

PATHWAY - Powerfully Positive Questions for P2 in a Changing World: Co-creating a tool to connect people and process in challenging times

Hosts: Barbara Lewis, Co-owner, Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change, Karen Roney, Director of Community Services, City of Longmont, Colorado, Sandra Seader, Assistant City Manager, City of Longmont, Colorado

Barbara Lewis is the President of the Colorado Chapter for IAP2 and one of the lead authors for IAP2's Techniques training. A co-owner of the Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change, Barbara has been internationally recognized for her award-winning participatory planning initiatives. Building upon her strengths in designing creative processes that involve diverse interests in shared visioning, strategic thinking and launching concrete action, Barbara is a recognized expert in Appreciative Inquiry.

Karen Roney is the Community Services Director for the City of Longmont, Colorado. She leads the City's housing, human services, neighborhood, recreation, cultural and education operations. Karen is also responsible for engaging community members in collaborative efforts to address unmet and/or emerging local and regional issues.

Sandra Seader, MPA, has worked for the City of Longmont for 19 years, serving as the Assistant City Manager for 4 years. She is responsible for providing outstanding service to Longmont's staff by overseeing the shared services divisions and has a passion for involving the community in their government.

Pathway Description:

Contribute to advancing P2 in a changing world by co-creating The Encyclopedia of Positive Questions for Community Engagement. Building upon volumes 1 and 2 of this Encyclopedia created for internal organizational engagement, this product will focus on questions P2 practitioners, planners, local officials, and others can use to help people engage in decisions more meaningfully. It will move the conversation from what's not working to what is, and from what we don't want to what we want and how to make it happen. Join this session to improve P2 for both the participant and practitioner.

To create the guide, co-creators will experience a fun and engaging appreciative inquiry process to generate topics and questions and then, pilot test questions with conference participants! And, all contributors will receive attribution in the publication.

Whether you are new to P2 or a veteran, this is your chance to advance the practice by creating a real product that moves the conversation from problems to possibilities.

Outline:

Thursday Session #1 (3.5 hours with break)

- Purpose and scope
- Interview in triads on community engagement at its best
- Table group exercises on Flipping Challenges to Opportunities
- Full group process to select topics for inquiry
- Health Break
- Full group process to finalize topics for inquiry
- Presentation on Writing Questions

- Small group activity to write questions
- Full group process of appreciative feedback and refinement
- Preparing to Pilot Test our Work

Friday Session #2 (45 minutes)

- Share pilot experiences (15)
- Refine questions (15)
- Prepare to present our work (15)