



NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY FORUM

CURRENTLY SERVING:
BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP (DUPAGE CO)
HANOVER TOWNSHIP (COOK CO)
SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP (COOK CO)

Mid-level leaders play a crucial role in community-based nonprofits.

Thriving nonprofits invest in cultivating ambitious, visionary mid-level leaders. These individuals are encouraged to develop their capacity for calculated risk-taking, thinking beyond daily tasks, and a broader strategic perspective.

Without support, challenges arise:



Isolation

The weight of decision-making can lead to isolation, with limited time for peer support and open dialogue.



Knowledge Exchange

Learning from the experiences of other organizations and leaders in the field can be difficult to prioritize.



Limited Development

A lack of internal leadership development funding often restricts access, especially for non-executive leadership.

A collaborative platform to connect and empower leaders.

- 1 Building a Community Outreach Network**
Connecting leaders with peers facing similar challenges, expanding a supportive network.
- 2 Enhancing Professional Development**
Participating in training and knowledge exchange to develop skills and agency effectiveness.
- 3 Facilitating Shared Learning**
Creating a space to share real-world challenges, brainstorm solutions, and learn from each other.
- 4 Achieving Goals**
Developing strategies and support systems to attain goals and better serve the community.

A MASTERMIND GROUP FOR MIDDLE LEVEL LEADERS OF COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES TO SHARE CHALLENGES, DEVELOP SOLUTIONS, AND STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP AND NETWORK CAPACITY

One Year Program

Eight Half Day Forums

Advisory Topics: Relevant professional development themes sparking discussions and knowledge sharing.

Consultation Presentations: Each individual presents a challenge, receiving valuable peer consultation.

Solution Finding: Facilitated discussions enable collective problem-solving, collaboration, and innovative solutions.

Actionable Goals: Establish goals, ensuring focus and translating learning into concrete steps for improvement.

Site Visits: Gain firsthand experience with agency facilities while expanding knowledge of the offerings.

Individual Coaching

Four built-in sessions provide targeted support to ensure individuals effectively progress toward their objectives.

Designed for Mid-Level Leaders

- Serve as a director, manager, or supervisory role
- Articulate a strong desire to expand their capacity and network.
- Drive positive transformation within their organizations.
- Possess the ability to coordinate their calendar.

Partner Testimonials



"This is a great opportunity for funded agencies, to connect."
Katherine Layden, Children's Mental Health Manager - YWCA Metro Chicago



"It's a privilege to be a part of the forum. I always leave with new ideas, feeling refreshed and ready to implement."
Karen Doyle, Communications Director - DuPage Health Coalition



"My colleague comes back with ideas for how to move our goals forward with concrete ideas. Anytime you can receive individualized coaching and collaborate with other community partners, it's a WIN!"
Shannon Hartnett, Executive Director - Northeast DuPage Family Youth Services

Key Outcomes*

*Based on a dataset of 15 completed forums, 22 agencies, 2 funding boards

Practical Problem Solving

The forum creates a safe space for nonprofit leaders to tackle real challenges together, resulting in actionable solutions.



A program director developed a tiered financial sharing policy after discussing staff transparency challenges.



Collective brainstorming helped partners address managing younger employees, promoting an engaged workforce.

Focus on Client Needs

The forum emphasizes client-centered care through reflective tools.



The "Start-Stop-Keep" exercise helped partners prioritize listening and empowering clients with timely information.

Knowledge Sharing

Valuable information and resources are exchanged to benefit everyone.



Strategies were discussed to strengthen mental health counseling services and promote community outreach.



A case manager streamlined her organization's idea-to-plan process with prioritization recommendations from peers.

Actionable Strategies

The forum promotes action and accountability by giving tools and techniques that translate discussions into tangible actions.



The principles of agile project management were introduced to help partners systematically launch ideas, programs, or projects into action.



Partners learned about the benefits of time blocking as a time management technique to promote productivity, focus, and overall well-being.

A newly created role had a partner seeking input. Insights on duties and structure led to a successful hire and onboarding.

Solution-finding to streamline grant management with closed-loop processes, clear responsibilities, and time-saving tools.

Partner received advice on starting a new board. Held successful first board meeting within 3 months.

"One of the mandates of the Illinois Community Mental Health Act is to build a comprehensive network of services within our community. I really see this forum as a building block of that comprehensive network."

Amanda Teachout, Hanover Township Mental Health Board Manager

Strengthening the Capacity of Agencies to Serve Residents

Strengthening Provider Organizations

The forum provides training in topics such as management, communication, strategic planning, and program evaluation to help agencies operate more effectively. Stronger organizations can deliver high-quality, sustainable services, benefiting the residents they serve.



Forum partners have reported that the group's expertise and the tools have been helpful in addressing their professional and organizational challenges.



By investing in and strengthening funded agencies, a Community Mental Health Board has a more direct impact on the quality of services offered.

Building a Comprehensive Network of Services

The forum is a safe space for nonprofit leaders to share best practices, identify community needs, and develop collaborative solutions. This partnership has led to:

Improved Service Coordination

Interagency relationships enhance collaboration among providers, reducing fragmentation and improving access to coordinated care. The forum promotes this by offering networking, resource sharing, and collaborative problem-solving opportunities.



Forum partners experience a smoother referral process by first building interagency relationships.

Increased Resource Sharing and Knowledge Exchange

Forum sessions emphasize collaboration among partners to share solutions and insights, including enhancing counseling services, supporting childcare providers and schools in addressing mental health, and promoting community outreach programs.



A presentation by the DuPage County Health Department highlighted its services and explored collaboration opportunities with agencies to enhance service coordination.