Public Talk, Public Action

Advancing Civic Capacity to Tackle Tough Issues
Presenters …

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Have you been involved in difficult or contentious public issues in your work?

Did you feel you had the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively fulfill your role as an Extension Educator?

Were you confident in your role as an Extension Educator in working with the public on the issue?
WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Seeing the World = Worldviews
...our ‘realities’ aren’t always right
Understanding Worldviews = Public Talk

What is Public Talk?

- Civic Dialogue
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Deliberative Democracy
- Dialogue and Deliberation
- Facilitation, not teaching
- Creation of public knowledge rather than the transmission of information.
- The creation of trusting relationships from which thoughtful sharing of ideas and values can evolve through respectful conversation
Why is Public Talk Important?

- It is a way for Extension to create new purpose and value that may be critical to the survival of our work.
- It is a way for Extension to respond to the needs of a new broader range of constituents.
- People and communities have needs and issues that could best be addressed through dialogue and deliberation.
- It is a method for community building and problem solving.
- The future of our democracy depends on our ability to engage in respectful conversation.
- The future of our society depends on understanding competing worldviews.
How Can We Learn Public Talk?

• Learn to design places for people to talk and listen
• Learn to listen with an open mind cleared of competing thoughts
• Consider a perspective transformation from our roles as teachers and experts to listeners and compassionate guides and facilitators
• Learn new skills of process design
Our Goal: Nurturing a Role for Public Talk within Extension

**eXtension**: Professional Development Community of Practice: What is It?

- eXtension network intended to help Extension professionals assist each other in gaining a set of skills, competencies, and experiences needed to effectively employ citizen-centered approaches as a core part of their Extension engagement portfolio.

- Strengthening Extension’s capacity to use public dialogue, deliberation, and action strategies that can help residents make sound public choices amid uncertainty and conflict.
What experience do you have in citizen-centered approaches to engagement, such as deliberative dialogue, study circles, collaborative decision-making, visioning, or conflict resolution?
Do you have interest in receiving training on these topics?
- What kind of training?
- What structure should training take?
What elements would be most valuable to you if you were going to use such a website on citizen centered approaches to engagement?
How can you contribute to this community of practice?

• You can join:
  • http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/PDCoP_Public_Deliberation
• You can contribute your expertise through collaboration with the advisory group and/or submitting materials you have used that have proved effective.
PDCoP Coordinating Team

- **Southern Region**
  - Bo Beaulieu
  - Sharon Gibson
  - Joe Sumners
  - Jenny Fertig
  - Lou Addor

- **North Central Region**
  - Janet Ayres
  - Sandy Hodge
  - Jan Hartough
  - Dan Kahl
  - Wynne Wright

- **Northeastern Region**
  - Bill McGowan
  - Kathy Braiser

- **Western Region**
  - Kay Haaland
  - Bill Hall
  - Loretta Singletary
  - Steve Smutko
Thank You!

For questions or comments, contact Wynne or Sandy at:
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