

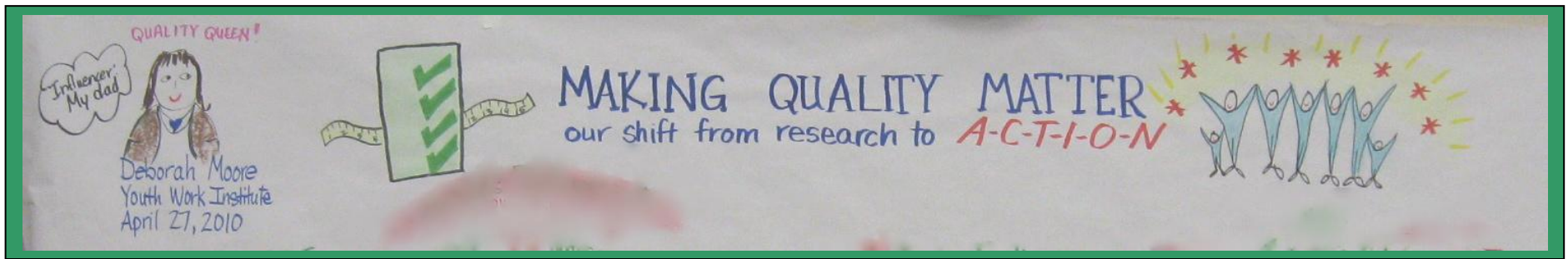


SUMMARY of a Special Meeting for Youth Funders
NEW DIRECTIONS FOR QUALITY IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:
WHAT FUNDERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RESEARCH & PRACTICE

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 • Xcel Energy • 9:00-1:30

MEETING OBJECTIVES

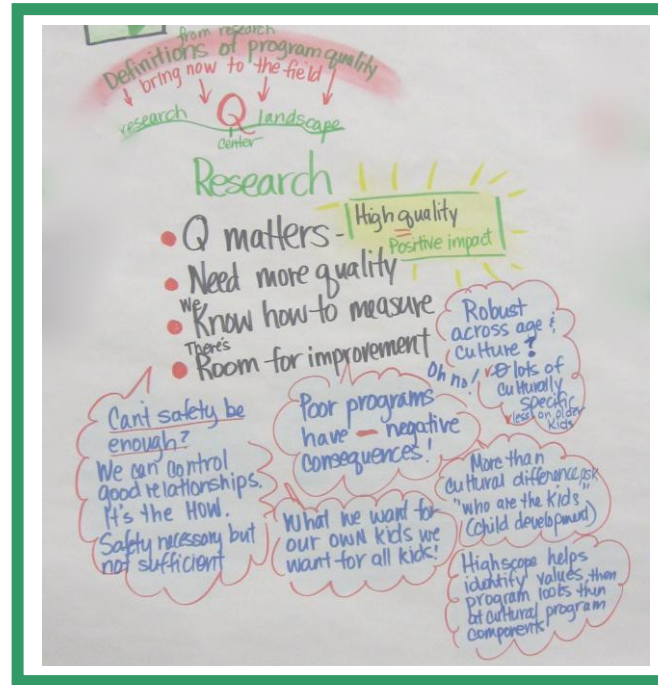
- Learn about Minnesota's quality framework for youth development and its relevance to funding.
- Understand the research that supports quality practice and programs.
- Identify practical applications of quality principles and tools to your grantmaking



OST Benefits

- School performance
- School behaviors
- Beliefs & Attitudes

We take it as a given that OST provides benefits to youth. A finding based on much research.



