Understanding and Improving Capacity within Diverse Community Contexts and Organizations

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Goals of this Session:

- Identify and explain capacity in the context of community recreation.
- Identify common capacity issues in community recreation, particularly in diverse contexts and organizations.
- Discuss (your) case study examples.
- Identify and produce resources which are useful for communities and/or organizations.

Capacity



Capacity

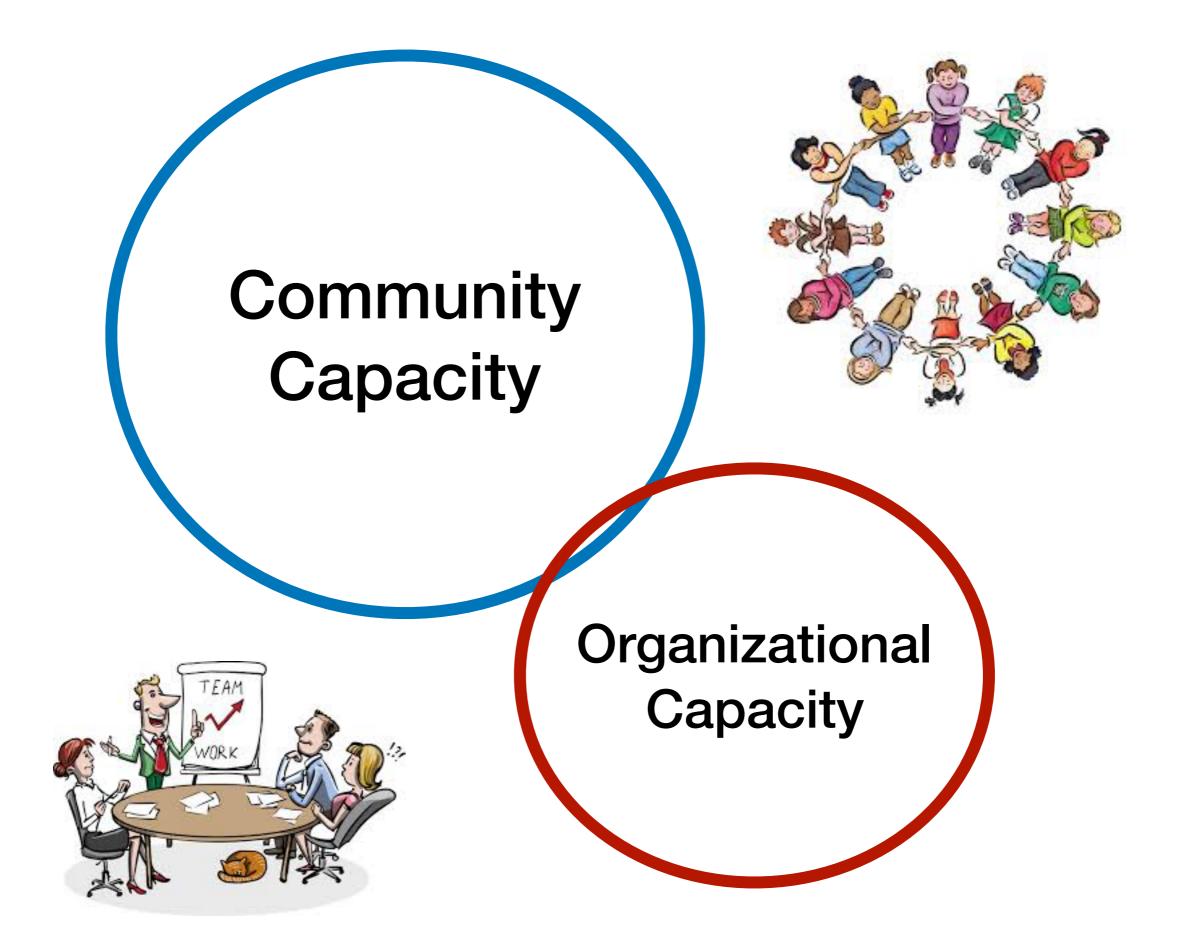
- A static or dynamic resource involving people, organizations, and governments
- Collective work to secure, mobilize, or enhance resources
- Attempts to achieve goals and/ or solve problems

How Communities "Get Things Done"

Building or Enhancing

- Focusing on the positives:
 - Identify assets and strengths within communities and organizations
 - Leverage them to access, mobilize, or enhance others.





Dimensions of Community Capacity

- Physical & Economical Assets
- Civic Participation
- Dispositions

- Skills & Knowledge
- Leadership
- Networks

Physical & Economic Resources

- Important part of any community project or program
- Can be built or natural



Skills & Knowledge

- Having the "know how" and ability to manage your resources.
- Can be accessed formally (e.g., through education) or informally
- For example
 - Critical thinking, problem solving, planning, conflict management, grant writing, project management, etc.

Leadership

- The idea that some (individuals or organizations) will assume different roles than others.
- Can be formal (e.g., president of an association) or informal (stepping up in a time of need).
- Often involves:
 - Organizing, communicating, delegating, finding/ mobilizing resources, coordinating community efforts, etc.

