

TASK GROUP

SECTION I

Group Information:

- GROUP TITLE/ TYPE:
 - Hamilton County Community Schools Coalition
- GROUP GOALS/PURPOSE:
 - Brainstorm ideas on what a community school should look like for Hamilton County.
 - Should we consider implementing this model in Hamilton County?
 - Best strategies to implement (should we choose to).
 - How to best accommodate all the students in order to ensure successful education.
- MEMBERSHIP:
 - This is an invitation only group. There were about 32 attendees.
 - Demographics of the members:
 - There was a fairly even amount of males and females in the room.
 - Specifics such as age and marital status were not discussed.
 - Most attendees were Caucasian or African American (possibly some biracial); however, there were only three Hispanic/Latinos of which I was one.
- SESSIONS:

- There is no set frequency for these meetings. This was the very first meeting, but I am hopeful that there will be plenty more.
- Coordinators informed they would send out an email for the next meeting.
- CURRENT GROUP SESSION STATUS:
 - As mentioned above, this was the first meeting conducted in order to discuss community schools.

SECTION II

Observations / Reactions:

1. Based on my observation of the group, I believe the group is in the power and control of stage of Garland, Jones and Kolodny's Model; between the forming and storming stage of Tuckman's Model; and between the inclusion- orientation and uncertainty-exploration stage of Northen and Kurland Model. The reason why I believe they are in the power and control of stage of Garland, Jones and Kolodny's Model is because although this was the first meeting, the group did not seem ambivalent or confused about what was going on and the roles they played. Due to the fact that we had experts in different areas, they all had a different approach or perspective they could bring to the table. Although there was not a clear fight over power, many would take the lead and speak while others would listen. I also chose between the forming and storming stage of Tuckman's Model because they were all

becoming familiar with each other and were still learning how the meeting would be conducted, but there was no fear in respectfully disagreeing with someone who might have a different opinion.

However, the storming stage was not so intense that it took all of the attention away from the topic. Lastly, I chose between the inclusion-orientation and uncertainty-exploration stage of Northen and Kurland Model because not everyone knew each other, therefore when she split us up into groups it was obvious some people did not know whom they should team up with. This also happened with the leader of the meeting because sometimes she would say “last comment/question and we have to move on,” and after that comment or question, someone else would jump in and say something else.

2. In my opinion the leader’s facilitation style was Democratic. The reason I believe this is because she involved as many members as she could. She oriented the group on what should happen, but she also allowed for the group to express their concerns or ideas freely and respectfully. Toward the middle of the meeting you could notice the group began to open up more and there was more interaction from those who were quiet at the beginning. I think her leadership style was her strength because it allowed for the group to function well. However, I would recommend her growth to be professional attire. What she was wearing did not make her look professional or

credible. I believe this is very important when you are a professional.

3. At the beginning the group dynamics were a little tense, but the leader began with a very nice icebreaker, which engaged the members and allowed them to meet people they may not know. I did not notice any ambivalence or concerns about the leader. Toward the middle the group began to speak more and become more interactive. The dynamics were so good that when the meeting was over many of them stayed to get to know others better.
4. A strength of this group was that they were all sincerely working toward bettering Hamilton County schools. They all had a common goal and they all seemed passionate about it. An area of growth would probably be to try to think of the diversity within the schools in order to make this plan successful.

The group was amazing. I felt honored to be able to attend. We discussed what a community school looked like to us, if we liked the idea of having community schools, the pros and cons of this, and how we could accommodate all the students. I learned a lot of what other community schools are doing along with the opportunity to network. As an intern at La Paz, I had the honor to bring up some issues that may arise within the Hispanic/Latino population while trying to implement this plan. Working with this population is truly a passion of mine, and I was glad to have the opportunity to speak up for them. Every individual that attended this meeting had great ideas and a sincere desire to improve Hamilton County schools. This group

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was very helpful and informative. I look forward to continuing to attend these meetings when possible, and to contribute my perspective as a Hispanic student.