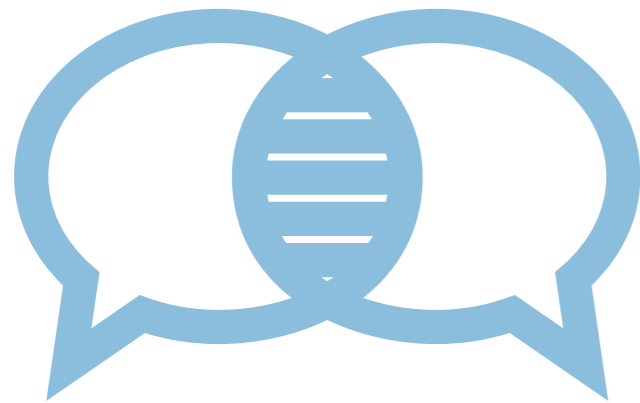


Leading with lived experience: empowering guests in advocacy & decision making

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE
MAY 16, 2023

TONY BURNS & LARA PUKATCH





OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTIONS

ICEBREAKER

BACKGROUND: MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

WHY GUEST LEADERSHIP?

A LESSON FROM ADVOCACY

HOW TO MOVE BEYOND CHECKING THE BOX

QUESTIONS!



TONY BURNS



LARA PUKATCH



Icebreaker:
what is your advocacy superpower?



MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

our mission is to END chronic homelessness in Washington, DC through:

- healthy meals
- social services
- street outreach
- permanent supportive housing (PSH)
- policy, advocacy, & systems change





THE WAY HOME CAMPAIGN

A movement to end chronic homelessness in DC, led by Miriam's Kitchen, that is supported by 110 organizations and 7,000 individuals

ADVOCACY @ MK



SYSTEMS CHANGE

We work with government agencies, policy makers, service providers, and community members to improve our homeless services system and address root causes of homelessness



GUEST LEADERSHIP

We partner with, learn from and cede power to the experts: those with lived experience of homelessness



why guest leadership?

Individuals with lived experience know best what it is like to experience homelessness and how best to end it – for individuals and across communities



People deserve a seat at the table where decisions are being made that impact their lives

Guest leadership is not just a means to an end – it's a goal itself.



LESSON LEARNED:

YOU CAN'T DICTATE THE TYPE OF FEEDBACK, INPUT, LEADERSHIP, OR DECISION MAKING THAT YOU WANT

couldn't prioritize guest leadership in advocacy without doing the same in all our programs

ensuring our guests are the center of everything we do, meant operationalizing this value across the organization

had to step back and create guest leadership goals and an infrastructure to support them



