

The 5 Characteristics Common to Thriving Networks *and Why Thriving Networks are Important*



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The Center's Purpose

The National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving health care in rural communities. As a national technical assistance and knowledge center in rural health, The Center focuses on five core areas:

- Transition to Value and Population Health
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Performance Improvement
- Health Information Technology
- Workforce

What Do We Mean By “Thriving”?

Sustainability is defined as the ability to achieve desired outcomes and maintain the ability to continue activities over time.



Implications of a Changing Health Care Landscape

- Need for diversity
- Think about planning differently
- New relationships are necessary
- Retaining institutional knowledge is key
- Community leadership capacity needs strengthening
- Agents of change are needed to help with transition

It Is Time to Work Differently

It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change.

-Charles Darwin



Networks Are A Solution

- Serving in a leadership capacity to improve health of the community
- Convening and engaging stakeholders for positive health outcomes
- Connecting resources for maximum impact
- Facilitating continuous planning

Sometimes Networks Struggle



Why Do Thriving Networks Matter



Research Identified Network Characteristics



Evalytics, LLC

Research, Program Evaluation, Consulting

5 Characteristics of Thriving Networks

- Collaborative Leadership
- Member-Driven Decision Making
- Effective Communication
- Ongoing Evaluation and Measurement
- Sound Financial Infrastructure

Collaborative Leadership

- Promoting trust
- Being transparent with information
- Creating opportunities for problem solving
- Keeping up with the health care trends that could impact members
- Develop partnerships that are aligned with network mission

Member-Driven Decisions

- Marketing efforts are aligned with network mission
- Networks services are developed based on member-needs
- Continuous effort to monitor member needs

Effective Communication

- Communication planning is consistent with network goals
- Network results are communicated to key stakeholders
- Continuous effort to monitor communication efforts

On-Going Evaluation and Measurement

- Outcome measures are aligned with network goals.
- Network shares evaluation results with members and stakeholders
- Outcome and process measures are monitored regularly

Sound Financial Infrastructure

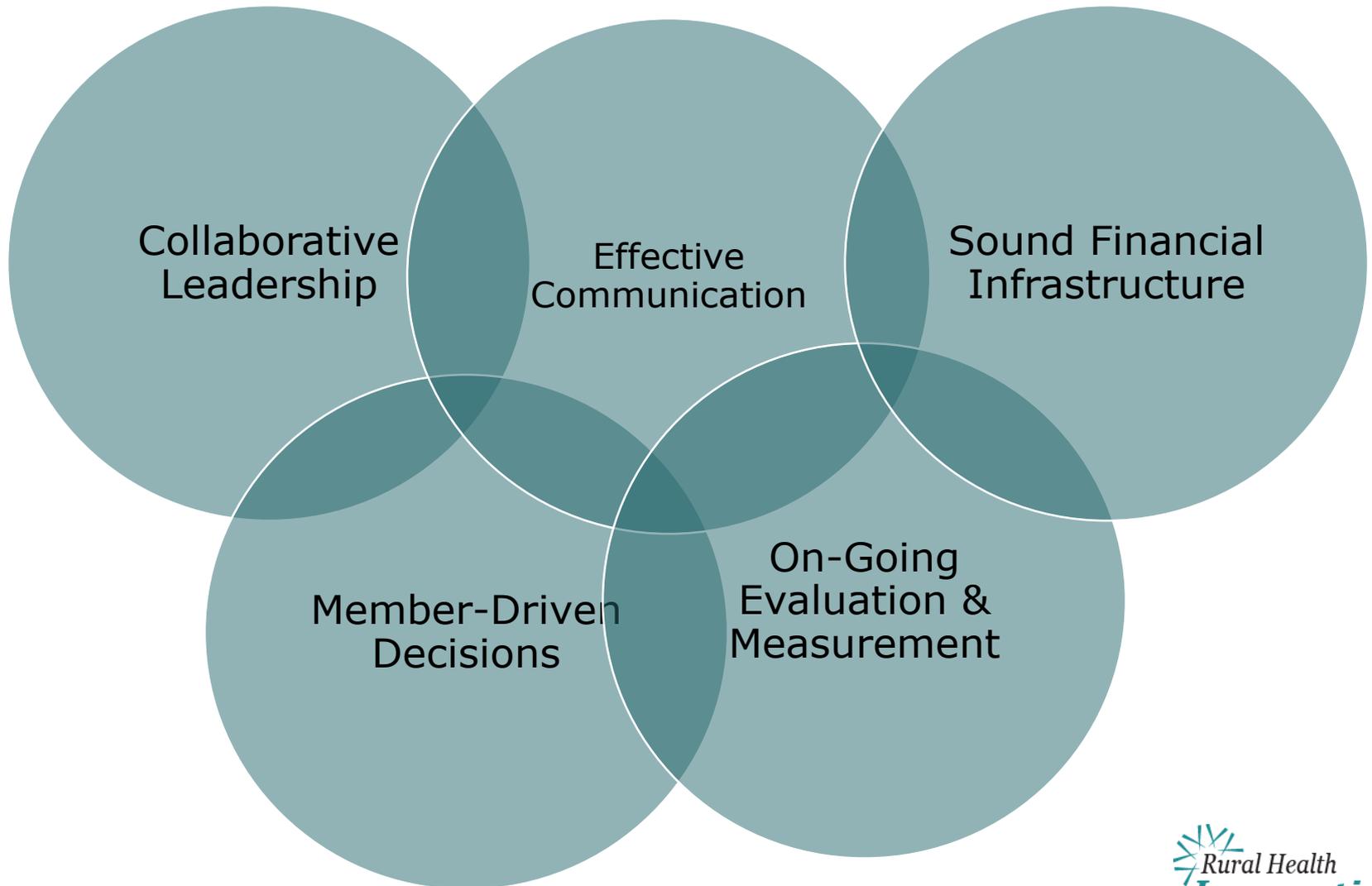
- Network has financial systems in place
- Financial expertise is available
- Cash resources are adequate for operations

