



# Reference: Steps to Organizing a Meeting

### **Before the Meeting**

- Design the meeting goals
- Decide upon a date, time and location for the meeting
- Reserve meeting space
- Create an outreach plan
- Develop the draft agenda for the meeting with time breakdowns

#### Agenda Example:

#### Goals:

- To update local affiliates and receive their feedback on the national campaign plans
- To set a date and plan for the NY local organizing around the national campaign
- I. Welcome and Introductions 10:30 11:00 a. Member Updates
- II. Agenda Review 11:00 11:10
- III. Meeting Agreements 11:10 11:20
- IV. National Work Updates 11:20 12:00
  - a. Research
  - b. California Bill of Rights Campaign
  - c. Capacity Building Program

Lunch 12:00 - 12:30

- V. National Campaign Discussion 12:30 2:00
  - a. Caring Across Generations Campaign Review [20]
  - b. Campaign Update [10]
  - c. Feedback on Policy Proposals [30]
  - d. Local Organizing [30]
    - i. Setting local Care Congress Goals
    - ii. Develop Organizing Plans
- VI. Announcements and Closing 2:00 2:30
  - a. Evaluation what was most useful in the meeting, and what could be improved for next time





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- Review the draft agenda with your supervisor, make improvements
- Assign parts of the agenda to the appropriate leaders and work with them until they feel prepared.
- Conduct follow-up calls to confirm who will be present at the meeting
- Prepare all the materials for the meeting
- Day of: Send out a reminder via text about the meeting

## The Week of the Meeting

- Photocopy materials
- Order the food
- Pick up any equipment needed (interpretation, mics, etc.)
- Review the agenda with the staff at the staff meeting, make sure to get feedback from the staff about the announcements to make
- Prepare your sections of the agenda, make sure you know what you're going to say and how you want to facilitate the your section
- Create a sign-in sheet for the meeting and print it out

# The Day of the Meeting

- Arrive to the office at least one hour before the meeting is supposed to begin to set up.
  Set up includes:
  - O Preparing enough materials for all meeting participants in all the languages you need
  - o Setting up a projector (or arranging for someone else to do this in time)
  - o Writing up butcher paper
  - o Putting enough chairs in the room
  - O Call the restaurant to confirm the lunch order and remind them of the time you need the food
  - o Printing out some sign in sheets
- As people arrive, make sure they are welcomed and know one another, ask them to sign in
- If they are looking uncomfortable, talk with them or ask for their help with something to involve them
- Make sure the food is ordered on time
- Wait or make sure someone is waiting to receive the food
- Set up the food when it arrives or ask someone else to
- During the meeting:
  - Assign a notetaker to take notes on who was present, key decisions, next steps and follow-up needed (you will need to report on what happened to the rest of staff and your supervisor)





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- O Make sure there is a concrete next step, either another meeting, or a specific action to take
- After the meeting is over:
  - o Make sure there is good clean up, especially of the food
  - o Put chairs back if needed
  - o Take down butcher paper
  - O Put the sign in sheet, a copy of the agenda and a copy of the notes from the meeting in a file so you can easily go back and find it

### Follow-up steps

- Identify the next steps from the meeting, what people are waiting for, and what you need to do next, put it into your staff workplan
- Send out notes from the meeting to the participants and reminders of responsibilities they have to follow-up on and thank everyone for coming