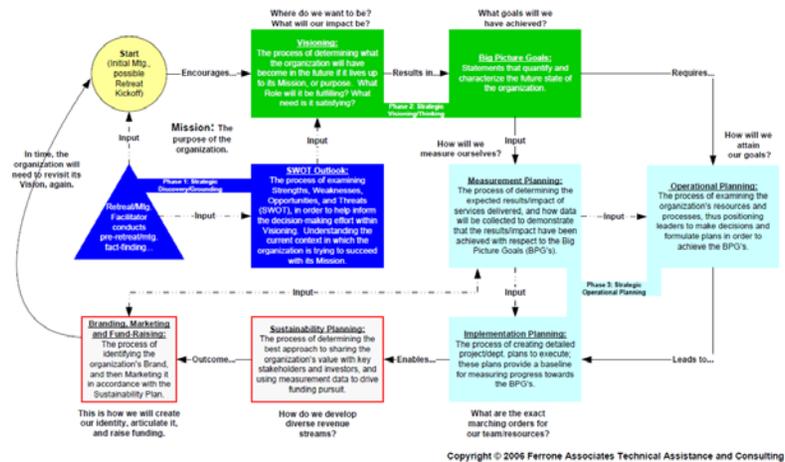


Alternatives 2017: Organizational Assessment Tool

The Café TAC uses the Elements of Organizational Effectiveness (EOE) Model to guide consumer-driven organizations to pursue and attain sustainability. The EOE Model is a management consulting tool that has been successfully deployed among family-driven and consumer-driven organizations.

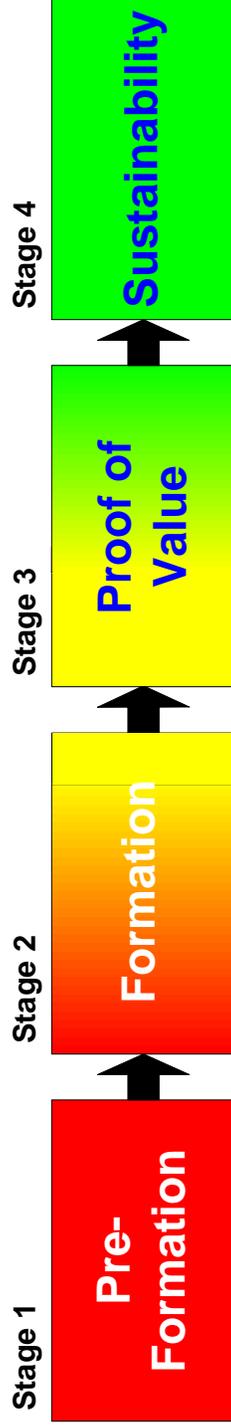
Elements of Organizational Effectiveness (EOE) Model



The EOE Model and approach focuses on building capacity by empowering the people of the organization to understand what is necessary to achieve sustainability, and to coach and guide them to pursue it. The primary interface technique is on-site coaching and role-modeling; however, not every organization requires the same level of engagement and assistance.

The Café TAC believes that the consumer voice can traverse a path towards becoming an organized, sustainable presence within all facets of a state's approach to mental health services. There are 4 Stages of Consumer-Driven Organizational Capacity that The Family Café defines within its approach: Pre-Formation, Formation, Proof of Value, and Sustainability, as depicted below. Notice how the responsibilities increase dramatically as the Stages progress. The primary role of the Café TAC is to coach, guide, and support mental health consumers to understand what Stage they are in, define a path to the next Stage, and pursue the attainment of the next Stage and beyond.

In the early Stages on-site technical assistance occurs more frequently, primarily to build the relationships and trust necessary for off-site technical assistance to be successful. As the consumers develop their sustainable organization (whatever form they choose), on-site technical assistance is less necessary, and frequent off-site communication and engagement occur to support the consumer voice and movement.



On-Site TA

No organization formally exists. There is a feeling of great need, and individual consumers have begun to emerge as known advocates, perhaps in small groups. Consumers desire to be included and to provide leadership regarding the future of mental health services. Consumers, however, are “accessed” haphazardly and individually to provide their voice, rather than being empowered to share their voice collectively in solidarity. Efforts to organize further often fall short due to overwhelming barriers.

Consumers have formed an organization. In the early stages, it may not be incorporated. Towards the later stages of this phase, the effort becomes incorporated as a non-profit, or perhaps as a subsidiary of an “umbrella” organization. The group of consumers represented has grown, and common themes and priorities regarding needs and expectations have emerged. A vision and mission of the effort have been articulated. More advanced efforts have developed a business plan and are seeking seed funding to bring the organization to life with dedicated staff.

The organization has been incorporated and has been given seed funding, or committed funding, for at least 3 years. The focus, now, is to prove that the endeavor is worthwhile. Consumers do not get a free pass, and must implement tried and true practices to ensure that their organization is investment-worthy. The Board of Directors is strong. The programs and services are well-defined, and evaluation mechanisms are in place to capture value that can be shared. Marketing efforts exist, and extra effort is placed on ensuring that consumers are well-prepared to serve in the roles in which they now perform. The organization seeks to have key stakeholders and funding partners say, “This was a good investment, and we want to continue giving this organization funding.”

As the months go by, the organization is continually fulfilling its mission and striving for its vision. It knows how to be an organization. It knows that the stakes are higher, because real money (perhaps tax dollars) is being invested in the organization. It has a sophisticated awareness that it needs to be accountable, not just to the consumers it serves, but to the sources of funding. It realizes that this delicate balance must be maintained, and it strategically forms relationships and collaborative arrangements with new organizations, new funding entities, and policy makers. It seeks positive press and leverages social media very effectively to build its brand. It is able to tell a story of effective growth and management, and new donors and funding agencies confidently place their donations and contract funds with this organization, knowing that their funds are well-allocated through this organization.

