

October 17, 2013

Building and Strengthening Collaborative Evaluation Partnerships

Judah J Viola, *National Louis University*

Bradley D Olson, *National Louis University*

Suzette Reed, *National Louis University*

Tiffeny R Jimenez, *National Louis University*



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons CC_BY-NC International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).



1886

NATIONAL
LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Building and Strengthening Collaborative Evaluation Partnerships

Judah Viola, PhD

Brad Olson, PhD, Suzette Fromm

Reed, PhD, Tiffeny Jimenez, PhD &

Christina Smith, MS

10/17/2013

PIONEERING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



LEARNING GOALS

- Attendees will be able to:
 - Distinguish between contracting and collaborative evaluation partnership development
 - Articulate 2 Competencies required for effectively building collaborative partnerships
 - Identify at least 2 questions worth asking and 2 lessons learned from each of the 4 phases of the partnership building process

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Collaboration as the nature of the relationship in which partners:
 - Find common purpose through information exchange, sharing risks, resources, responsibilities & rewards
 - Shared goal of mutual empowerment and learning
- Requires time and effort beyond traditional evaluation or consulting arrangements.
- Partners as experts of their context

COMPETENCIES

1. Collaborative Consultation

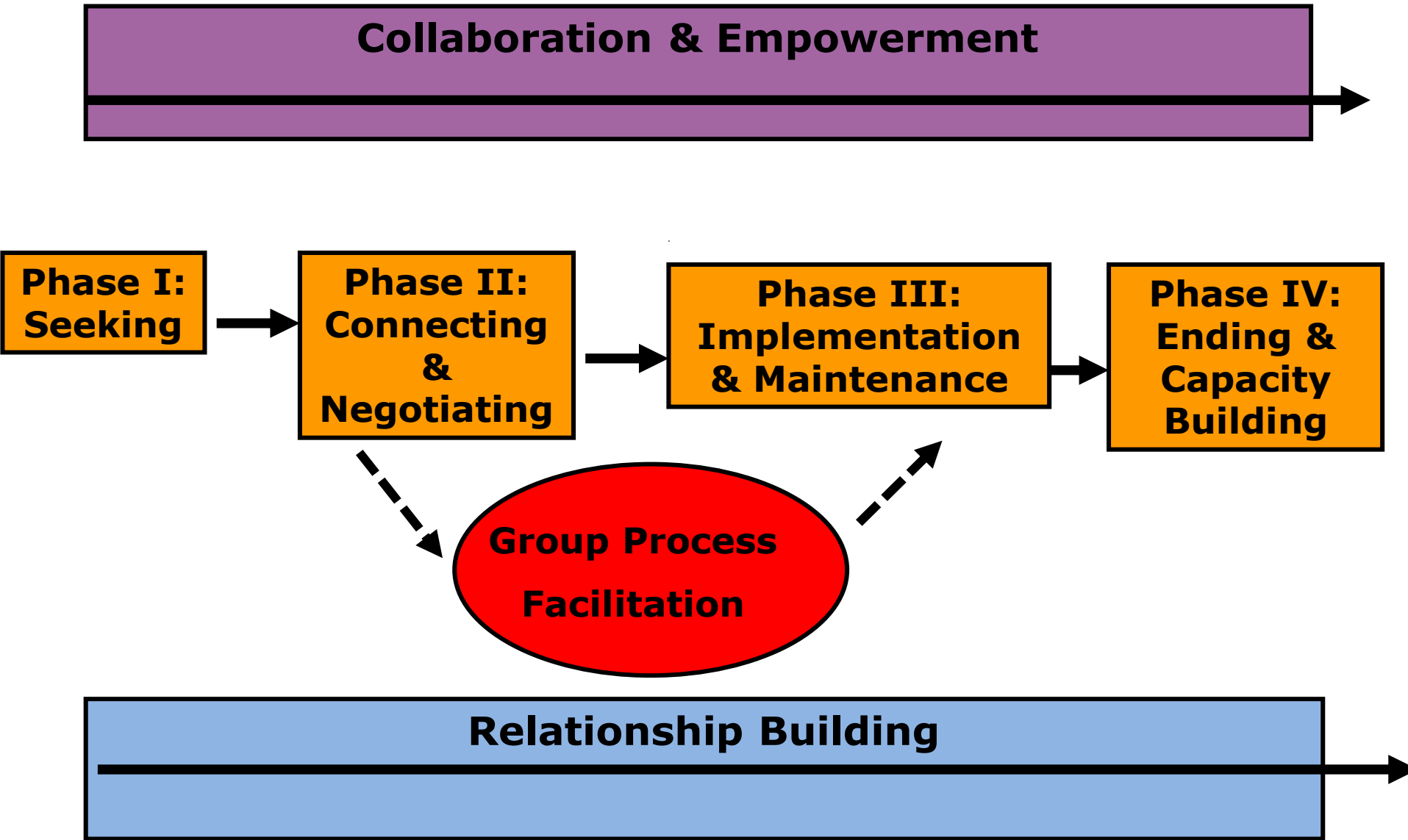
- Demonstrate useful skills (e.g., Fresh perspective & methodological skills)
- Build Trusting relationships through collaborative process

COMPETENCIES

2. Group Process Skills

- *Diverse decision making*
- *Interpersonal communication*
- *Conflict analysis*
- *Consensus building*
- *Facilitation*

Four Phase Model of Collaborative Consulting and Evaluation Partnerships



PHASE I ~ SEEKING

- Questions to ask
 - What benefits are probable from fostering relationship?
 - Drawbacks? (economic, credibility etc...)?
 - Who are gatekeepers & best level of entry?
- Lessons Learned
 - Make use of your network
 - Do your homework before reaching out
 - Map area and organizational assets
 - Don't trust everything you read

PHASE II~ CONNECTING & NEGOTIATION

- Question to Ask
 - Experiences with partnerships in the past?
 - Consider power differentials
 - What org. adjustments on either side need to be made?
 - Is there hope for future capacity building expressed ?
- Lessons Learned
 - Clarify shared vision & decision making process
 - Don't overpromise or try to partner with everyone
 - Make commitments specific & explicit

PHASE III~ IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE

- Questions to ask
 - How is partnership mutually beneficial?
 - What is the impact on other stakeholders?
- Lessons Learned
 - Develop & maintain partnership norms
 - Map out & document process, use timelines
 - Multiple points of contact & channels

PHASE IV~ ENDING & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Questions to ask
 - Is the partnership meeting its goals?
 - What have been unintended consequences?
 - What benefits can come of ending or pausing?
 - How can we sustain benefits if ending or pausing?
- Lessons Learned
 - Reflect on and evaluate partnerships with future in mind
 - Open honest communication helps at every stage & debriefing allows for closure and reduces the likelihood of repeating missteps

SUMMARY

- Distinct in approach & intensity of relationship
- Requires competency in **Collaborative Consultation & Group Process**
- Four Phases:
 - Seeking
 - Connecting & Negotiating
 - Implementation & Maintenance
 - Ending and Capacity Building