



Linking Systems of Care Coordinator Toolkit

Meeting Beyond Words

Meetings depend on participants talking and listening, but that's not all. Engaging other senses allows people to engage more fully. Consider the physical environment, allow for movement during the meeting, and use many sensory modes of thinking. Go beyond words!

Physical Environment

It's easier for people to make connections with one another and with the conversation when they are physically near each other. Proximity is a leveler; it conveys "we're all in this together."

- Be sure everyone can see and hear everyone else.
- Round tables and circular arrangements promote dialogue and equal standing.
- In general, the closer people are, the better.
- The bigger the scribing/drawing surface, the better.

Movement Throughout the Meeting

Ask people to move around. Moving and changing the meeting space encourage people to process information in new ways, shift perspective, or think deeper. It's fun, not boring.

- Change seats.
- Go for a walk-and-talk in pairs.
- Join new small groups.
- Approach a common area to arrange post-it notes, give feedback, etc.

Using Multiple Modes of Processing as a Group

Use visual, auditory and kinesthetic activity to invite out of the box thinking and engagement.

- Write, draw and journal to allow “quiet time” to process.
- Individuals or groups put ideas on cards or sticky notes, then arrange them on a large visual in a group process of co-creating.
- Use storytelling to paint an auditory picture of history, current reality or possibility.
- Use art, doodling, colored markers... don't limit yourself to black ink and white paper.
- Think about what information will be helpful to display visually – the roadmap/history of the initiative, the meeting agenda, group ground rules.

Modified from the work of Chrissie Bonner, Illustrating Progress, www.illustratingprogress.com