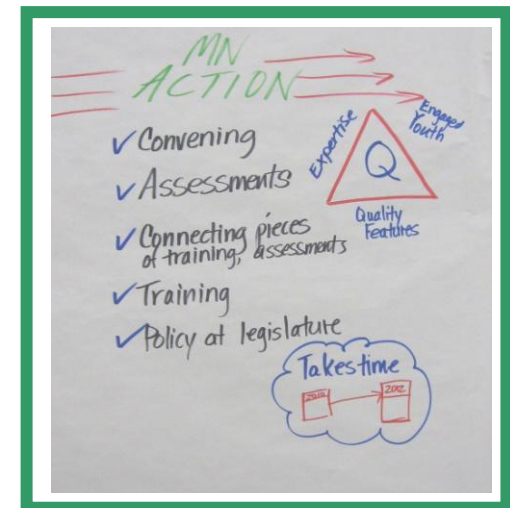
Study Findings

Lots of low quality scores have high quality elements

Think more broadly in design Impact of arts on academic achievement

There's an appetite for quality

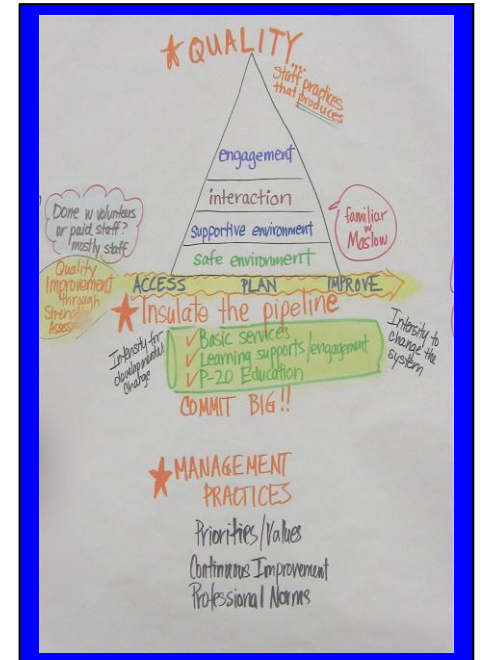
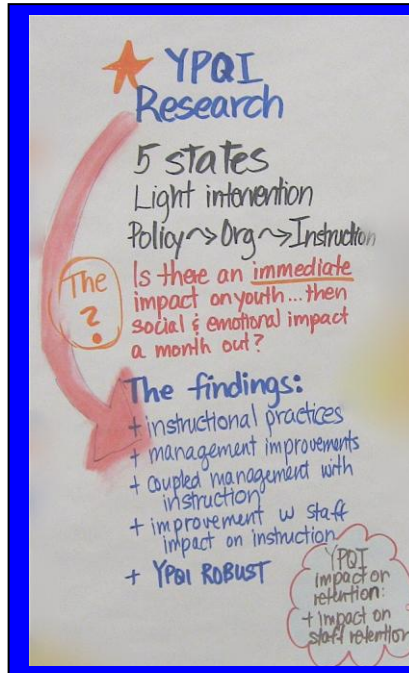
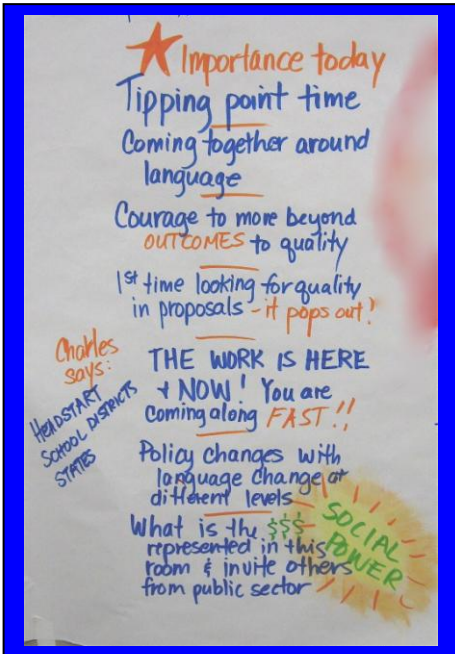
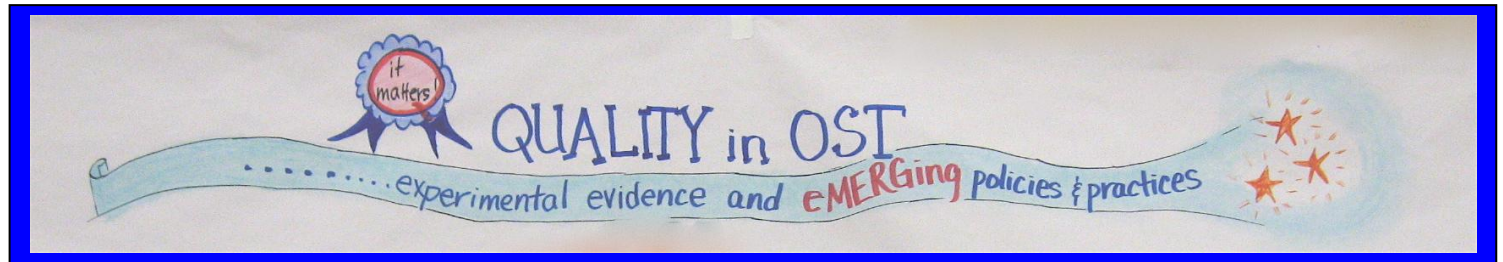
Threshold effect: doing 4-5 strategies can be enough



