

## **TPAS 2013 Collaborative Open Space Technology**

*"I can't believe that after all these meetings, workshops and conference sessions, the most valuable time for me was still during the coffee breaks, when I met with people I wanted to meet with and talk about the issues I wanted to talk about."*

If you've had this thought after attending a conference, you'll be thrilled to participate in the TPAS Collaborative and experience the energy and productivity generated through Open Space Technology.

### **What is Open Space Technology**

Open Space Technology is a workshop design tool to engage people who deal with complex issues in innovative and productive ways. Attendees will identify their specific issues and questions about Alumni and Recovery Support Services, self-select into discussion groups, and work with people also concerned with that issue.

At the TPAS Inaugural Collaborative, you will have an opportunity to ask questions, hear from your colleagues, and share your challenges and successes about issues you face every day in your work to support treatment center alumni and others in recovery.

### **How it Works**

The TPAS 2013 Collaborative will start before you leave your office. You will be invited to identify some issue, question or opportunity related to your work as an Alumni services professional or other professional who works in the recovery support services field. Think about issues for which you have a genuine passion and for which you are willing to take a real responsibility for discussing during the Collaborative. Think about what you want to bring and what you want to take away. If nothing occurs to you, that's OK; if you have more than one issue; that's OK too.

After opening sessions where you will get to know other attendees, the group will create the agenda for the remaining sessions. Each person who wants to propose a discussion topic for a break-out session will add his/her idea to the "Collaborative Agenda" and take responsibility for that discussion.

Proposing an topic for discussion, and taking responsibility for it does not require that you be an expert or give a formal presentation. You may simply be looking for others with whom to ask more questions and develop some knowledge. Taking responsibility simply means that you will designate a time and space and then convene the session.

Once all discussion topics are listed on the "Collaborative Agenda", the times and locations for each group meeting will be determined. A number of groups will run simultaneously and topics will be covered more than once so that you can participate in as many discussion groups as possible.

At the TPAS 2013 Collaborative, you are teacher and a learner! We all benefit from the knowledge and innovative programs that our esteemed colleagues are implementing every day at organizations all over the U.S.