



Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families

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www.servingongroups.org

Section 5: Tips & Strategies for Groups

What makes effective meetings?

What improves group dynamics?

What is two-way communication?



Tips for Effective Meetings



- Be prepared as a group
- Start and end on time
- Have the information needed to make decisions
- Make sure you are not missing someone who is critical to the discussion
- Follow a meeting agenda



Improve Group Dynamics



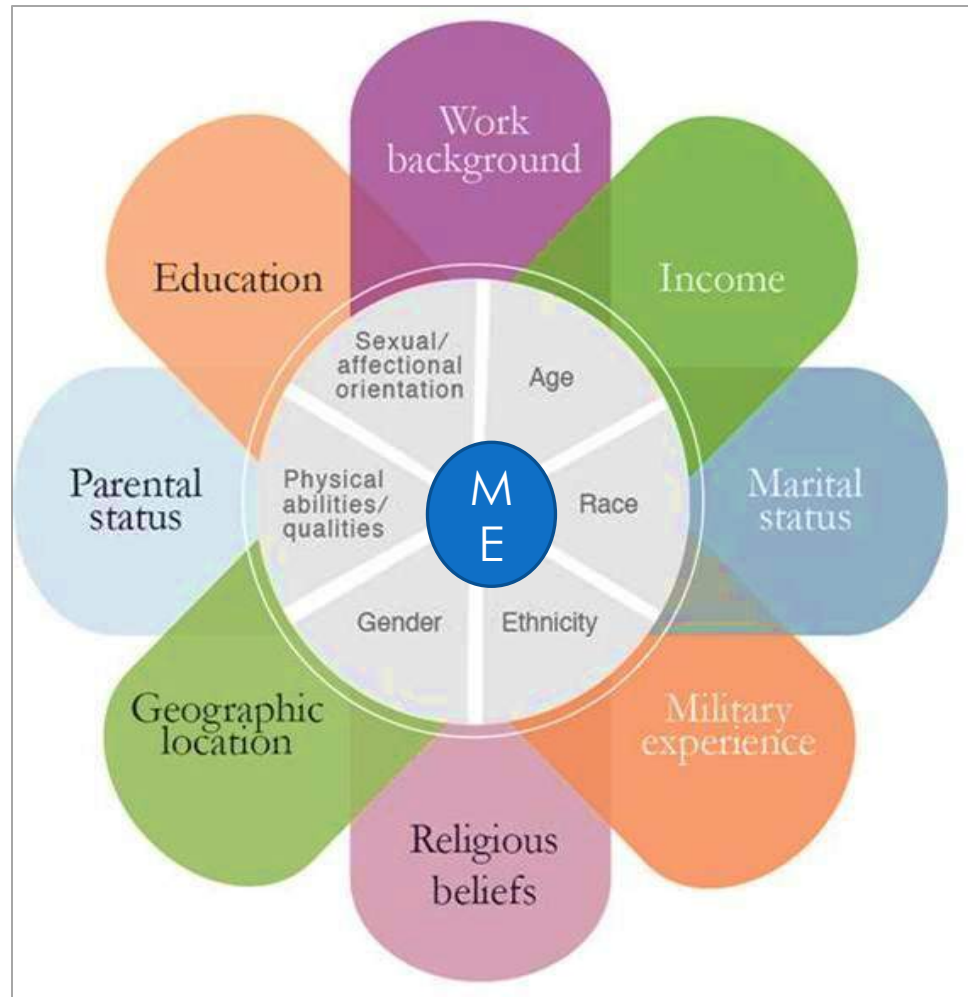
Internal group strategies can include:

- Have members get to know one another
 - Share experiences & opportunities
 - Use “ice breakers”
 - Allow time for cultural connections
- An orientation for new members
- A refresher for all current members
- Provide training & mentorship
- Give group’s background information & history



What is culture?

A way of life by a group of people



Equity Alliance at ASU



Culturally Responsive Family Engagement

- Latino Learning Modules “What is Culture?”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15jdTQlr7j4>



Cultural Reciprocity & Cultural Humility

Cultural competence

can include:

- mandates
- laws
- rules
- policies
- standards
- practices
- attitudes

Cultural Humility/ Cultural Reciprocity

is a process and a lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and critique to improve relationships and outcomes.

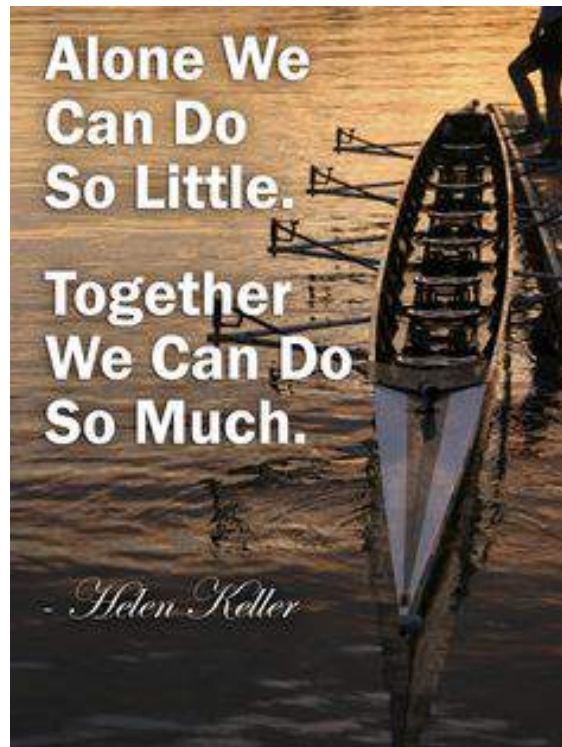


Understand Cultural Norms



- Keep learning about the unique cultural values and beliefs of all members
- Recognize and honor racial and ethnic variations
- Provide trained interpreters
- Limit the use of jargon
- Encourage members to mentor one another
- Utilize cultural liaisons/cultural brokers
- Understand your own cultural norms, practices, & beliefs & how they affect interactions





Alone we can
do so little;
together we
can do so
much.

-Helen Keller

Two-Way Communication



External strategies can include:

- Town meetings
- Public listening sessions of local, state, or national agencies
- MCHB Block Grant hearings
- 'Breakfast with the Policymaker'
- Policy forums
 - Health, education, disability, etc.



Section 5 Resources

Techniques for Improving Meeting Effectiveness

<http://www.effectivemeetings.com/>

Running Effective Meetings and Facilitating Groups (2002)

<http://sabes.org/resources/facilitationguide.pdf>

Facilitating Groups to Drive Change (B. Buechel)

<http://www.imd.ch/research/challenges/TC069-08.cfm>

National Center for Cultural Competence

<http://nccc.georgetown.edu/>

Cultural reciprocity

<http://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED400251>