In describing the research landscape, Deb defined quality as being at the center. She emphasized the shift to knowing that high quality program characteristics equal positive impact on youth. Captured in the bubbles are the comments and questions of the audience.

After describing the many actions in Minnesota over the last few years around quality, she reminded us that change in overall program quality takes time, up to a year or more.

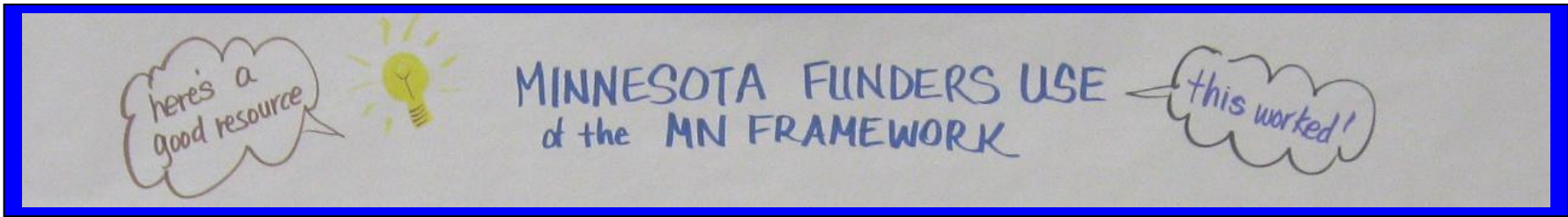
A full powerpoint of her presentation is available on disk for sharing with others.



Charles asked us what was significant about this gathering today. He reiterated that we are ahead of many in the country on this work. He asked us to recognize the social power represented in the room, and to consider inviting others from the public sector to join future conversations. He outlined the research model used in five states including MN, and key findings.

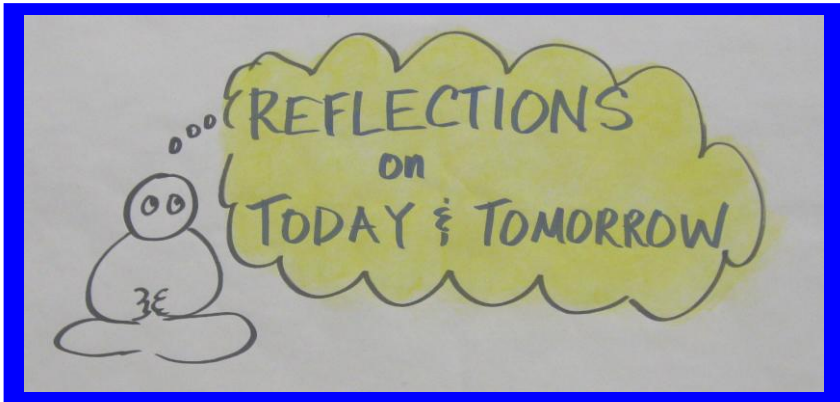
Using the familiar triangle, quality was described related to the staff behaviors that result in positive experiences for youth. The positive connection between management practice and staff behaviors was made as well. He outlined the YPQI research project and its key findings, ending with emphasis on the “robustness” of the tool. Ending with reference to numerous policy changes, we talked about the growing understanding that youth lives are being impacted by this work and that there is momentum building.