Civic Participation

- Involvement and passion of community members
- Allows for the recognition of diverse perspectives and resources that exist within communities.
- Can promote empowerment and ownership, sustainability and success of programs, community learning, etc.





Networks

- Webs of relationships through which people connect.
- Can be social or organizational and formal or informal.
- Allows for:
 - Sharing of information and resources, support structures, mechanisms of communication and knowledge transfer, etc.

Dispositions

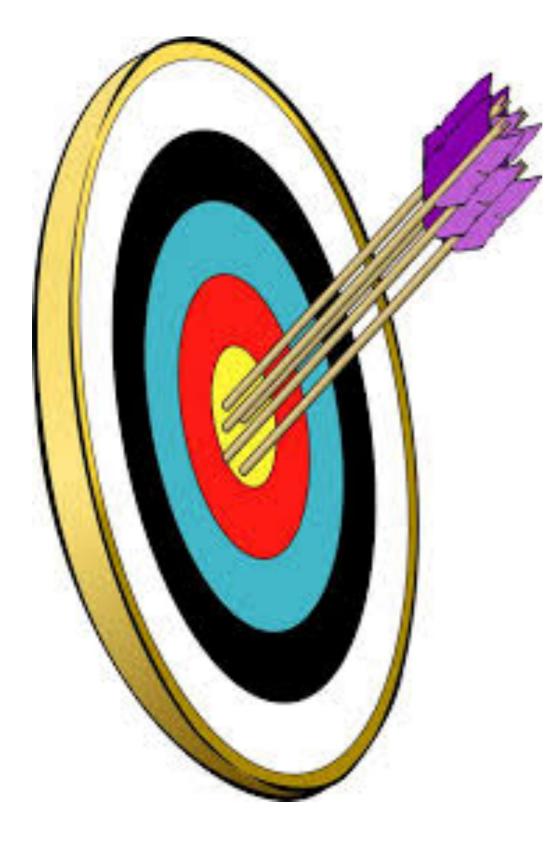
- Emotional and psychological aspects
- The attitudes of community members and organizations
- Involves attitudes/feelings such as:
 - Togetherness, reciprocity, trustworthiness of relationships, sense of community, inclusion, tolerance, etc.



Diversity of Experiences

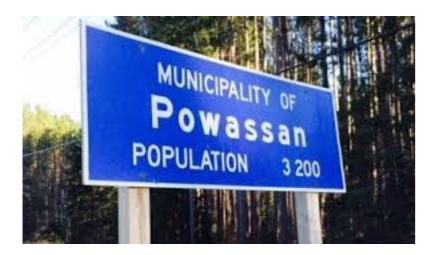
- Community Contexts
 - Size, population (density), metro-adjacency, population demographics, economic influences, natural resources, political climate, etc.





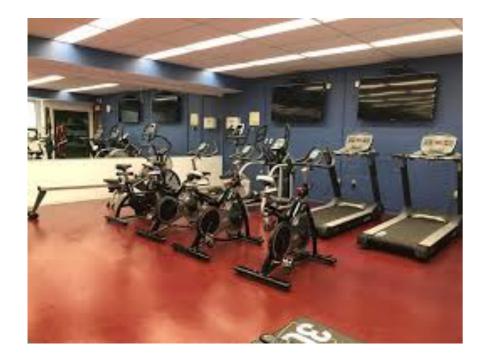
Case Study Activity

Our Example: 250 clark











Capacity Case Study

Context	Dimensions	Strategy	Outcome	Links
-Amalgamation of three former jurisdictions -Bedroom or commuter population -Surplus of (aging) facilities	Primary: Physical and Economical Resources Secondary: Skills and knowledge, leadership, dispositions	Centralize services into one "community hub"	 -Increased usership -Closure and sale of two former facilities -Diversification of programs and services -Improved attitudes and sense of community. 	<u>http://www.</u> 250clark.ca

Your Examples:

- Each table has been assigned a dimension of capacity to discuss
- Within your groups:
 - Take 5 minutes to introduce yourself and where you are coming from.
 - Brainstorm examples from your own experience (or hypotheticals) that are implicated in your dimension of community capacity.

Your Examples:

- Select one of your most interesting examples.
- Using the worksheet provided, have a guided discussion about the example, including:
 - The contextual factors that influenced the example
 - The other dimensions of capacity which were/could have been implicated
 - Strategies that were undertaken
 - The outcomes (good or bad)

Context	Dimensions	Strategy	Outcome	Links
 -Factors that influence perceptions and experiences in the community -Demographic, geographic, social, political, etc -Resources that are/aren't available from support structures 	Other dimensions of capacity which are implicated in your example.	What was intentionally undertaken?By Who?How did it happen/ unfold?	-What were the outcomes? -Intended and unintended How (if at all) was it evaluated?	 -Is info. about the example available online? -Resources that were used in the process -Contact info (you or otherwise) for more info.

Your Examples:





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