

Community Action Training

Designing Your Diagnosis Plan

Estimated Time (no. of minutes)

30 minutes

Session Overview (narrative)

Participants will use planning tools to design their community diagnosis and do a diagnosis plan.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session participants will be able to identify the 4 steps of a community diagnosis and will have a plan in place to conduct a diagnosis.

Facilitator Preparation

Facilitator becomes familiar with the activity. Note: this activity should be done following the activity, “How CAT’s Work: Posterboards Activity”.

Materials/equipment needed

Flip chart paper or copies of attached handout entitled, “What is a Community Diagnosis”, copies of the questionnaire “Your Community Diagnosis”, copies of the packet of sample diagnosis tools, .

Handouts

Copies of the packet of sample diagnosis tools.

Time (in min) **Training Activities**

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1. **Learning Objectives** – introduce the lesson’s learning objectives.
2. **Lecture:** Facilitator states that the group will now begin to brainstorm about their focus/issue they will work on and design their diagnosis plan.

Facilitator either uses a Flip Chart paper with the ‘4 steps to doing a community diagnosis’ printed on it, or distributes copies of “What Is A Community Diagnosis” and goes over how a diagnosis is planned.

Facilitator should use concrete examples of how a group might go through the four steps. Facilitator can use one of the four examples in the activity, “**How CAT’s Work: Posterboards Activity**” to show how a community diagnosis is developed.

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3. Small Group:

Facilitator distributes packets of sample diagnosis tools, and the questionnaire **“Your Community Diagnosis”** to each group. Groups should be formed by project or area of focus. Group members go over the questions in the questionnaire and write their general ideas for their community diagnosis.

After completing the questionnaire the group returns to their answers for question #3. They should take each research tool that they plan to do and provide more detail for each. Their responses are written on the back of the questionnaire.

For example: if they plan to do an opinion survey,

- ◆ what questions do they want to ask?,
- ◆ how many people do they want to interview?,
- ◆ what kind of people (adults, youth, language, parents, teachers? Etc),
- ◆ where would they want to conduct the opinion survey exactly?,
- ◆ would there be more than one site?

This detail will help them to come up with their diagnosis plan.

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4. Large Group:

Groups reconvene and report back to large group. Discussion follows.



“What is a Community Diagnosis”

*“The Art of Finding the Cause of a Community Concern or Issue
And Discovering the Resources to Overcome It”*

~1~

Decide Upon Your Area of Focus

“What issue will your group work on?”

~2~

List the Questions You Are Trying to Answer

“What are you trying to find out about your issue?”

~3~

Decide Upon the Research Tools That Will Help You Answer Your Questions

- ◆ Surveys & Interviews with Community Leaders
- ◆ Research at the Library or on the Internet
- ◆ Research at City Hall or City Offices (*are there existing laws?,
how do policies change?, who makes the policies?*)
- ◆ Count Physical Objects (*like ads in stores, # of billboards*)
- ◆ Do Focus Groups or Visit Agencies or Community Groups
- ◆ Do a Community Forum: What does the community think?
- ◆ Do Opinion Surveys of youth, community members,
teachers....
- ◆ Make a Map of Your Community (*resources, assets, groups,
agencies*)

~4~

Analyze Your Findings and Put in Charts, Written Form or on Graphs



“Your Community Diagnosis”

- 1. What is the focus of your project?** *(What issue are you working on?)*
- 2. What are you trying to find out about your focus or issue?** *(What questions are you asking about your issue?)*
- 3. What are the research tools you will use to help you find this out? How will you do your research?** *Surveys, Interviews with community leaders, Research at the Library or on the Internet, Research at City Hall (are there existing laws you should find out about), Surveys that count physical objects (like advertisements), Focus groups, visits of agencies or community groups, Community Forums (where you ask the community what it thinks about your issue).*
- 4. How will you analyze what you found out and prepare your findings for the community and policymakers** *(in charts, graphs, written form, with pictures, in packets....)*