Stewardship Circle - Workshop 3: Stewardship, Leading an Asset-Based Approach

Lead Facilitator: Tom Dewar, Faculty Member at Asset-Based Community Development Institute

Co-facilitator: Cormac Russell, Nurture Development

Workshop Descriptor

This one day workshop will explore the role of leadership in creating a culture where communities can connect the strengths of local people to build neighbourhoods from the inside out. Participants will be invited to reflect on and challenge themselves on what leadership means, and consider alternative ways of leading that isn't about directing change from the top, but rather creating the conditions that enable people in communities to take action on the things that are important to them.

Content:

The workshop will explore the following themes / topics:

- Transforming the concept of leadership, moving towards stewardship
- Using supportive functions of an organisation for Community Building
- Values and Behaviours of ABCD Stewards as "leaders," members and followers
- What does stewardship mean to you?

Structure:

The workshop will include:

- A keynote address from Faculty member Tom Dewar (see summary below)
- A chance to reflect on the opportunities and challenges for leadership in your specific home community
- An introduction to action planning that is consistent with ABCD principles
- Facilitated group discussions

Preparation in Advance of the Workshop

In order to help participants prepare for the Module, the following information has been provided:

1) Overview of the Keynote by Tom Dewar

2) Relevant pre-reading materials and resources. As a minimum we would ask that participants read the 'primary reading' suggested on the list.

3) A list of possible questions that may be explored at the workshop.

Keynote from Tom Dewar: "Stewardship toward Enlarging Citizen Space"

The overall purpose of the Keynote is:

- **T**o identify some key themes, uncover some assumptions, and offer some illustrative stories.

- To introduce the day and what we might expect from it.

The Keynote will explore:

1. Some core ideas in support of an asset based approach

- Finding and growing citizen space – the redistribution of authority - down and out.

- Membership is as important as Leadership: Building a stronger sense of "we" – on teams, mutual aid and community associations

- Welcoming the stranger and other strategies to rethink the 'edges' of community

- Some stories

2. Understanding and institutional and professional assumptions, and how they shape our thinking, actions, and beliefs (see Illich).

    The value of "working in the gap," defined as between the various "institutional worlds" and "community worlds".

- Functions / Roles

- Brokering and Intermediary Organizations

A few stories that show ways it can be done.

- The perils of partnerships: how mainstream institutions manipulate and control through collaborations.

- What to do instead of programs, policy change, and institutional reform -with stories.

- Whose side are you on: The importance of purposeful conflict and disruptive innovations

3. Ways forward: embracing assets, opportunities for group action, and dilemmas

- What's good for management may not be good for the community

- Some proscriptions for professionals – updating the Hippocratic Oath

- ABCD as compass and not a map: the value of emergence, trial and error, experiential learning (shared when possible)

Keynote from Tom Dewar: "Stewardship toward Enlarging Citizen Space"

Pre-Reading and Useful Resources

Primary Reading

1.a. John McKnight, "John Deere and the Bereavement Counselor." The Fourth Annual E. F. Schumacher, originally presented on October 27, 1984.

http://neweconomy.net/content/handmade-homemade-community

http://www.centerforneweconomics.org/publications/authors/McKight/John

1.b. Ivan Illich, "Disabling Professions," Chapter One, in ***Disabling Professions***, pp 11-39; Boston and London: Marion Boyars, 1977.

http://www.uvm.edu/~asnider/Ivan_Illich/Ivan_Illich_Disabling_Professions.pdf

Reading List and Resources

1) Video on The Village at Market Creek, San Diego (embedded in) https://www.youtube.com/v/CoNPz4O4oXY&feature=youtu.be

2) Webinar w Coady Citizen-led Development, on Market Creek https://www.youtube.com/v/CoNPz4O4oXY&feature=youtu.be

3) Gaventa, John and Mathie, Alison (eds) (2014). ***Citizen-led Development***. Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

4) Al Etmanski, PLAN, British Columbia; "Five Ideas about Social Innovation"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xGIvMPchsU

5) Peter Block and John McKnight, ***The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods***, SF, Barrett-Koehler Publishers, 2010. Chapters 5, 6 and 7, on Community Abundance in Action, Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods, and the Power of Connectors (pp. 83-147.)

6) T. Dewar, et al. Statement on "Working in the Gap," from the ABCD Institute, North America, November 2014. (in progress)

7) Arthur Morgan, ***The Small Community***, Chapter 15 on "Community Followership." Pp 174-180. Community Service Inc. Yellow Springs, Ohio, 1942.

8) Paul Schmitz, ***Everyone Leads: Building Leadership from the Bottom Up***, Chapter Six, "Connecting across Cultures," pp 155-186. Jossey-Bass, 2012.

9) Mark Warren, Democracy and Association, Chapter Four, "The Democratic Effects of Association," pp. 60-93.

Core Questions (to consider / for exploration at workshop)

1) When you think about local communities you have known, where and how did you perceive people in those communities to have real authority and a degree of power? How did that happen?

2) Where and how have you seen local community lose some of their authority and power? How did that happen?

3) How do you understand that your background and professional development might have shaped your attitudes and behaviour toward community people and groups? Or toward institutions and professional helpers?

4) What natural talents and gifts do you think are most relevant to working with and through community? Are you currently using these fully? If not, how can that change?

5) What do you find most satisfying about this Stewardship Circle process so far? Or most surprising?

6) What worries you the most about the next steps you anticipate taking in relation to your home community? When you look for "knowing" support and understanding about these worries, where do you go?

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(Note: Tom is searching for another one or two short "stories" on video about the practical process and power of community building – to be added.)