

Evidence in Action: Shared Stories



Stories shared from EAHS

Development Process of the Systems Map

Along with the systems map that we shared at the February 27, 2019 convening, we thought it would also be an opportunity to let people in on the Group Model Building (GMB) process we used to create this map, the mindful approach we took, and the lessons we learned.



Left to right: Sue Kirschner, Akanni Thomas, Cheryl Jensik, Alison Patrick, and facilitator Dr. Erin Hennessy from Tufts University

Sue Kirschner, Cuyahoga County Library System:

It was a real growth experience for myself. It was intimidating at first, but, it was one positive and real eye-opening experience of growth.

Akanni Thomas, Pre4CLE/Starting Point:

In the beginning, I felt like I was wearing a blindfold. We were in this process and trying to figure out where we were going and couldn't see the end, but we all dedicating our brains, our individual know-how and our processing abilities, and as a result the map truly reflected our community and various ideas. Creating the map allowed us to visually see the construct and we were also able to more readily see the gaps that weren't showcased on the map.

Cheryl Jensik, CEOGC Head Start:

Before this project, I knew a lot of people and a lot of groups, but I never knew how to tap into them. This was a good opportunity to network—i.e., what can you do for me? What can I do for you so that our children can get all the benefits? The networking is something that



Other communities will find the GMB process that was used to create the systems map incredibly valuable and rewarding. The process generates collective buy-in and motivation for future action and strategies that are relevant and unique to their community.

EAHS is happy to share its experience in Cuyahoga County in implementing the process and the lessons learned, and we appreciate you being on this journey with us.

Stay engaged with our updates!

