

# Participatory Policymaking: Creating Responsive and Inclusive Service Systems

Kate Burkhart, Executive Director  
Alaska Mental Health Board  
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse



## Constituent Driven Process

**Not to, not for, but WITH**

# Planning Model ~ Top Down

Board driven

Data-driven (data first)

Aspirational

Static

Limited relevance over time

Process:

Review of state, national plans, other guiding documents

Pre-determined outline/agenda

Limited, episodic stakeholder engagement

Formal public notice and comment

Publication

# Participatory Model ~ Popular

Constituent driven

Supported by data and research

Action oriented

Organic

Continued relevance



# Philosophy



Popular does not mean “easy” or “palatable.”

Popular means it STARTS and ENDS WITH PEOPLE.

The ideas and objectives of constituents are prioritized to ensure policy is relevant, needed AND wanted.

The process must be ACTION ORIENTED.

Engaging constituents will create expectations for action and results from government.

Engaging constituents will create opportunities for personal action.

# Process

## NO PRE-DETERMINED OUTCOME

1. Objective review of system for policies, outcomes of past 5-10 years  
funding, programs, outcomes
2. Stakeholder driven system assessment  
must provide opportunities for broad and unexpected participation  
must not pre-establish boundaries on discussion
3. Identification of themes related to strengths, weaknesses  
address low hanging fruit while preparing for next phase  
ex: SB 23, Nalaxone bill
4. Stakeholder engagement  
listening sessions statewide  
go to stakeholders  
social media  
ongoing reports back, feedback loop
5. Media engagement  
promote process throughout with earned media as well as PSA/outreach

# Process

6. Review of data, research related to themes identified
7. Propose policy recommendations  
must be SMART and be action-oriented
8. Use feedback loop with stakeholders to further define recommendations  
recommendations must be practical and able to be implemented



# Process

9. Draft of recommendations prepared by staff, review by task force members  
include population indicators and performance measures for evaluation of outcomes
10. Provide meaningful opportunity for public review, comment  
publicize beyond basic public notice  
provide multiple avenues for comment  
invite broad engagement
11. Discuss public comment, finalize recommendations in open, public meeting
12. Thank you notes to every person who commented
13. Final revisions
14. Publish with acknowledgements



# Product

Recommendations that are:

- ✓ Alaskan
- ✓ Evidence-based and/or supported by data and research
- ✓ Concrete ways for the State and communities to reduce and prevent the harms of heroin and opioid abuse
- ✓ Measurable, to ensure effective implementation
- ✓ Supportive of stakeholder engagement



# Questions, Comments?

*Thank you*

