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:

2) Lack of an active committee structure
   Symptoms:

3) Unproductive meetings
   Symptoms:

4) Board size (too big or too small)
   Symptoms:

5) Unclear expectations for board members
   Symptoms:

**REMEDIES:**

- Annual board self-assessment
- Term limits
- Committee charter
- Active chairs who report to the board
- Consent agendas
- Add a strategy conversation on each meeting agenda
- Board Recruitment Matrix
- Create an advisory committee for emeritus members
- 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

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