The Role of the Nutrition Professional in the School and Actual Field Experience

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Why am I listening to a segment on facilitation?

- SPIN is offering the nutrition professional as a facilitator for the SHI process
- To help nutrition professional gain access to schools

Nutrition Professional as Facilitator in School

- The client is the entire School Health Council
- Main Task is to help the group increase its effectiveness by improving the process
- The facilitator can serve as resource/content expert

Ideal Intervention

- The facilitator’s role should decrease as the group members learn the skills of facilitation
- To maintain the group’s autonomy and develop its long-term effectiveness

What is Group Facilitation?

- A process in which a “neutral” person, who is acceptable to all and has no decision-making authority, enters a group to help improve the way the group identifies and solves problems and makes decisions, so as to increase the group’s effectiveness

Generic Facilitator Duties and Roles

- Opening and closing meeting
- Helping the team/group clarify its goals
- Helping move meeting toward agreed upon goals
- Managing conversational traffic
- Building consensus
Role of the SPIN Facilitator

- To help the school improve its process in a manner consistent with valid information, free and informed choice, and internal commitment to the choices.

Characteristics of Work Group

- Group has collective responsibility for one or more tasks, the outcome can be assessed.
- A system whose members are interdependent with specific roles.
- Operates in an organizational context, requiring it to manage its dealings with other individuals and groups.

Who has responsibility for group’s outcome?

- Assuming the facilitator acts effectively, the group is responsible for its outcomes and any related consequences.
- Sometimes it is appropriate for facilitator to leave the role and play another role (nutrition content expert).

Reports from the Field

- Some data on SPIN two years since its inception and some real experiences with a middle school SHI process and wellness policy development...

VISION

- Nutrition professionals working cooperatively with schools and communities to improve our children's health and increase their learning readiness by promoting life-long healthy nutrition habits and regular physical activity habits.
**WHAT IS SPIN?**

- A model approach for schools developed by a statewide partnership
- Focus on training professional resources to facilitate the process of improving the school nutrition and physical activity environment

**NYS Schools Data**

- 8,000 schools in NYS
- 740 districts
- ? Schools that have completed the SHI or related assessment

**Distribution of Resource Opportunities for Schools**

- Eat Well Play Hard
- Steps to a Healthier NY
- Healthy Heart
- School Health Index Incentive Program
- Schools + Professionals in Nutrition

**How does this information help your school?**

- Aware of resources that can tap into
- Maximize effort for wellness policies
- Recommended NYS standard to compare school's selected procedure
- Identifies many potential outside resources that can be utilized and/or applied for

**What's in it for the nutrition professional?**

- Recognition as the nutrition expert in school
- Funding opportunities
- Ability to be the community “R.D.” for the state authorized district nutrition councils
- Great entrepreneurial potential
- Additional free continuing education credits likely

**Questions?**

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