

Peer Recovery Support Services (PRSS) Community of Practice (CoP)

May 22, 2018

Organizational Functioning

Questions & Answers

Q1. How many staff and volunteers should be involved with the Board?

A1. Staff and volunteer engagement/involvement on a Board depends on the organization and how it is set up. Volunteer engagement/involvement on a Board depends on volunteer structure and how many chairs available on Board. Staff are able to provide “voice” of organization. Before adding staff: (1.) Need to identify how impactful it will be to have staff members participate on your Board; and (2.) Need to identify role of staff on Board. It is recommended that staff take “backseat” on Board, help with taking notes, etc. Caution to avoid “yes (wo)men” on Board. Inclusion of those who are less involved will allow you to hear more from actual community.

Q2. How to engage potential Board members?

A2. Understand the need (resources, roles, tasks), educate potential Board members about the organization, use existing contact network, ask network who might be a good fit for Board members. Increasing diversity is important (ex: not having everyone at the table in recovery). A good team has clarity of and diversity in roles and skill sets as well as a common vision.

Recommend watching the Simon Sinek’s TED Talk about beginning with the “Why”:

https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action

Q3. What does outreach look like for the “Growers”?

A3.

- Intentionally engage potential partners by providing free resources and getting them involved and once they are involved/engaged seeking alternative ways to work together.*
- Ask Board members to connect via networks/relationships*
- Increase visibility -- talk to leadership at hospitals, have connections to local media outlets and have specific messaging.*