

Public Health Working Group Process Success Factors

3/24/06

Summary report compiled by Stern Consulting International

At the March 17 meeting of the PHWG, a “mini-survey” was conducted to gain input on “success factors” for the PHWG process. Participants were asked to complete the following two phrases and submitted written responses.

“To succeed, our process must.....”

“To succeed our process must not.....”

This report provides the full set of statements from 22 respondents. The statements are organized into thematic categories that are prioritized based on the greatest numbers of similar responses. This information was used by the Ad Hoc group developing a proposed PHWG process plan, and can inform the facilitation and continuing work of the PHWG in successfully carrying out its mission.

Thematic categories of responses

To succeed our process must:

- Be well-structured, focused, disciplined, and foster real dialogue (24 responses)
- Stay at a high level of what’s best for Maine, be visionary, and provide the basis for implementation (18 responses)
- Be inclusive, transparent and respectful of all viewpoints (15 responses)
- Use existing knowledge and experience (6 responses)
- Deliver a comprehensive statewide plan (5 responses)

To succeed our process *must not*:

- Avoid disagreement, be dominated by anyone, move too fast, or move too slow (12 responses)
- Get bogged down in detail or “perfectionism” (9 responses)
- Fail to acknowledge existing interests or be solely focused on protecting them (6 responses)
- Neglect fresh viewpoints (2 responses)
- Tolerate hidden agendas or undermining (2 responses)
- Be driven by politics (2 responses)