



# **COLLABORATIVE SURVEYS: WHAT DO THE RESULTS TELL US?**

---

MeHAF Healthy Community Grantee Meeting  
March 30, 2016

Susan Foster and Teresa Doksum

S.E. Foster Associates

# Objectives of Session

- Review the purpose of the collaboration survey tools required by MeHAF:
  - Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory
  - Network Health Scorecard
- Provide tips/considerations on how to use these tools
- Share experiences using collaboration tools to strengthen collaborative

# Purpose of the Collaboration Surveys

- Grant activities are organized around a multi-sector, diverse collaborative network
- A healthy network is better positioned to create social impact than an unhealthy network
- Network practice is challenging--It is important for network members to periodically pause and reflect on what's working well and not so well. It's like a check-up
- It is not easy to pause, so MeHAF has built network self-assessment into your grant requirements

# MeHAF Survey Invitation

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND USE

- “We ask that you respond to these questions honestly and candidly. Your answers will be confidential. Neither MeHAF nor your Project Director will know how you as an individual member rated the items. The results of the survey will not be used by MeHAF to evaluate your project.”

## PROCESS

- Collaborative members complete questionnaire
- Project Director requests report from Charles
- Charles sends summary results (across members/averages) to Project Director.
- **These summary data should be used at a partnership meeting to discuss the strengths and areas of growth for your group, and strategies for improving how the group functions.**

# Considerations in Implementing Collaborative Surveys

- Concerns

- When is the best time to do the survey?
- How often should we repeat the survey?
- Who is invited to complete the survey?
- Shouldn't we wait until we have everyone we need at the table?

- Network complexity

- Numerous players, many of whom enter and exit
- They are “moving targets” that evolve over time
- It takes time to organize networks effectively
- It takes time to show results

- Source: Network Evaluation Guide, 2014

# Considerations in Interpreting Data

- Response rate (# and % who responded)
- Scores-what needs further discussion?
  - 4.0+: a strength and probably doesn't need special attention (and could help sustain collaboration)
  - 3.0 to 3.9: borderline and should be discussed by the group
  - 2.9 or lower: a concern and should be addressed

# Considerations in Using Data

- Use scores:
  - *Early in project* to identify factors needed for successful collaboration so can quickly remedy, prevent minor issues from becoming big barriers
  - *Mid project* to identify strengths and challenges for discussion and midcourse improvements
- Do *not* use as a definitive score or predictor of success
- Combine with any other info/data you have
- Look for patterns: Look at individual items AND sections
- Compare results over time:
  - Are we maintaining areas of strength? Over time, what has improved? What hasn't? Why?
  - Set your own goals and standards for improvement

# Summary of Findings

## Healthy Communities, 2015

### Highest Ratings (4.4+)

### Lower ratings (<3.5)

#### Wilder (9 grant communities had responses)\*

- The time is right for this project
- Respect for other members
- All want project to succeed
- Would be difficult for 1 organization to accomplish
- No other organization is doing this
- Leadership

- All the organizations we need are at table
- Members participating in decision making can speak for entire organization
- Clear roles and guidelines
- Adequate funding

#### Network Health Scorecard (13 grant communities had responses)\*\*

- Members are achieving more together than they could alone

- Ability to attract funds
- Members honor commitment to network
- Members have material resources necessary to advance goals

<b>Wilder Component</b>	<b>Wilder Item</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Favorable political/social environment	5. The political and social climate seems to be right for starting collaborative project	4.05
Appropriate cross-section of members	10. All the organizations we need have become members	2.82
Members see collaboration in their self-interest	11. My organization will benefit from being involved in this collaboration	4.24
Members share a stake in process and outcome	13. Organizations invest the right amount of time in the collaborative	3.47
	15. The level of commitment is high	3.89
Clear roles and policies	20. People have a clear sense of roles	3.24
	21. There is a clear process for making decisions	3.34
Sufficient funds, time	38. Our collaborative has adequate funds to do what it wants to accomplish	2.46
Skilled leadership	40. The people in leadership positions have good skills for working with other people and organizations	4.45

<b>NHS Component</b>	<b>Network Health Scorecard Item</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Network purpose	1. All members share a common purpose for the network	4.17
	2. Together, members have identified strategic goals and objectives	4.33
Network performance	5. Members are adding value to each other's work	4.17
	9. The network is able to attract additional funds	3.17
Network operations	14. The network anticipates, surfaces, and addresses conflict when it arises	4.0
	16. All members are contributing time and resources to the network	2.83
Network capacity	20. We have the resources to advance goals	3.83
	22. Members have the connections they need to advance goals	4.33

# Considerations in Reporting Findings

- With whom will you share?
- How will you share?
  - In person discussion
  - Written summary (narrative? Table? Charts?)
  - Combo
- Start with positive results
- Include details about context (when fielded, how many invited, and number of respondents)
- Include limitations (low response rates, key factors not included)

# Discussion Questions

- Which tool did you choose and why? (if any in the audience have not yet chosen one)
- How have you used the tool thus far?
- What effect(s) if any has the tool had on your grant activities and collaboration?
- How do you plan to use the tool in the future?
- What would you do differently?
- If you haven't used one of the tools, what has kept you from doing so?