to expect and [were] even confused. 2.) They needed to know in advance what the topics/content/and process of the cohort was. This better background would have better grounded their feedback. 3.) It was a missed opportunity in my opinion and their comments were not helpful because we were talking oranges to apples. It was even awkward at some points and felt a bit paternalistic.
- Thank you. Really got a lot out of it!
- Will use throughout the coming year with staff and board.
- I appreciated the opportunity. Thank you.