

Akron Pod Convening – May 2-3, 2017
Day 2 Discussion Sessions: Guidance for Team Presentation¹

The first step in the discussion session is a brief (5-10 minute) presentation about an important topic in the team’s Invest Health work. Below is guidance on (1) selecting a topic to workshop with the group and (2) preparing to present.

1. Selecting a topic to workshop

The discussion sessions are designed to offer presenting teams the opportunity to access the collective expertise of the Invest Health community, and receive thoughtful, experience-based feedback on a topic of importance. Each participating team will both present a challenge or issue for feedback, and also provide perspective and feedback on the matters shared by other participating teams.

In selecting a topic, teams may want to start by brainstorming a list of opportunities or challenges that are top of mind. The following prompting questions may help focus your team’s short presentation:

- What is the main problem your team is trying to solve? How has your understanding of the problem evolved over the course of your Invest Health planning process? What questions does the team still have about the problem?
- How are you thinking about advancing equity in your community? How will your team’s work serve underserved and/or marginalized communities?
- Has the team had an early success it is hoping to replicate on a broader scale? How is the team thinking about the scaling work? Are there additional partners that need to be engaged? How is the team building support for broadening the work?
- What does your team hope to achieve between now and the end of the year? What is needed to make that happen? What is standing in the way?

¹ Portions of the below are adapted from materials developed by the National School Reform Faculty.

We encourage you to select a topic that is:

- **Significant** enough that the team regularly discusses or wrestles with it;
- **Concrete and specific**, meaning it directly relates to the work the team is doing;
- **“Live”** – meaning it is not already on a clear path to resolution;
- Tied to your team’s **aspirations** for the convening and/or related to the topical theme of the convening;
- Within your own **“sphere of influence”** – meaning it can be impacted by team members’ actions, approaches, and assumptions; and
- One for which the team is open to trying **new approaches** and, potentially, **taking risks**.

Below are some examples of the kinds of topics/discussion sessions teams shared at our other pod convenings:

- *Learning how to assess when do you know you can proceed with a project that meets test of best practice of having been driven with authentic community engagement is a work in progress. Our team is considering the following questions on the journey: What is the tipping point for identifying a specific project? How to address organization capacity concerns? How to ensure we are intentional because we do not want to repeat past mistakes? How to do a signature project tied to strategy that is not just a one-off project? How to address trust issues within the community?*
- *Our team is concentrating in a Community Development Block Grant target neighborhood. The area was recently submitted for a Choice Neighborhoods grant and is getting quite a lot of attention from the Housing Authority, City departments, and researchers from area universities. Data and community engagement is an important part of our team's as we assess the possibility of developing a grocery store. However, we do not want the neighborhood members to experience survey or research fatigue. We'd love to get ideas from other communities that may be facing similar challenges in their data gathering efforts.*

- *Our team’s work is focusing on a historic, central neighborhood known for higher rentership rates, affordable (though often poor quality) housing, and low access to high-quality food. A recreation and event complex is planned for the edge of this neighborhood. How can our team work with the partners involved (both public and private) to incorporate health considerations into the development? What kinds of creative programming could be implemented that would help to incorporate neighborhood residents into the facility, and facility users into the neighborhood? Are there any strategies that might prevent renters from being priced-out of low-cost housing near the facility after construction is completed?*

2. Preparing to present

While teams are not expected to create new materials for their presentations, each team should come prepared to share a thoughtful description of the topic on which the team is seeking input. Ideally, each team member will have a role in the presentation.

We are asking teams to submit their chosen topics for discussion by 5pm on Friday, April 21st via email to sophie.bryan@reinvestment.com. As noted above, topics will be shared in advance with the participants in each discussion group.

Teams should include in their presentations relevant context, information about any efforts the team has already made related to the topic, and the results of those efforts. If the team thinks it would be helpful to share a document or visuals, please feel free to do so.

Importantly, to conclude the presentation, teams should be prepared to pose 1-2 discussion questions to the group to prompt a dialogue. In identifying discussion questions, the team should ask itself (1) what it really wants to know, (2) what the opportunity or dilemma is, and (3) what is standing in the way of resolution. Core questions are ones for which substantive answers would help the team take concrete action to address the topic. Teams should aim to avoid questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no,” which typically generate less feedback.

To allow plenty of time for discussion, please try to keep presentations to 5-10 minutes (the facilitators will help with keeping time).