

“Much Ado About Best Practices”

A review of factors influencing successful community building

*Presented by
Judy Jones, IntegritySource, LLC*

“What are Best Practices?”

“How do we build capacity?”

**“How do we impact
systematic community
change?”**

“What is Community?”

We will explore:

**I. Functional Community &
Capacity Building**


II. Community Social Capacity

**III. Success factors of Capacity
Building & Systematic
Community Building/Change**

“Trying to study community is like trying to scoop up jello with your fingers. You can get a hold of some, but there is always more slipping away from you.”

▪ Marcia Pelly Effrat

The Community: Approaches & Applications

The background of the slide is a solid brown color with a pattern of faint, overlapping autumn leaves in various shades of brown and tan. The leaves are scattered across the entire area, creating a textured, seasonal feel.

**I.
Functional
Community &
Capacity Building**

To Build Capacity & Impact Systematic Community Change We Must Continuously Connect:

1. COMMUNITY
2. FUNCTION
3. FORM

COMMUNITY FUNCTION

Communities
of Profession

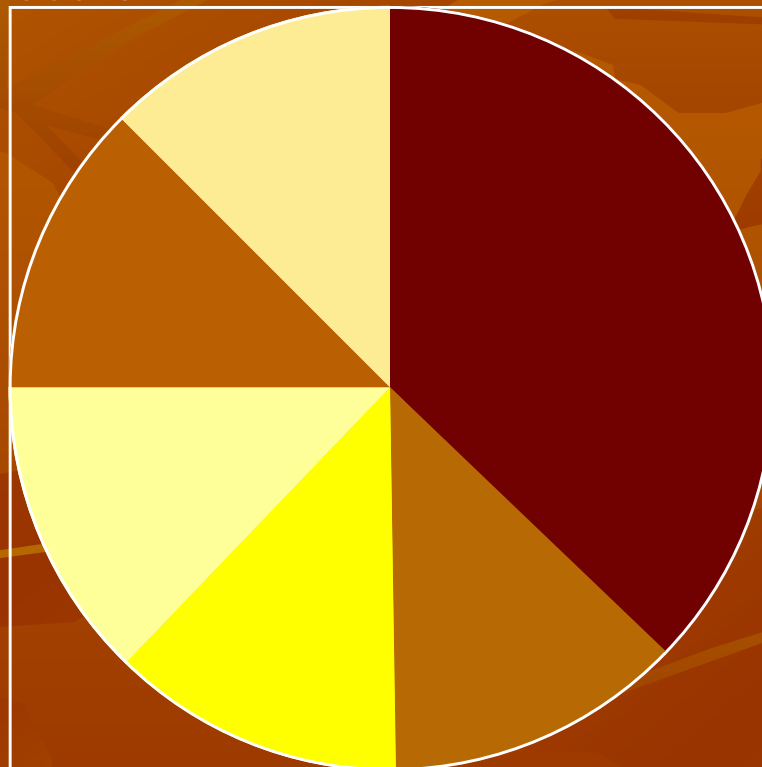
Communities
of Identity

Communities
of Faith

Communities
of Kin

Other Types
of Community

Communities
Based on
Residence and
Social or
Psychological
Attachments



We will focus on the following type of Community Function

People who live within a geographically defined area and who have social and psychological ties with each other and with the place where they live?

Matteich, Monsey (2004)

CAPACITY BUILDING FUNCTIONS

1. Community Building Initiative Capacity
2. Organizational Capacity
3. Social Capacity
4. Change Management Capacity
5. Measurement Capacity
6. Spiritual or Cultural Capacity

We will focus on the following type of Capacity Building Functions

1. Community Building Initiative
Capacity
2. Social Capacity



II.
Community
Social Capacity

We must separate the building of community from the ultimate accomplishment of critical tasks and goals.

Community Social Capacity constitutes one of a variety of resources that offer communities the *potential* to get things accomplished.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL CAPACITY-DEFINED

A Community's ability to work together in concert. Communities with high social capacity can successfully identify problems and needs; achieve a workable consensus on goals and priorities; agree on how to pursue goals; and cooperate to achieve goals.

Social Capacity or Social Readiness to accomplish tasks or improve community living standards.

III.

**What Influences the
Success & Impact of
Capacity Building &
Systematic Community
Building/Change?**

What Influences the Success & Impact of Capacity Building & Systematic Community Change?

1. Characteristics of the Community
2. Characteristics of the Community Building Process.
3. Characteristics of Community Building Organizers.

1. Characteristics of the Community

These are the social, psychological, and geographical attributes of a community and its residents that contribute to the success of a community building effort.

1. Community Awareness of an Issue
2. Motivation from within the Community
3. Small Geographic Area
4. Flexibility and Adaptability
5. Preexisting Social Cohesion
6. Ability to Discuss, Reach Consensus, and Cooperate
7. Existing Identifiable Leadership
8. Prior Success with Community Building

2. Characteristics of the Community Building Process

These are factors that make up the process by which people attempt to build community, such as representation, communications, and technical assistance.

1. Widespread Participation
2. Good System of Communication
3. Minimal Competition in Pursuit of Goals
4. Develop Self-Understanding
5. Benefits to Many Residents
6. Focus on Product and Process Concurrently
7. Linkage to Organizations Outside the Community
8. Progression from Simple to Complex Activities
9. Systematic Gathering of Information and Analysis of Community Issues
10. Training to Gain Community Building Skills
11. Early Involvement and Support from Existing, Indigenous Organizations
12. Use of Technical Assistance
13. Continual Emergence of Leaders, as Needed
14. Community control Over Decision Making
15. The Right Mix of Resources

3. Characteristics of Community Building Organizers.

These factors are the qualities of those people who organize and lead a community building effort, such as commitment, trust, understanding, and experience.

1. Understanding the Community
2. Sincerity of Commitment
3. A Relationship of Trust
4. Level of Organizing Experience
5. Able to be Flexible and Adaptable