Discussion Guide for Exploring Community Engagement

This is a series of small-group discussion questions for use during an agency retreat or extended meeting that offers a structured opportunity to explore the agency's potential for community engagement work.

How do you define the following terms?

Community Engagement

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:

   (i.e. Amplifying the voices of constituents)
   (i.e. Educate and provide analysis of issues)
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Leadership Development

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:

    (i.e. Promote & nurture natural leadership)
    (i.e. Build capacity of residents (they need support and guidance to be effective)
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    -

Public Policy Advocacy

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:

(i.e. Parents getting involved in community change and advocacy for children and families)

(i.e. Convene peer agencies to address changes, gaps in service, respond to issues/crises)

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What is unique about how agencies like ours do these activities (Community Engagement, Advocacy, Leadership Development?)

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:

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What issues lend themselves to cross-neighborhood, city-wide campaigns appropriate for our organization?

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:

<u>Recent Issues/Campaigns</u>
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Emphasis: Leadership development or Policy change?

If our organization were to take on a joint campaign, would the priority be leadership development or to choose an issue that could create policy change with city-wide impact. This choice influences who is involved, who leads, what the process and pacing looks like, what resources are needed, and what obstacles there would be. Answer the following questions for two different emphases.

<u>Obstacles and Resources for Leadership Development</u>

What are the obstacles do doing this at our agency?

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What resources would be needed to do this well?

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:
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Obstacles and Resources for Policy Change Campaign

What are the obstacles do doing this at our agency?

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What resources would be needed at your own Center and at the NCT to do this well?

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Enter examples from previous agency discussions:
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