

Setting the Standard



Join us on September 25, 2018 for the
Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development pre-conference.

ToP® Focused Conversation: Building Blocks for Engaging and Effective Group Dialogue

“At its essence, every organization is a product of how its members think and interact.” - Senge, Kleiner, Roberts, Ross and Smith: *The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook*

Have you ever been in a conversation where it was difficult to determine the point of the discussion, when someone dominated the discussion to the exclusion of everyone else, or even where people talked but failed to really communicate? In all these situations, what has been lacking is an effective structure for a productive conversation. The ToP® Focused Conversation method creates a setting for meaningful communication that helps people reflect together on just about any subject and share diverse perspectives in a non-confrontational manner. It is a common-sense approach that leads naturally to a meaningful exchange of ideas and is helpful to: conduct purposeful discussions, capture a group’s best thinking, stimulate candid feedback, surface new ideas, build creative solutions, and move groups toward action.

By the skillful use of questions, an environment for in-depth group thought processes can be created in a delimited time frame – from 20 minutes to several hours. Applications include:

- Decision making
- Managing and supervising
- Discussing tough issues
- Engaging stakeholders and partners
- Preparing, designing, and planning for projects, presentations, etc.
- Collecting and interpreting data and information
- Focusing multiple interests on a particular topic or issue

The Focused Conversation method, developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) as a part of its Technology of Participation (ToP®) is a method for enabling better conversations that help individuals and groups think, talk, and work together. ToP® methods are practical tools for enabling highly energized, productive, inclusive, and meaningful participation. Structured participation enables deeper levels of commitment, greater capacity for sharing wisdom, and increased ownership of decisions arrived at collectively.

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this ToP® Focused Conversation Workshop, participants will be able to:

- a) Describe the value of utilizing participatory and inclusive approaches in the workplace
- b) Define the four levels of a focused conversation
- c) Develop rational and experiential aims
- d) Identify and design appropriate questions for each level of conversation
- e) Apply the four-level process to design focused conversations
- f) Identify at least 3 practical applications for implementation in their work

Cost: \$360 (includes course manual, handouts, and one 30 minute coaching session within six months after the training completion)

Course Length: ½ day (4 hours)

How to Register:

https://icausa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_254437

Instructor

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Monica Murphy, MPH, CTF, is the owner of Murphy Dynamics, LLC., an Atlanta-based consulting firm that specializes in enhancing the way individuals and groups talk, interact, collaborate, and work together to achieve goals. As a skilled facilitator and trainer, Monica practice is rooted in the Technology of Participation (ToP®) Facilitation Methods developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). These methodologies have been tested and used extensively throughout the world and many organizations and communities. They strengthen

the capacities of individuals, organizations, and communities to build and implement plans for action and engagement.

Ms. Murphy has 10 years of progressive public health experience across federal, state, and local levels and health systems. She has a broad range of expertise across several content areas including chronic disease, maternal and child health, global health, and health equity. She has program design/implementation, evaluation, and managerial experience that has allowed her to work with diverse staff teams and community stakeholders across multiple sectors and levels. She is committed to improving the health outcomes of disparate populations and to changing the systems that perpetuate inequities in access to services and resources, quality of care, and other social determinants of health.

As an ICA Certified Facilitator and Qualified Trainer, Monica has a natural ability to help groups/teams think strategically and engage their hearts and minds to make a difference and create change. She has designed and facilitated effective meetings, led strategic planning efforts, and consulted for businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations throughout the Southeast. She has had success in helping organizations garner staff and stakeholder buy-in, think strategically, and move from a reactive approach into a proactive focus on solutions. As a ToP® Trainer, Monica is part of a training team that coordinates and leads trainings in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

Monica is a North Carolina native and earned her BS degree in Biology from North Carolina Central University and her Master's of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Are you interested in joining us for the
2018 Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Conference?**

For more information and to register, please click [here](#).