Participatory Policy Analysis: Achieving Systems Level Change Through CBPR
AN EDUCATION AND ACTION COMPANY THAT WORKS EXCLUSIVELY WITH COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PARTNERS TO DESIGN AND PROMOTE HEALTHY, EFFICIENT, EQUITABLE POLICIES.
THE CBPR POLICY CHANGE CYCLE

Evaluating Community Issues, Building Skills & Leadership

Selecting Policy Alternatives, Assessing the Political Environment

Mustering Resources, Choosing Action Plans

Taking Action, Affecting Change
Policy = A Plan of Action

Public Policy = Government’s Plan of Action
POLICY VS. PRACTICE
PUBLIC POLICY

- Tax
- Subsidize\grant\loan
- Tinker with economy
- Fund government
- Service
- Provide Jobs
- Build and maintain infrastructure
- Educate

- Regulate
- Structure rights
- Generate information, keep records, disseminate information
- Reform themselves
THE EIGHTFOLD PATH TO MORE EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

- - EUGENE BARDACH

• Define the problem
• Assemble some evidence
• Construct the alternatives
• Select the criteria
• Project the outcomes
• Confront the trade-offs
• Decide!
• Tell your story
DEFINE THE PROBLEM

- What is the problem?
- Why is it a problem?
- Is it a public problem?
- Can it be measured? Has it been measured? How can we measure it?
- What do we already know about the problem and our community’s relationship to it?
- What are our gaps in knowledge?
“The goal [of policy research] is to improve one’s understanding of the policy problem, and of possible means of coping with it, to the point where it is possible to advocate a responsible course of action.”

- Eugene Bardach
CONSTRUCTING THE ALTERNATIVES

• What are the well-known alternatives?

• What is being done about this problem in other places and times (historical)?:

• What alternatives can we invent? What could we do ourselves? What could the community do with government help? What could local organizations and businesses do? What could the government do?

• How would the proposed alternatives change the game (the incentives)?

• What if we do nothing?
SELECT THE CRITERIA TO EVALUATE THE OUTCOMES

• Efficiency: Utilitarianism
• Fairness
• Democracy
• Freedom (from government, of speech, economic)
• Community
• Other evaluative (or normative) criteria
ANALYTICAL CRITERIA

- Legality
- Political Acceptability
- Robustness - Does it lend itself to implementation?
- Improvability - Does it lend itself to innovation?
**PROJECT THE OUTCOMES**

- projection = model + evidence
- Write scenarios - consider multiple perspectives and implementation issues
- Think through unintended consequences. How does the alternative shift incentives? How will it affect action?
- Find one depressive realist - guard against excessive optimism
- Design a Matrix (x=alternatives, y=criteria)
- Conduct research to answer critical questions
# THE BAYVIEW CASE

## OUTCOMES MATRIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Political Feasibility</th>
<th>Fairness</th>
<th>Maximize increase in healthy food</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Neighbor Resolution</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Likely little impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted-use District</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>unfair to new merchants</td>
<td>Increasing impact overtime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Neighbor Program</td>
<td>Doable</td>
<td>Favors participants, but voluntary</td>
<td>Immediate small impact</td>
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</tbody>
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CONFRONT THE TRADE-OFFS

• Simplify Comparisons - consolidate similar alternatives.

• What are trade-offs?

• Weighting the Criteria.

• What are the trade-offs from the partnership’s perspective?

• What are the trade-offs from the policymaker’s or implementer’s perspective?
COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING

• Good process = good result.

• Partnership has barriers to consensus due to multiple perspectives.

• These multiple perspectives also lead to better analysis and decision-making.

• This is no time to decide how to make decisions!
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Thank You