

WNYDEC 2025 Convening Notes

Attendees

- Eileen Anderson, Erie 1 BOCES
- Ann Battaglia, Healthy Communities Alliance
- Jeremy Besch, Per Scholas Buffalo
- Rachel Bonsignore, Liftoff WNY
- Hannah Brecher, Coalition Community Member
- Christine Carr-Barmasse, Mission:Ignite
- Maddie Czworka, Center for Self Advocacy
- Katie Earl, Erie County Department of Senior Services
- Nestor Hernandez, People Inc.
- Jacqueline Hovey, Buffalo and Erie County Libraries
- Solomon Joseph, Native American Community Services
- Don Matteson, WNYDEC/Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation
- Samuel Mattle, Center for Self Advocacy
- Amy Miranti, Liftoff WNY/Nonprofit Support Group
- Jake Moskal, Journey's End
- Colleen Reedy, Per Scholas Buffalo
- Mike Rogers, Self-Advocacy Association of NYS
- Matthew Rosenstein , Center for Self Advocacy
- Bob Spino, Erie 2 BOCES
- Liz Warkentin, Mission:Ignite
- Heidi Ziemer, Mission:Ignite

Personal Values Identified by Attendees (# of Votes)

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Meritocracy (0) | 20. Authenticity (1) |
| 2. Inclusion (6) | 21. Self-Respect (0) |
| 3. Collaboration (15) | 22. Financial Stability (9) |
| 4. Determination (3) | 23. Humor (0) |
| 5. Adventure (0) | 24. Fairness (2) |
| 6. Family (0) | 25. Justice (0) |
| 7. Fun (1) | 26. Balance (0) |
| 8. Wisdom (1) | 27. Happiness (0) |
| 9. Imagination (1) | 28. Connections (5) |
| 10. Efficiency (4) | 29. Truthfulness/Honesty (2) |
| 11. Trustworthiness (0) | 30. Empathy (3) |
| 12. Gratitude (0) | 31. Self-Improvement (2) |
| 13. Helping Society/Service (7) | 32. Curiosity (1) |
| 14. Friendship (0) | 33. Transparency (0) |
| 15. Learning/Curiosity (4) | 34. Influence (9) |
| 16. Integrity (0) | 35. Adaptability (4) |
| 17. Kindness (0) | 36. Equitable Access (8) |
| 18. Equity (2) | 37. Potential (0) |
| 19. Perseverance (3) | 38. Leadership (6) |

Initial Slate of Values

- Collaboration
- Influence
- Financial Stability
- Equitable Access
- Service
- Inclusion
- Leadership
- Connections

Behavioral Definitions of Initial Values

Collaboration

- List of services of each agency – focus
- Ability to adapt
- Standardize our message

Influence

- Political buy-in and support
- Funder priorities
- Community leader support
- Advocacy

Financial Stability

- Stability allows for greater freedom to access resources/grow; not just financial

Equitable Access

- Helps lead to stability
- Plain, universal language

Service

- Program education/delivery
- Who? People? Organizations? Children, families, etc.? Seniors? Rural/urban?
- Helping!

Inclusion

- All different levels, backgrounds; everyone
- We don't know everything

Leadership

- Admitting the problem
- Knowledge and lived experience
- Diverse leadership
- Identifying bias & stigma
- Collectivist mindset
- Awareness of community
- Listening
- Being an ally
- Shared, collaborate

Connections

- Hold regular meetings (internal/external) – follow-up
- Newsletter
- Advocacy
- **Communications**

- Networking
- Influence decision maker
- Broaden/widen
 - Other coalitions
 - Local agency tracks
- Data
 - Asset mapping
 - Resources
 - Opportunities
- Noting barriers
- Need an app/web update
- Pathways mapping

Misc. (Not a value)

- “Right to do business”: An alternative framing for ecommerce – digital equity as corporate responsibility to obtain/retain the right to do business online

Consolidated Values

- Collaboration
- Equitable Inclusion
- Stability
- Service
- Influence

Keep/Stop/Start

Keep Doing

- Keep collaborating on funding
 - Subcontract
 - Expand reach
- Continue regular meetings
 - More in-person meetings (quarterly?)
- Share knowledge/professional development
- Keep communicating (improve accessibility)
- Continue adding organizations/members (working members!)

Stop Doing

- Individual approaches to the same work (i.e., start standardizing)

Start Doing

- Get out there!
 - Tablings (don't forget follow-up!)
 - Go to non-obvious organizations/partners
 - Ad Council?
 - Data, stories
 - Billboard, etc.
 - Succession planning
 - Governance
 - Beneficiary voice
 - Success stories
 - Satellite meetings (across WNYDEC's catchment area)
 - Political organizing!