Charles’ powerpoint presentation is available on disk for your sharing with others.



Marjorie Grevious, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Denise Mayotte, Sheltering Arms Foundation and Sheila Ohrlein, MN Department of Education each shared the ways that their organizations have begun developing their understanding and use of the MN Quality Framework.

FOR BOARD AND STAFF	FOR GUIDELINES and FOR PROPOSAL REVIEW	FOR GRANTEES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attending Youth Matters Training at the University of Minnesota •Participating in the Grantmakers for Children Youth and Family •Dedicating a board session to topic of Quality and teaching board what to look for at a site visit that would signal Quality ie. staff interaction with youth, and knowing their names •Staff member participation in the Quality Fellowship at the University of Minnesota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Indicating in proposal guidelines the focus on quality with specific question about how the organization sees quality in its work •Developing a tool for the initial screening of proposals that includes quality themes •Developing a second tool for the in-depth proposal review •Requiring a line item in the budget for quality assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Annual grantee convenings with quality issues as topics •Funding for Quality Matters for grantees and future potential grantees •Include quality in site visit conversations •Roll out of new outcome indicators determined by funder including quality •Meet with all grantees individually & provide them with articles and scorecard of quality indicators •Provide self-assessment tools •Require an annual quality assessment with plan for improvement



- **COURAGE TO STAND FOR QUALITY**
- Inspire others to see its importance and difference quality makes
- Stay Flexible

What ideas stood out for you today?	What else do you need or want to know?	How will you apply what you've heard today?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How others cultivate grantee capacity • Bob Grainger's look at practice and why it works. Scaling up is not always the most important thing to consider • How much data that we collect and never use • The use of the line item budget requirement for quality for grantees • The research that confirms that what nourishes staff then nourishes kids • So good to hear more about the importance of intensity and the 3.3 hours a week necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As worried as we are about collecting data, maybe there is more we SHOULD be collecting. What's right for us and our grantees? Re: GROWING and KNOWING work. • Funder Forum possibilities. What do we need to do? • How can we access training for a broader audience than just grantees? Quality Matters and More for funders and other important decisionmakers • What are other states doing around organizing funders? How can we network? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite board members on site visits • Have site visits during program times • Talk about YPQA during site visit • Teach people to be good quality observers during site visits • Pay attention to tools to provide grantees • Develop a compendium of training opportunities for managers re: quality • Create and nourish structures for professional learning in organizations (service providers AND funding organizations)



During lunch, the group broke in to 3 topics of interest:

- Training
- Research
- Development of Funders Forum

and here are the ideas for

NEXT STEPS

Research	Training	Development of Funders Forum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How we might set common goals and collect data together. •Meeting coming up on moving research to practice convened by carol.thomas@state.mn.us Contact her if you want to be invited. •Wilder Research Compass project is starting a children/youth indicators group. All attendees today will be invited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work for a Quality Matters for funders. •Arrange for shared trainings for our grantees. •Build a common language of quality that is easily understood. •Funding and time is needed for Deb to develop Quality Matters for funders. Questions about whether June is a reasonable timeframe. •Dale and the UM of MN will have a national meeting July 27-28 that will bring national resources to town. Follow-up to determine 1) whether funders might be invited and 2) whether national people might be useful for separate funder activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Survey monkey evaluation of the meeting will ask for people's interest in committee for planning and one for research. •Consider a June convening for public & private funders with quality as focus and with training/research as subtopics. *YCC is the natural convener and also a benefit for YCC. •Need to (re)create our guiding principles and how we might orient new people. •YCC's new database will include who funds youth programs in MN.