Planning and Design of Community- Focused Convenings

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About Us

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (HEP) team serves as a connector and convener of groups working across geographic, cultural, and issues areas and builds infrastructure for peer learning communities. We use a bottom up approach to address challenges by empowering community members to serve as leaders. We have a unique ability to bring people together working across issues to have collective impact.

The HEP team has planned statewide and regional convenings and trainings to deepen relationships, strengthen leadership skills, and ensure community voice is elevated as part of decision making. Additionally, we have provided logistics support for grassroots community organizations and members to attend national events. Since 2012, HEP has organized over 30 events, in 11 cities, with over 1,250 participants.

Primary Motivations for Convening

- Authentic dialogue around critical issues;
- Community engagement and trust building;
- Learning, ideation and innovation;
- Consensus building, collaboration and coordination; and
- Building leadership capacity.

I just really felt the leadership saw deep into our needs and strengths, had great trust, showed great care and incredible wisdom on the potential for this gathering. EXCELLENT WORK! - Gathering Participant
Capacity Building Needs

Capacity building needs include support to ensure the approach is:

- Reflective of core cultural values (including equity and sustainability);
- Promotes strengths based thinking; and
- Is inclusive of diverse stakeholders.

HEP’s Approach to Convening

HEP’s community-based and culturally appropriate approach to gatherings is as follows:

- Peer to peer and local voice is foundational to cross community learning.
- Meeting in person is key to building relationships - relationships are core to learning communities.
- The venue for each gathering is community-based; we strive to provide local food to further support and engage community.
- Planning is intentional and inclusive: local representatives serve on planning committees and drive the agenda.
- Cultural traditions, sharing of narratives and site visits are central to gatherings.
- We are intentional about creating safe spaces and opportunities for 1st time presenters, facilitators etc.
- Gatherings include a combination of activities for individuals with different learning styles; we strive to be creative, flexible and adaptable with the agenda.

"Thank you for the incredible NMHEP "health in all policies“ convening! It was very thoughtful, insightful, courageous, safe, genuine, embracing, motivating, organizing, and more. I met wonderful people and see some really exceptional policy priorities that give me great hope because of the commitment, thoughtfulness and intellect that is already part of the priorities. I saw a real desire by the collective to move things forward overtime. " – Gathering Participant

Services

HEP offers technical assistance services on how to effectively create community-focused gatherings aligned with core values, facilitate peer learning, and promote cross- stakeholder collaboration.

HEP provides planning and logistical support services in designing and implementing community-based gatherings and events.
Why work with us?

We believe that the process of planning gatherings is an opportunity to lift up the strengths of communities and strengthen leadership skills. This belief is reflected in our team’s approach to content development, logistics support, onsite coordination, facilitation and follow-up.

The HEP team’s community-focused core values and principles, paired with its deep expertise and experience in designing large-scale multi-stakeholder convenings make us well-positioned to support target group’s capacity building needs. In particular, HEP could help groups to:

- Create engaging and accessible gathering spaces;
- Lift up the strengths of staff, planning committee members, partners, and community;
- Engage in authentic dialogue around critical issues;
- Design conference sessions that push attendees to “think out of the box” and identify innovative solutions;
- Bridge partnerships with community groups;
- Meet grant requirements; and
- Utilize resources more efficiently.

We have hosted gatherings in multiple locations and are experienced in working with diverse communities.

We can adapt our services and technical assistance meet your specific regional and cultural needs. Contact us today to learn more!

Pricing of Services

NMHEP supports all types of organizations and in particular have discounted rates for nonprofits and community organizations. For more information regarding services people should please contact Jessica Jensen at jjensen@nmhep.org.

Everyone was authentically valued from the start...You could see the pieces of the puzzle of community well-being coming together. Even though there was data presented, there was a historical and community context that showed great depth. The amount of planning that went into preparing this gathering was, so well thought out! — Gathering Participant