

Discussion Questions for Board Self-Assessment

1. To what extent is the mission of the organization clear, well-understood by all, and reflected in the work of the organization?
2. Are all governing documents, policies and legal/insurance issues current?
3. What would you say are the most important things the Board should be focusing on at this stage of the organization's growth?
4. Overall, what would you say are the three most critical issues or questions to address in the next three to five years for the organization?
5. What would you say are the unique aspects of this organization – ones that need to be preserved no matter what other changes are made?
6. What trends – local, regional, national – need to be taken into consideration as you plan for the next three to five years?
7. How satisfied are you with the structure of the Board in terms of its committees, term limits, use of advisory groups, nominating and orientation process, and Board-staff communication? What could be improved?
8. How satisfied are you with the diversity of the Board in terms of Board members representing various constituencies, gender, age, ethnic, geographic, and professional associations? What could be improved?
9. How are decisions made within the Board? How could this be improved?
10. How well do Board members participate in organizational activities? How could this be strengthened?
11. How is the Board involved in organizational fund-raising? How could this be improved?
12. What is the Board's involvement in strategic planning and/or identification of new areas of service?