



Linking Systems of Care Coordinator Toolkit

Dot Voting

Purpose

This activity is designed to quickly identify the group's priority preferences on a list of options.

Group Configuration/Process

Items are listed on flip charts or another surface, with blank space next to each item. Participants are each given a set number of sticky dots. Participants go to the list and place their dots next to their preferred items. The resulting visual display makes clear the rough distribution of priorities.

Options for the number of dots include: a fixed number of dots, such as 5; 1/3 the number of listed items; or X dots plus 1 dot of another color, used to indicate your #1 choice. Alternatively, participants can make dots with markers.

An option for displaying the list and dots is to array the options in a row horizontally and stack the dots vertically above each item name, creating a bar chart of dots.

Results/Outcome

The smaller set of priority 'dotted' items becomes the options to work with for the next phase of analysis and decision-making.

Number of Participants

This design can accommodate large numbers. With a large group, organize waves of participants to approach and place their dots to prevent a traffic jam.

Time

10 minutes or a bit more, depending on the size of the group.

Special Materials/Logistics

Sticky dots, and scissors to cut sheets of dots.



Example

Use dot voting after a brainstorming session to identify the top issues for small group discussions later in the meeting.