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Samira Salem Director, FCI's Community Development Services

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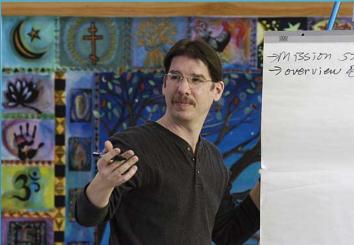


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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: BEYOND NEEDS AND ASSETS



mission staten > overview & org

Randy Stoecker Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Community and Environmental Sociology



WOMEN OF COLOR LEADING CHANGE



Annahid Dashtgard (Upper Left) Sagashus T. Levingston (Upper Right) Sabrina "Heymiss Progress" Madison (Lower Left) Vanessa McDowell (Lower Right) April 27, 2017, Noon-1pm CT

We'll send a registration link when we share the recording of this webinar/

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THANK YOU!

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Community Development: Beyond Needs and Assets

Randy Stoecker

Group check-in (1)

I know about needs assessments (either through education or experience)

Group check-in (2)

I know about asset mapping (either through education or experience)

Group check-in (3)

I think needs assessments are cooler than asset maps

Group check-in (4)

I think asset maps are cooler than needs assessments

Needs vs. asset approaches

 Needs-based approaches - Identify weaknesses, gaps - Can be system - or individual-based - Use an individual unit of analysis - Employ surveying as primary method Asset-based approaches - Identifies strengths, "gifts" - Can be system - or individual-based - Uses an individual unit of analysis - Employ asset "mapping" as primary method

Critiques of needs and assets approaches

Asset-based critique of needs approaches

 Defines people as having deficits
 Individualizes problems
 Uses damaged-centered analysis
 Degenerates into victim-blaming

- Issue-based critique of assets approaches
 Individualizes assets
 - Externalizes assets
 - Misrepresents needs as deficits
 - Degenerates into victim-blaming
 - Ignores oppressive/exploitative/exclusionary systems

Race/class inequity in needs/assets models

- Credentialed professional organization led/constrained
 - Enhances power of white middle-class credentialed experts
 - Limits or siphons power of people of color and/or in poverty
- Neoliberal biased—limited by existing power relations
 - Focuses on filling individual needs or promoting individual "gifts"
 - Mystifies institutional racism / classism
 - Engages in avoidance/delegitimization of conflict



From needs and assets to issues

• Shift in the process

- From professional-led data extraction to professional-facilitated process
- From individual level of analysis to collective level of analysis
- From professional-led definition of interventions to constituency-led definition of interventions
- Shift in the content

 Collective identification of issues
 Power analysis
 Systems analysis



Issue work as power work

Two goals of issue work
Win on the issue
Build the power of the group
Knowledge power
Systemic power



Group check-in (5)

I have been trained in community organizing by one or more of the following groups or their affiliate: – ACORN

- -IAF
- DART
- -PICO
- NPA
- Midwest Academy – Gamaliel

How to find and work on issues

- Issue collection
 - Door-knocking and house meetings
 - Constituency leadership groups
- From problems to issues
 - From isolation to community
 - From victim-blaming to systemexplaining
- Cutting issues POW!
 Precise
 - Precise
 - Organizable
 - -Winnable



Resources

- Joan Minieri and Paul Getsos. *Tools for Radical Democracy*. John Wiley and Sons, 2007.
- Lee Staples. Roots to Power: A Manual for Grassroots Organizing, 2nd Edition. Praeger, 2004.
- Rinku Sen. Stir It Up: Lessons in Community Organizing and Advocacy. John Wiley and Sons, 2003.