Off-Site TA

The following table includes a list of key milestones and corresponding questions and objectives that imply an increasing level of organizational capacity and competency necessary to empower the consumer voice within each state. The Café TAC has identified this list of milestones based on its experience building consumer-driven capacity among peers and consumers in the states that The Café TAC has served during its current SAMHSA grant. Circumstances within a state will undoubtedly have many more variables to consider beyond the milestones and related objectives described below, but these key milestones represent the proven growth path of consumer-driven capacity, and thus provide the primary focus for technical assistance. Customization and flexibility are a key part of our approach.

Stage	Key Milestone, or Level of Development	Corresponding Questions and Related Objectives
-1, 1	<i>A group of at least 15 consumers have established themselves as an informal network and are requesting inclusion in the state's system of services.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the group of consumers form on their own, or were they formed by an outside entity? 2. Is there an articulated vision for what this group wants to accomplish? 3. Are there roles and responsibilities among the group members, and what holds them accountable? 4. Is this group acknowledged by any stakeholders?
1, 1+	<i>A network of consumers (often called a Peer Network, for example) exists and is striving to be acknowledged as a key stakeholder.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the group have a leadership infrastructure? 2. Does the group have Bylaws or other rules of engagement? 3. Is the group representative of the entire state? 4. Does the state recognize the group as a relevant stakeholder? 5. Does the group communicate with a broader constituency? 6. What is the mission and vision?
-2, 2	<i>A more formal organization exists, but has not yet been incorporated. The State looks to this group as an up-and-coming partner, but needs this group to show more signals of dependability before truly investing additional resources in it.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the group communicate such that a statewide consumer voice is being represented? 2. What deliverables will attract state funding? 3. What traction does the group have? For example, what accomplishments or initiatives has the group delivered? 4. What level of credibility do outside stakeholders assign to this group? 5. What is the mission and vision?

Stage	Key Milestone, or Level of Development	Corresponding Questions and Related Objectives
2, 2+	<i>The previously unincorporated group of consumers has now incorporated with their state's Secretary of State. A business plan is still being articulated, but a clear vision exists to guide the planning.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Board of Directors strong, culturally competent, and representative of the state? 2. As a working Board (in this early stage), does the Board know what initiatives to focus on that will attract future investments? 3. How is the business plan being written and how is the business plan going to achieve the vision? 4. What services and roles will this organization deliver such that it fulfills its mission?
-3, 3	<i>The Board of Directors is a working Board, meaning that there are no staff or employees to do the work of the organization. The main goal is of the Board, then, is to attract funding in the form of donations, grants, and contracts. The organization needs seed funding, and once it attains it, the organization must deliver value.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What possible funding sources are available to the organization? 2. What must the organization do to secure funding? 3. How is the Board pursuing the funding sources? 4. The business plan should be written, and will now be used as the main tool for approaching potential sources of funding.
3, 3+	<i>Seed funding has been secured, and the organization is now able to hire staff and deliver the services and value that have been articulated in the business plan. The primary focus is to do the job well, and prove that the funding was well-invested in this organization.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What funding does the organization have? 2. What is the organization accountable for, with respect to the funding? 3. How are staff recruited and hired? 4. What programs and services are being designed and delivered, and how will they be measured? 5. Does the Board know its role to ensure that operations go well?
-4, 4	<i>The organization has 6-12 months of operations under its belt and now has early measurements that demonstrate value. It now needs to implement its sustainability plan, which is to tell its success story to its investors, and to continue to deliver excellent programs and services. The primary focus is to build momentum and prove that the organization is a dependable go-to partner in the system of mental health services.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What measurements exist that demonstrate the delivery of value? 2. Is there a strong relationship with the entities that provided startup funding? Do organization representatives communicate frequently with them? 3. After the easy "stuff" has been done, do the Board and staff know how to keep the "pedal to the metal" and keep delivering great value? In other words, what's next? 4. Is the statewide consumer voice building momentum, and are stakeholders taking notice?

Stage	Key Milestone, or Level of Development	Corresponding Questions and Related Objectives
4, 4+	<i>The organization has 18-24 months of operations under its belt and now has consistent measurements that demonstrate value. Momentum is gaining, and stakeholders are seeking out the organization to collaborate with it. The organization has proven that it is capable and that it is investment-worthy. The consumer-voice now has built an effective and sustainable mechanism through which it can be an active and equal leader within the system of mental health services.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the brand of the organization, and how well has this brand been pushed to every corner of the state? 2. What's next? How will the organization continue to impress its network partners in the next few years? 3. What are the organization's capacity needs to ensure that it continues to excel? 4. How is the organization developing new sources of revenue?

Bonus Assessment: Status of the Consumer/Peer Voice in your state (...because this is the heart and soul of your sustainability!)

When examining the status of the Mental Health Consumer Voice (CV) in a state, one must consider several key variables, including: Organizational Capacity, Communication, Financial Sustainability, and General Awareness.

1. How well is the Peer Voice represented in your state? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Do Peers across the state have an organized and sustained means of communicating with each other? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3. Do agency leaders, community leaders, and other people who may have an interest in the collective Peer Voice have a point of contact to access the collective Peer Voice, and is that point of contact able to represent a collective opinion or perspective? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4. Is there an entity among the Peers that the Peers go to for support, training, access to programs, etc.? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5. Is the Peer Voice organized to the extent that it benefits from revenue sources? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6. Does the Peer Voice have the ability to collectively interact and discuss policies and programs that affect the Peer Voice, determine responses and input, and contribute such responses and input through appropriate channels? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7. To what extent is the general public aware of the collective Peer Voice? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
8. To what extent is the Peer Voice included in grant applications and other program funding requests? State block grant planning? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5