What To Do?

If you were a squirrel, what would you do?



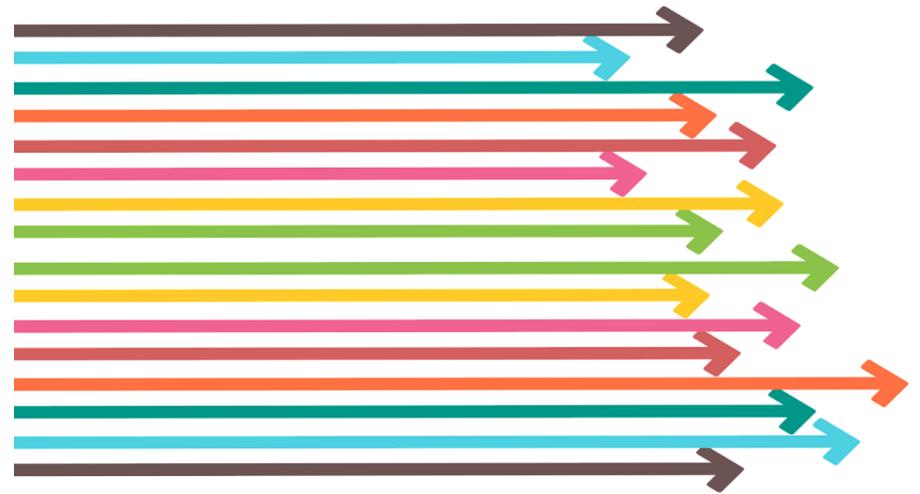
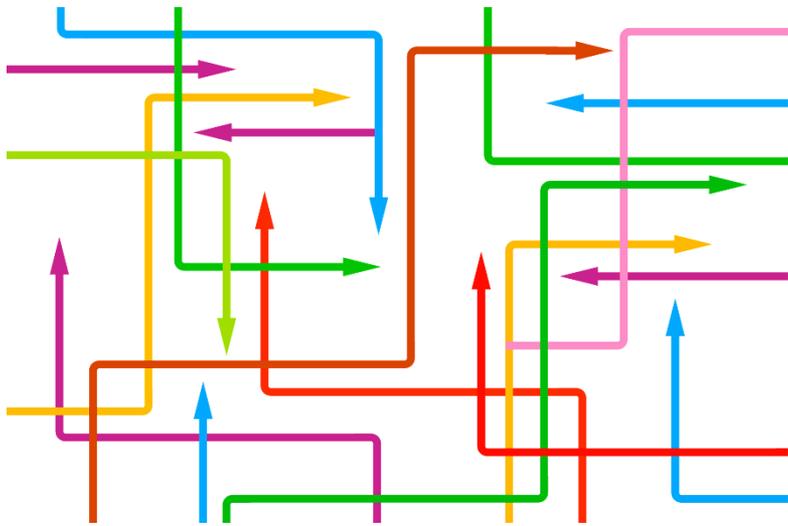
Build Capacity with a Systems Approach



Engage With Network Members



Embrace Continuous Planning



Questions?



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Get to know us better:

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