

O – Organizational Effectiveness

How Are You Doing As a Board?
State of The Board Survey

State of the Board Survey

HOW ARE WE DOING ON THESE FACTORS WHICH HELP MAKE A BOARD EFFECTIVE?

YES/GOOD COULD BE NOT YET
BETTER HAPPENING

1. The organization has a clear written statement of its purpose or mission, easy for all to find.
2. The organization has a set of written bylaws which clearly spell out how the board will transact its business.
3. The board has been made aware of its responsibilities for:
 - a) governing the organization
 - b) legal liability
 - c) obtaining funds
 - d) deciding on policy, programs, planning and use of funds
 - e) for hiring/firing top staff
 - f) for a yearly financial audit
4. The board has a varied composition including:
 - a) users of the organization's service
 - b) neighbourhood residents
 - c) men and women
 - d) experts and interested persons
 - e) representatives of special groups which have an interest in the organization's services
5. New board members are:
 - a) given orientation and training
 - b) assigned an experienced "buddy"

YES/GOOD COULD BE NOT YET
BETTER HAPPENING

6. The board reviews its goals, its work and its own structure every year.
7. The board has working committees/ groups through which action is channeled.
8. Committee assignments and responsibilities are in writing.
term task group basis. They don't go on forever.
9. A nominating committee asks for suggestions from staff, board, clients/users and other resource people in preparing nominations for the board.
10. The organization always has a list of potential board members for the future.
11. There is a written statement of qualifications for new board members.
12. There is a balance of experienced and new board members to guarantee both continuity and new ideas.
13. There is a plan which limits the time a person can remain on the board, ensuring regular spaces for new members.
14. Morale of board and staff is high.
15. We work well together as a team.
16. We can criticize each other constructively.
17. There is a board Manual given to each new board member which explains their duties and responsibilities as well as other important information.
18. The board Manual is updated annually.
carefully recruited, trained, supported and recognized for their efforts.
19. Board and staff members take part in appropriate training and development activities within the organization and in

the community.

20. There is a clear understanding of what board member tasks are and what staff tasks are - and the difference between the two.

21. Meetings are efficient and don't usually last longer than the agreed upon time.

22. Meetings begin on time and follow an agenda which everyone has.

23. We get minutes, background and study documents well enough in advance of meetings to be useful.

24. Meetings of the board include free and wide ranging discussion with full participation, respect for different opinions and creative, shared decision making.

25. Board meetings deal most with setting policy, reviewing plans and evaluating the work of the organization rather than day to-day operating matters.

26. Regular reports of committee work are made to the board.

27. The board helps to secure financial support for the organization.

28. We keep up with local, provincial and national trends/concerns which are within our organization's field of interest and service.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

1. When I was asked to serve on this board, I understood my role was:
2. I was asked to serve on this board because:
3. Before I joined the board, I wish someone had told me:
4. I would feel more effective as a board member if:
5. The major problem facing our board is:
6. What I like best about our board meetings are:
7. What I dislike most about our board meetings are:
8. To improve our board I think we should:

From Partners Plus "The Group Member's Handbook", Marilyn MacKenzie and Gail Moore.