

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE FORUM: CASPER WYOMING

June 23, 1983



Facilitated by: THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Denver, Colorado

BACKGROUND ON CASPER FORUM

DESCRIPTION:

The CASPER RURAL DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE FORUM conducted on June 23, was attended by 15 individuals from 13 self-help projects in Wyoming and Utah.

The purpose of the forum was to hear reports of APPROACHES THAT WORK from among the projects present, first in the form of accomplishments and issues; then in a workshop format, the specific learnings from each project.

Projects represented included programs in community development, youth assistance sheltering battered women, human resource councils, impact assistance, children's day care, community surveys, cultural events, etc.

During the Workshop on "What's Working in Your Project, and How did You Do It?" participants listed items on cards that were grouped according to topic, then 2 teams wrote 7 sentences to hold the data on the cards. Their results are contained in this document under the heading: KEYSONTES TO EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT.

THE ORGANIZING SPONSOR AND THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

The organizing sponsor for the International Exposition and for the Casper Rural Development Showcase Forum is the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit research, training, and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development.

The Casper forum is one of a series to be held during 1983 as a part of the International Exposition of Rural Development. This three-year series of events will provide occasions for exchange and evaluation of local development efforts on a regional and national level.

These forums are intended to build a working global consensus regarding the essential components of future development.

CASPER FORUM AGENDA

- 9:30 Registration and Project Displays
- 10:00 Introduction and Orientation
- 10:30 Project Reports--'What is Working'
- 11:30 Plenary-Reflection on the Reports
- 12:00 Lunch and Visual Displays
- 1:00 Conversation: Criteria for Effective Local Development
- 1:30 Workshop: Listing of Specific Approaches that Work
- 4:00 Reports, Reflection and Closing

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SHOWCASE FORUM

KEYSTONES TO EFFECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT

A. ATTITUDE

Attitude is one of the most important aspects a leader needs before beginning a Community Project.

If community leaders are positive and enthusiastic and let residents know about their ideas and what they think can be done, others will follow their lead.

Others will have good ideas to offer to the project and these ideas need to be listened to, studied and incorporated if they are pertinent.

It is important to teach and train individuals to know what they are expected to do. Then let those individuals "carry the ball" and do the best job they are able. In this way, you will not have to over extend yourself and the work will be divided among many other persons.

Some projects will be highly successful. Others will not. If you know & expect this, you will not be afraid of failure. You will look at it as a valuable experience and go ahead & try something else.

Remember, give a man a fish & he will still be hungry tomorrow. Teach him to fish & he will never be hungry.

B. VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer are the backbone of any project. Ask individuals for help in the areas they are interested in, and involve as many residents as possible. Ask the most energetic person to head the fund drive, pick your volunteers carefully and make yourself available.

C. TECHNICAL RESOURCES

The outsider is vital in the community development process. Often the insider is too close to the situation or problem to recognize the need or is unable to muster necessary resources to define & solve the problem. The insider should not be afraid to ask for assistance from technical resources people & use available material resources.

C. RECOGNITION

Everybody needs recognition for job well done. Leader & volunteers should be personally & publicly recognized & thanked for the work they have done. Dinners, picnics, dances, plaques & certificates are just a few ways to celebrate and recognize individuals & groups. When in doubt have a festival.

E. FUNDING

Fundraising is a reflection of the commitment of a community to the program. Public Relations is an integral part of successful fundraising.

F. HUMAN RESOURCES

All ages in the community can be involved as participants. To reach older people, go through the senior citizen center. To reach younger people, work through the schools. Two interesting approaches: Organize a youth council; match younger people and older people to gather with specific tasks or projects.

Work with and maintain a good relationship, the city council and the county commissioners. Identify and work with the appropriate community leaders.

Consider the cultural and ethnic issues

Delegate work and responsibility to others. Plan committee assignments and appointments utilizing members specific kinds.

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KEYSTONES TO EFFECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT

G. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Identity specific needs & programs.
- Involve your community
- Organize and form a place of action
- Evaluate frequently
- Carry out in a business like manner

A. ATTITUDE

Don't Be Afraid of Failure
Be Enthusiastic and Positive
Don't Overextend Yourself
Be a Good Listener
Give a Man a Fish a Day; When you Leave He Will Starve. Teach
Him to Fish and He Will Survive.

B. VOLUNTEERS

Pick your Volunteers Carefully
Asking Groups of Individuals to See What They are Willing To Do
Involve as Many Residents as Possible in Different Projects
Get the Most Energetic Person to Head the Fund Drive
Make Yourself Available

C. TECHNICAL RESOURCES

Show or Teach Others how to Overcome Obstacles
Utilize Available Resources, People, Materials, Structures & Attitudes
Ask for Help, when Necessary
Provide Needed Technical Assistance

D. RECOGNITION

Get the Story out re Victories
A Central Information Exchange should be set up to Inform Citizens
of Jobs, Services, Etc.
Hold Neighborhood Meetings to Exchange Ideas for Better Area
Community Picnic or Tea to Put Project Before the Public
Celebrate Victories and Key Moments
Celebrate with Your Volunteers
Be Sure to Give Thanks and Appreciation
Provide Volunteers with Positive Strokes
When in Doubt, Have a Festival

E. FUNDING

Gain Ecommunity Support to Back Up the Program by Getting
Commitments, financial support & recognition
Raise Money for a Common Goal

F. HUMAN RESOURCES

Make Specific Assignments
Ask the Best Person you Know to Be Chairman of the Committee
Don't Do Everything Yourself
Consider the Cultural & Ethnic Issues
Work with City Councils
Work with Key Leaders
Work with Formal & Informal Leaders

KEYSTONE BACK-UP DATA
Continued

F. HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)

Invite Young People to be Involved in a town project
Listen to What the Youth Say
Establish a Youth City Council
Work with All Ages
Match Older People and Younger People
Involve the Senior Citizens in Your Project for Wisdom's Sake
Delegate Work and Responsibility to Others
Let the People Take Part
Delegate Tasks According to Skill
Identify Community or Project Leaders
Use Local Talent and Resources

G. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Organize Community Progress
Be a Good Administrator: Plan, Plan, Plan
Break a Project Task Down into Steps
Develop Community Development Process
Make Sure It's the Peoples Needs and not Your Needs
Let People Define Their Own Goals
Draw on the Intelligence of the Group. Don't Be an Authority in
Someone Else's Community
Assess your Community Needs
Identify Specific Problems
Prioritize Projects recognizing Scope, Scale and Resources after
Identifying Concerns--be Realistic
Use Computer Survey
Define Goals; Develop a time Frame Allowing Space for Flexibility
Create 3 month and one-year Timelines
Use Committees or Task Forces
Evaluate Frequently
Capitalize on the Teachable Moment
Follow up On a Community Concern Such as a Fire, Storm, Loss of Funding
Write Everything Down
Don't Get so Involved in Program that You Can't Monitor & Observe

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SHOWCASE FORUM

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The Wyoming Church Coalition, Casper, Wyoming

Casper College, Casper, Wyoming