

June 6, 2011

Dear Four Cs Participant,

We want to welcome you in advance of your participation in the *Four Cs of Collaboration Workshop*. We are proud and delighted that you have decided to join us. This Workshop has been designed to help you:

- Understand the value and process of collaboration for yourselves and your organizations;
- Identify and understand conflict, culture and change as a part of collaboration; and
- Understand a framework for cross cultural dialogue

Through this learning experience, you will also gain a greater understanding of your individual strengths around collaboration and have the opportunity to design a plan for future action. Each of you will, over the course of our two-days together, broaden your individual skills through a variety of tools and resources that have been designed specifically for your role in collaborative groups.

In order to support your learning, we will be using various tools including experiential activities using the **case study method** of teaching. We will constantly be reviewing the content and then APPLYING it to your specific experiences. So, we have three specific tasks we would like you to complete in preparation for our time together.

PREWORK #1 - READING ASSIGNMENT

Please review the following document for a background foundation on collaboration and conflict

Collaboration and Community by Scott London
<http://www.scottlondon.com/reports/ppcc.html>

PREWORK #2 - WRITING ASSIGNMENT

We are asking that each of you identify a conflict challenge that you are facing in your collaboration. It may involve a collaborative that you have been asked to oversee, or join as a part of your interdisciplinary work. It may involve major changes that your collaborative is facing or a desire to change the way your collaborative group works. Regardless of the scope, it should be something that:



- you personally are a part of
- have some responsibility to manage
- is a dynamic and on-going process
- you would like to work on at during the workshop

Please come to the first day of the Workshop with your conflict challenge designed as a **written case study** using the outline below:

- Describe a situation where you found yourself stuck in the face of conflict.
- When did this situation become “conflicted” for you?
- How would you describe the other participants in this situation?
- How would you describe yourself?
- What about the situation has left you most puzzled?

The case study will be used primarily to provide an individual context for applying the concepts and framework about which you will learn during the workshop. In addition, there will be opportunities to share it in small groups during some discussion time. You will be asked verbally share the contents at times throughout the two days. Please be aware that over the course of the workshop, your conflict challenge itself might change so please see this assignment as a work in progress!

PREWORK #3 - CULTURAL ASSIGNMENT

A critical aspect of collaborating is preparation and that includes preparing the environment so that it is welcoming, inclusive, and pays attention to the cultural aspects of all individual members. As a way to prepare for this training, we invite all of you to bring one small item for our cultural celebration that you will be willing to give away to one of your fellow participants.

The item should be something that:

- expresses an aspect of your cultural identity and/or your cultural values
- is monetarily inexpensive (no more than \$5.00)

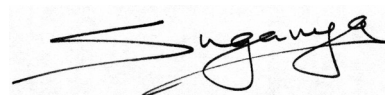
We hope that these days together, both the presentations and the opportunities to interact with colleagues; will create a supportive environment for positive and constructive learning and growing.

We look forward to meeting you and learning together.

Best,



Elizabeth Waetzig, J.D.



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