



KPI Pearls of Wisdom for NPC Boards

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Start with Broad Perspective

- What's most important?
 - Make or break issues
 - Major obstacles
 - Weaknesses
 - Opportunities
 - Recurring problems





What do all KPIs require?

Analysis!

Which KPIs to emphasize?

- Trends
- Anomalies
- Surprises
- Major shifts
- Sound, select data
 - Supports sound decisions



**A Common
Issue:
Too many
eggs in one
basket**



What KPIs do you use?

- ▶ Year over year performance
- ▶ Status vs. annual budget
- ▶ Multi-year trends
- ▶ Labor costs vs revenue production
- ▶ Number of projects started or ended YTD/YOY
- ▶ New investigator progress
- ▶ Struggling projects
 - ▶ Poor recruitment



Delivering Quality Data

- Beware routine/repetition
- Ruts are common
 - Easy to fall into
- Data repetition yields:
 - Boredom
 - Complacency
 - Disconnection
- Omit non-actionable data
- Avoid data dumps



Board Time is Precious

- Boards can *only* act legally by consensus of a quorum
- *Only* in a duly constituted meeting
- Must be documented with minutes

Creating Productive, Lively Meetings

- Spend Board time *USING* information, not *GETTING* information
- Safe environment – confidentiality is key
- Disagree constructively
- Shoot for:
 - ✦ Interesting, strategic topics
 - ✦ Stimulating, long-range questions
 - ✦ Fast-paced agenda
- Chair speaks *last*
 - Votes *only* to make or break a tie



Treat Agenda Items as Precious Pearls

- Protect your agendas
- Start with strategic priorities
- Focus more time on highest impact items
- Allot time based on priority
- Stick to the agenda
 - Avoid rabbit holes
- Require proposers to do homework

The 4 Qs of Agenda Readiness



Do the stakeholders
need it or want it?



Does it fit with our
strategic plan?



Do we have the
capacity to handle it?



What potential
problems may occur?

Begin With the End in Mind



Define strategic value



Allot time accordingly



Determine desired outcome

Vote

Direction

Discussion

Preparation for future vote

**In a Knowledge-Based
Organization:**

70%

**of agenda items should be about
strategic direction or policy...
...NOT administration**

Become An *Advanced* Knowledge-Based Organization

- Proposing parties do **discovery...**
in advance!
- **Reports** are delivered...
in advance!
- Board **reads** and develops **questions...**
in advance!



Changing Board Protocols



“Yesterday, civility was the norm;
today, **accountability** is,
but both depend on a **shared vision**
and a **clear definition of success.**”

-- Sam Pettway in
“How Governance will be Different”

Thank you

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