

## **Who is – or should be - at the Power of We Consortium’s table?**

### **Background:**

The original make-up of the Power of We Consortium (known as the Human Services Advisory Committee around 1995) was 15 founding institutional public organizations (<http://powerofwe.org/who-we-are/membership//>), represented by their executive directors. Over the years, organizational membership has been extended to a variety of public and/or private institutional, community and faith-based organizations, and coalitions - now totaling 52. Representation for any of these organizations is often the executive director, but may also be a middle management staff person.

Since the Consortium’s inception, attendance at monthly PWC meetings by the 15 founding member organizations has decreased. Three of the 15 organizations do not participate in regular monthly meetings or committee meetings. However, various members of their staff may participate in one of the active 12 coalitions of the Consortium. The other 12 founding member organizations are periodically represented at member or committee meetings. A majority of these founding member organizations continue to provide financial support in spite of their absence from the table.

Community Partner (organizational) membership and Community Representative (individual) membership expansion in recent years has been strategic to assure broader representation from under-represented organization types and populations.

### **Current picture:**

Attendance at monthly Consortium meetings remains fairly steady in terms of overall numbers of people. Some executive directors are relinquishing their participation to their middle management staff or volunteers to represent their organizations. Approximately 20 member organizations have not been represented at a monthly meeting in two or more years. A significant number of non-member organizations/individuals now attend monthly meetings.

Approximately half of the 8 community representative members have attended monthly meetings in the past year.

The Investors Steering Committee, made up of directors of public/private agencies, foundations, institutions, and PWC Co-chairs is well attended.

The Community Data Committee has maintained a steady membership over a large number of years.

The Leadership and Practice Committee maintains a core group of attendees, with new attendees fluctuating in and out.

### **Questions:**

- If you were to envision a Consortium with an over-arching commitment to equity and sustainability, what organizations/persons are not at the table (monthly, committee and/or coalition meetings) that/who might increase the Consortium’s effectiveness?
- What changes to the membership structure might enhance Consortium effectiveness?
- What might be the financial impact to PWC sustainability if the membership structure is changed?
- Has the shift from executive director-only participants at monthly meetings helped or hindered the effectiveness of the Consortium?
- What action should/should not be taken to re-engage non-participating member organizations at the monthly, committee, and/or coalition meetings?