Guidelines for Improving the Effectiveness of Boards of Directors of Nonprofit Organizations

Vic Murray
Yvonne Harrison

“Each chapter deals with one of the nine effectiveness challenges faced by the board: authority and responsibilities; role in planning, performance assessment, and fundraising; structure and operating procedures, including meetings; composition and development; informal culture; and finally, leadership.

Whether used in conjunction with the online tool or not, the guidebook should prove useful in several ways:

- as a framework for understanding the role, structure and operation of a Board within a non-profit organization
- as the basis for orienting novice board members to the nature and scope of their new environment
- in identifying the action that boards might take to improve performance and the resources and tools available to assist them
- in setting priorities for corrective action, based on an understanding of the potential impact of the assessed area and the feasibility of the remedy.”

-Hélène Cameron

Guidelines for Improving the Effectiveness of Boards of Directors of Nonprofit Organization helps boards of directors of nonprofit organizations improve their performance after completing the Board Check-Up, online board performance self-assessment tool found at www.boardcheckup.com. This book is also valuable as a stand-alone resource for any board seeking to assess its performance in that it contains the diagnostic questions on which the online self-assessment tool is based. It goes further by providing a framework for boards to use in discussing needed changes in board performance.

“Dr. Vic Murray and Dr. Yvonne Harrison have created a truly unique ‘how-to manual’ designed to help nonprofit board members, their CEOs, and aspiring nonprofit professionals to lead in an effective and efficient manner that insures participation by all.

Having engaged hundreds of veteran board members and their organizations, Murray and Harrison use what they refer to as a “Health Checkup” assessment model and methodology. Using this, they’ve created a paradigm shift that enables nonprofit leaders to identify and explore the “Symptoms”, “Diagnosis”, and “Treatment” of the illnesses most common to nonprofit organizations.

Whether using it as an individual tool, or accompanying the self assessment online board checkup site, whether you are directly faced with the challenges of overseeing a nonprofit organization, responsible for teaching others ‘how to’, or seeking to someday be a nonprofit professional yourself, you would be wise to examine this guidebook.”

-M.Flinton

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