

WISCONSIN PARTNERS

Initiating relational one-on-one meetings:

Purpose: A relational one-on-one meeting is meant to begin to build and establish a relationship. It is not to extract information, be an interview, or doing research.

Invitation: Set up the meeting letting the person know who you are and why you want to talk with them. For example: Others have mentioned them as someone who gets things done, heard about some work they have done in the past, heard of them being an energetic leader, etc.

Framework:

1. The meeting should be 30-40 minutes in length. Longer than this risks the chance of people seeing you as a time-stealer and distraction.
2. Don't take notes or very few notes when you talk. Give them your attention. After the meeting is over make some notes of important things you discussed. These notes can be referred to prior to the next meeting.
3. The person asking for the interview should talk about 20% of the time while the person being asked to the meeting should do about 80% of the talking.

Dialogue:

Who we are:

- We are a broad-based community building network that seeks to initiate statewide and community-based efforts that strengthen communities and connect everyday people.
- We also need to tell people who we are as individuals, name, where we live, why we are interested. This is very brief.

Who they are:

- Ask questions about their life and their passions. What is important to them?
- Ask open questions (questions that cannot be answered "yes" or "no").
- Don't be afraid to talk about their lives, families, personal information, etc.
- Avoid talking politics, ideologies, or current conflicts even if you agree with their viewpoint. We are looking for broad-based organizing toward common ground. There must be room for people of differing political and ideological views.

Wrap up: Ask if you can get together again and talk more.