

THE BASICS OF BEING AN EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBER



BOARD HEALTH

The health of a nonprofit draws significantly from the health of its board. For this 'Board Health Rx' activity, jot down some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors that indicate a board is suffering from these common ailments and explore prescriptions for improvement. Rate your organization's health using the checklist provided.

DEFINE THE CAUSE & FIND A CURE for common board ailments:

1) Unproductive members

Symptoms:



REMEDIES:

- Annual board self-assessment
- Term limits

2) Lack of an active committee structure

Symptoms:



- Committee charter
- Active chairs who report to the board

3) Unproductive meetings

Symptoms:



- Consent agendas
- Add a strategy conversation on each meeting agenda

4) Board size (too big or too small)

Symptoms:



- Board Recruitment Matrix
- Create an advisory committee for emeritus members

5) Unclear expectations for board members

Symptoms:



- Position descriptions
- Have conversations around board members' WHY & WHAT

RATE YOUR WORK:

Boards, as stewards of the mission, are accountable for improving organizational effectiveness and securing adequate resources. Rate how effectively your board is carrying out its governance role: / **1 = NO 2 = SOMEWHAT 3 = YES**



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|----------|----------|----------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | Does the board contract with an outside auditor for the annual audit? |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | Does the board have an up-to-date risk management policies and plans? |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | Does the board monitor the achievement of goals related to mission, programs and services? |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | Does the board have a clear understanding of the organization's financial health? |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | Does the board review its own performance? |

Total _____ / 15