How to move beyond checking the box

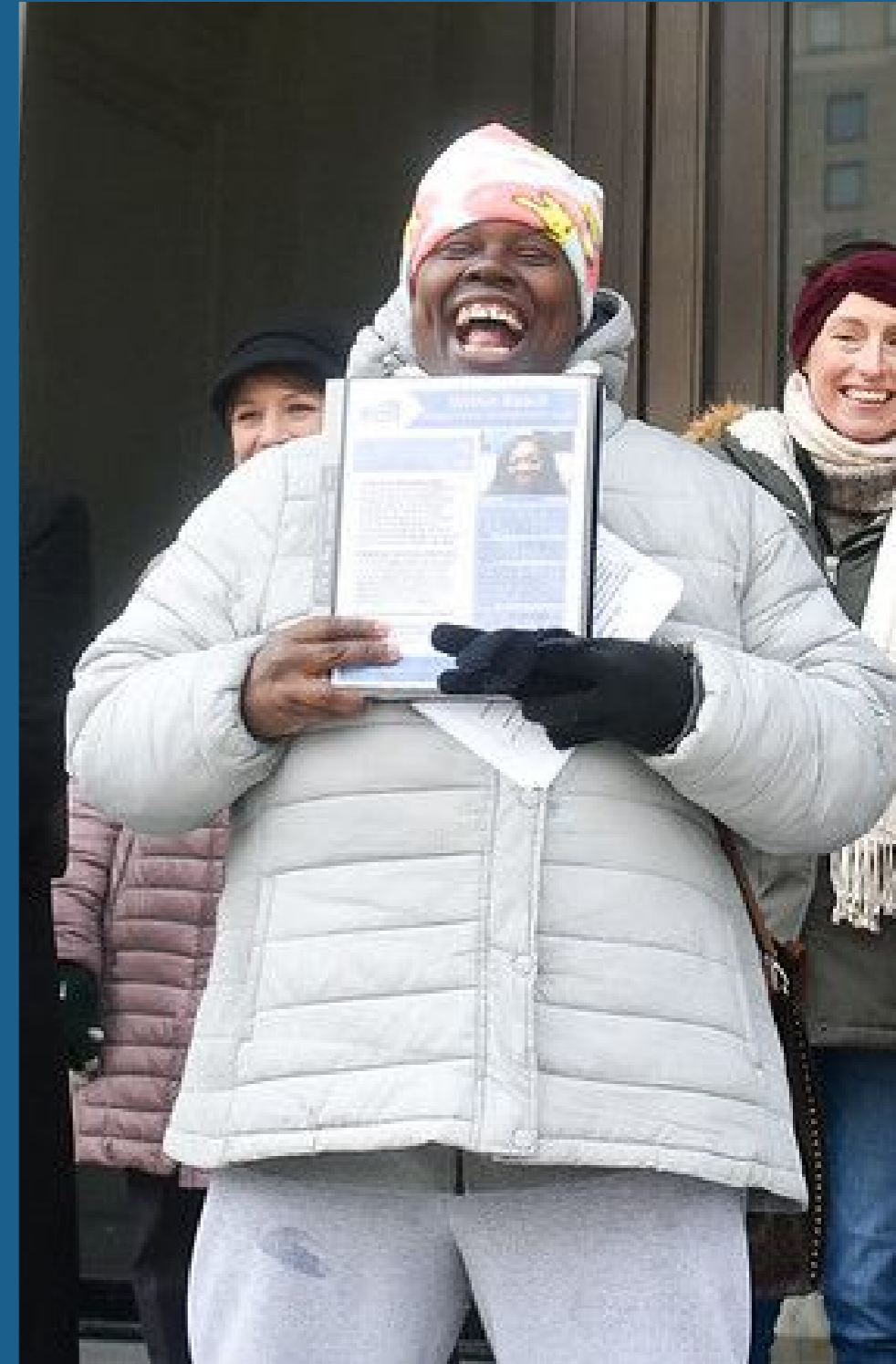
- build trust and meaningful relationships
- build the infrastructure
- focus on leadership & decision making



Trust and Relationship Building

- create opportunities for it whenever you can
- make trust the priority in the execution of all your initiatives
- focus on transformational partnerships, not transactional ones
- build community
- don't forget: building trust and community takes time and intentionality

EXAMPLE: Speaker's Bureau



Building the infrastructure

Be intentional - create goals around the work and then operationalize them

Dedicate capacity & resources

- staff/staff time
- expertise
- fund the work!

Type something

create a menu of opportunities - not everyone's the same!



trust and strong structures
make it possible to evolve
and pivot



Speaker's Bureau



Guest Advisory Board



Advocacy Fellowship



Coalition Leadership Seats



Staff & Money

- Guest Leadership Budget
- Staff - this is someone's job!





Experiment!

- Agents of Change Working Group
- Studio for Change
- Guest Engagement Working Group
- Town Halls
- Roundtables
- Formal feedback mechanisms
- Listening Sessions

Leadership & Decision Making

- engagement - collaboration - leadership
- create a pipeline of leaders (incl staff)
- cede decision making power

ex. MK Guest Advisory Board, Advocacy Fellowship



Guest Leadership as Racial Equity

- those most impacted by unjust systems often lack access to the power to change them - our organizations and systems are more equitable when we disrupt these power dynamics
- when we only seek input or storytellers, we're justifying our reason for existing; when we seek leaders and changemakers, more meaningful change is possible*
- achieving equity requires shifting from "savior-designed" to "ally-designed" to "equity empowered systems"**

*Baljeet Sandhu, Building Opportunities for Inclusive Leadership. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. 28 Dec 2016. Building Opportunities for Inclusive Leadership (ssir.org)

**National Institute for Children's Health Equity. From Savior-Designed to Equity-Empowered Systems (nichq.org). 13 Feb 2020.



Questions + Comments

Contact us!

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