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Leading Your Board Toward Extraordinary Governance

Michigan Association of Counties – April 16, 2020

Author and Presenter– John Amrhein



Components of Extraordinary Governance Program Overview

- Intro to the Components of Extraordinary Governance
- Discussion of the What, Why, and How of the Components
- Wrap-up



Components of Extraordinary Governance?

- **Why** – “...the research to date on board development initiatives suggests no one model seems to be better than another. In fact, there is evidence that what makes a difference in board development is the organized use of any thoughtful and well-developed systematic approach to development.” (David O. Renz, 2010)
- **How** - Today’s discussion will get you started, success requires a commitment.



Step One to Extraordinary Governance

- Get Started!!
- Then, stick with it!



What are Components of Extraordinary Governance?

- Ten things that are necessary for board excellence.
 - Functions
 - Methods
 - Principles
 - Culture
- Components that need to be intentionally built and maintained.





“TEAMMATES WHO
WORK TOGETHER
ARE THE TANGIBLE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN GOOD
TEAMS AND
GREAT TEAMS.”

—TOM IZZO



Mission focused actions and impacts

- Mission gives direction to goals and actions, identifies impacts, and guides the board and staff.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Resources to accomplish the mission

- Numerous famous, and a few not-so-famous people have been quoted as saying, “Don’t tell me your mission. Show me your budget, and I’ll tell you your mission.”
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Constructive partnership between board, management, elected officials, and staff

- Clearly defined roles that both board and staff understand and honor, working together to accomplish the mission.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Benchmarking and monitoring

- Create systems to benchmark and monitor both performance of goals and use of finances.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



The board as a body - a thoughtful intentional plan to govern together

- Working as one, providing for continuing education, role of the chair, board evaluation, planned revitalization and recruitment.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Informed policy guiding actions

- Good policy is the result of good research and careful consideration of all alternatives and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Culture of accountability, transparency, and integrity

- This type of culture encourages everyone to apply these principles to every decision and action they take; and it builds trust.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Great meetings

- Well run meetings, with appropriate agendas, accessible information for the public and an appropriate balance of policy and detail.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Culture of forward-thinking excellence

- Analyzing future trends, opportunities and problems, and looking for better ways to achieve the mission is critical. Excellence by the board sets a tone for the rest of the organization.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Responsive partnership with stakeholders

- Boards need to identify appropriate stakeholders and build strong, long term relationships.
- (*Discussion*)
 - **What** is this?
 - **Why** is it important?
 - **How** do we improve it?



Components of Extraordinary Governance?

- **Why** – “...the research to date on board development initiatives suggests no one model seems to be better than another. In fact, there is evidence that what makes a difference in board development is the organized use of any thoughtful and well-developed systematic approach to development.” (David O. Renz, 2010)
- **How** - Today’s discussion will get you started; success requires a commitment.



Components of Extraordinary Governance

- Questions
- Evaluation
- Contact info:
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