

# Future Search



## Future Search: A Systems and Policy Change Strategy for MCH Community Leadership

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# Essence of Public Health



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

-Rev. Martin Luther King, JR.

# What is Future Search?



Unique planning and leadership process that:

- Honors everyone as “experts”.
- Taps into resources gained when diverse groups work together.
- Discovers common ground.

# What Is Future Search ?



- Fosters conditions for dialogue and action across boundaries.
- Creates humane systems change and leadership that respect dignity of all.
- Makes Community Happen - MCH.

# Future Search Principles



- Getting the “Whole System” in the Room.
- Exploring the Whole Before Acting on a Part.
- Focusing on Future and Common Ground.
- Self-Managed Learning and Responsibility for Action.

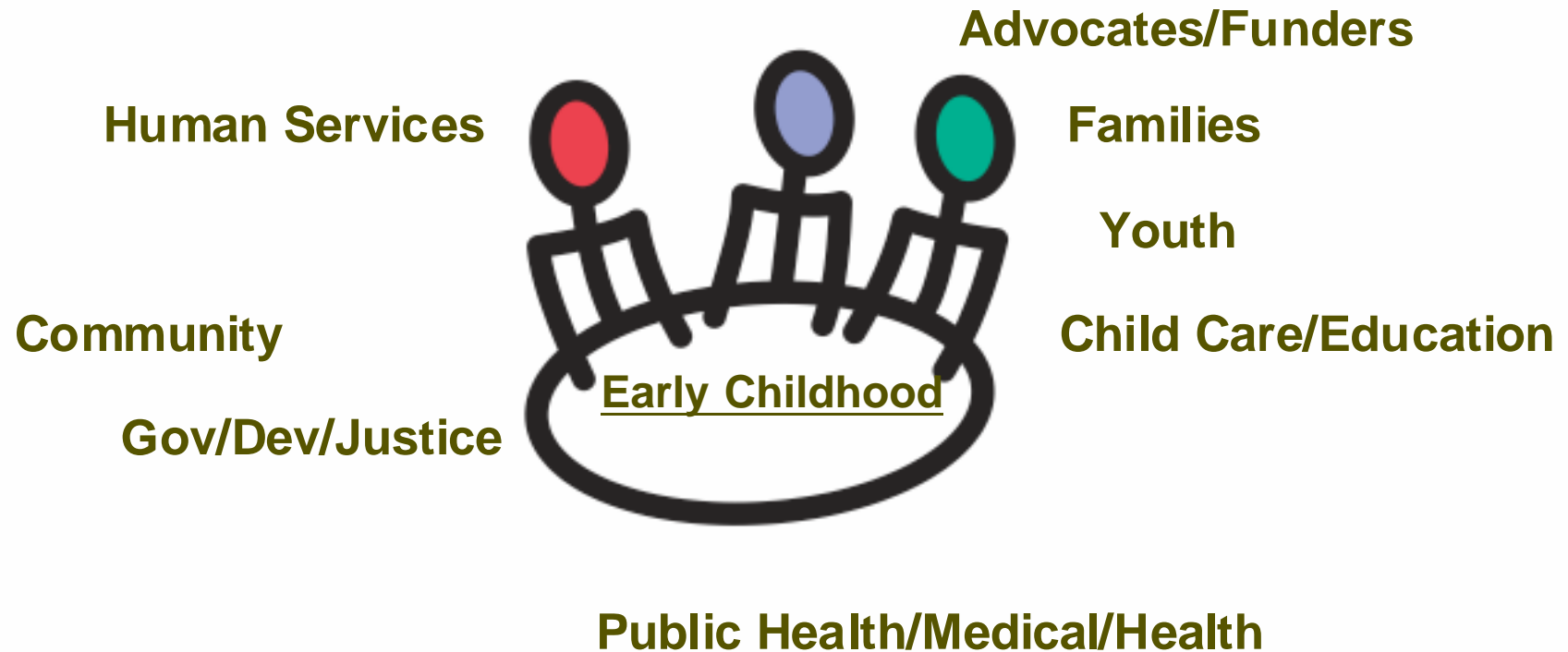


# Risk

“He who risks and fails can be forgiven. He who never risks and never fails is a failure in his whole being.”

Paul Tillich

# How Future Search Works



# How Future Search Works



- 60 to 80 people at single conference.
- People work in:
  - self-managed small groups – mixed (cross section of the whole) and stakeholder.
  - large group dialogue.
- Four half-day sessions spread over three continuous days.



# Future Search



Brings people together who have never been in the same room before.

Creates shared picture of the whole as it relates to particular issue.

Shifts focus from what's wrong and how to fix it to a shared vision for the future and how to create it.



# The Agenda



## Past

- Timelines: Global, Local, & Personal.



## Present

- Create map of trends affecting issue.
- Ownership.



# The Agenda (cont.)



## Future

- Ideal future scenarios.



## Common Ground

- Participants identify and confirm the common ground themes. Language matters!



## Action Planning



## Getting at the Roots of Really Tough Issues

“Milwaukee has multiple problems around racial harmony. Future Search provides an opportunity for diverse groups, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, economic, or social backgrounds, to work together. It affords everyone a “voice” without criticism or ridicule.” Milwaukee Participant

# Outcomes



- Demobilization of 21,000 child soldiers in Southern Sudan.
- Community and state partnerships addressing African American infant mortality in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- \$7 million per year in dedicated revenue for human services in Seattle, Washington.
- Racial tensions transformed into collaborative economic development projects in Berrien County, Michigan.
- Funding for parent education and child care in New Mexico.

# Outcomes



- Health Insurance coverage for all in Vermont.
- Established San Gabriel, California, Healthy Start Family Resource Center.
- Established Nevada Public Health Foundation.
- Increased youth participation in governance of 4-H clubs throughout Montana.
- Asthma Initiative reduced absenteeism from asthma in Minneapolis Schools.
- Community Connections in North Platte, Nebraska obtained 1.2 million grant to expand before-school, after-school, and summer programs.

# Outcomes



- Moving Forward Together: Building a Future for the Children of Maine.
- 1) Increased awareness.
- 2) Attorney General super-active advocate.
- 3) Training shared between Home Visitors and Early Head Start.
- 4) New Division of Early Childhood in Maine DHHS
- 5) Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resiliency Policy
- 6) Completion and use of *Invest Early in Maine: A Working Plan for Humane Early Childhood Systems (2006)*

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# Vision, Leadership, Legacy

“We have learned that miracles happen with vision and spirit. The world needs that vision and spirit all the more. We are all threatened by entrenched inequality and divisions. We all must prove ourselves equal to a better possibility.”

- Nelson Mandela

# Future Search Principles



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# Future Search Principles and MCH Leadership

From what you have just heard about the 4 Principles of Future Search:

1. How are you already using them in your project (“living them out”)?
2. How could you enlarge on their application?