Board Member Retention:  
An Examination of Premature Exits in a Constituency Organized Nonprofit Board 

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Abstract 

Seeking to discover the cause(s) for the premature exits of board members, the authors accepted the task of working with a neighborhood Family Center. Of particular interest was the possible impact of the constituency groups which comprised the board membership: representatives of the predominantly African-American, low socio-economic neighborhood being served; members of a predominantly white, upper middle-class church who provided $1.5 million to build the center; and the community-at-large. Analyzing qualitative data gathered via interviews of current and past board members, external and internal factors were identified as contributors to poor board member retention.