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# PubPol 671: Policy & Management in the Nonprofit Sector

Lecture 7:

Performance Evaluation & H.R.

Neel Hajra

## Report from the Field:

- Ann Arbor living wage ordinance proposed nonprofit exemption
- NEW's performance measurement

#### For Next Two Classes

 Monday (Governance) and Wednesday (Policy Making): Please have good questions for Diana and Tiffany

# So Why Measure?

#### **Organization:**

- Attract Resources
- Management/ Strategy
- Competition
- Validation
- Alignment
- Mission!!!!

#### **Sector:**

- Accountability
- Quality and Reputation Control
- Value and Impact
- Capital Market
- Defense to regulation
- Best practice standards

# **Business School Perspective?**

### Good to Great Model

#### Good to Great

- Huge hit in third sector (a retort of sorts to "business-types")
- The monograph is NOT based on longterm research (some interviews and examination)
- Interesting HR perspective as well

# The Great Equalizer

 Puts nonprofits and for-profits on equal footing (moves from "business concept" to "greatness concept")

# Business = Mediocrity?

- Feels good to say, but...
- True???

#### G2G's View on Metrics

- Collins advocates for some kind of system
- Certain level of faith in correlation
- Based on viewpoint that ALL metrics are imperfect
- Side note HBR Article (to be posted):
  - Which results will we hold ourselves accountable for?
  - How will we achieve them?
  - What will results really cost, and how can we fund them?
  - How do we build the organization we need to deliver results?

#### Metrics as "Evidence"

- "Greatness" is a dynamic concept...and NOT about hitting benchmarks
- View of metrics as a compilation of evidence
- Quantitative and qualitative

## Inputs vs. Outputs

- For-profit: Money is an input and an output
- Nonprofit: Money is primarily an input
- Common for nonprofits to focus on inputs/activities (the "look how busy we are" syndrome)

# Big Hairy Audacious Goal

- Nice idea, BUT...
- ...there are deep implications to the BHAG approach when taken seriously

# Teach for America Today: The Benefits of BHAG?

- Huge brand / generally excellent reputation
- Record applications (35,000), including
   I 1% of all seniors at Ivy League schools

# Cleveland Orchestra: The Cost of BHAG?

- June 2009: The orchestra's endowment fell by \$27 million, or 22 percent, to \$97.2 million in the year ended in June 2009.
- Median musician pay in Cleveland in 2009 was \$140,200, the orchestra said, which would drop to \$134,100 in the first year of a new contract. Benefits include 10 weeks of paid vacation.
- Jan 2009: Orchestra strikes.
  - Musicians: "We have to offer a competitive wage and benefits to maintain the stature of the Cleveland Orchestra,"
  - One local TV commentator: "Bad time to strike, folks. No one is going to have any sympathy for you and your jobs are a 'nice to have' for most of the people in the city and surrounding area, not a must-have."

 Jan 18, 2009: Tentative agreement with striking musicians after an 18-hour negotiating session.

# Performance Measurement Take-Aways

- Hard to measure mission achievement
- Often confusion between outputs and outcomes
- Strong performance doesn't always correlate to strong support
- Response to accountability concerns
- Exposes lack of nonprofit capital/infrastructure

## Policy Implications

- Government contract culture and Foundation program focus are anathema to mission-driven sector
- Difficult to establish national standards
- Lack of rational capital markets
- Perhaps application of for-profit concepts in this arena is counter-productive?

#### Human Resources

#### Introduction

- I. What's HR like?
- 2. What are common HR traps?
- 3. How might this be magnified in the nonprofit world?

#### The Bus

- Great illustration of issue
- Finding the right riders is HARD
- Nonprofit culture sometimes makes it harder to expel the wrong riders
- But: When done correctly, the mission alignment magnifies performance!

# G2G's NYPD Story

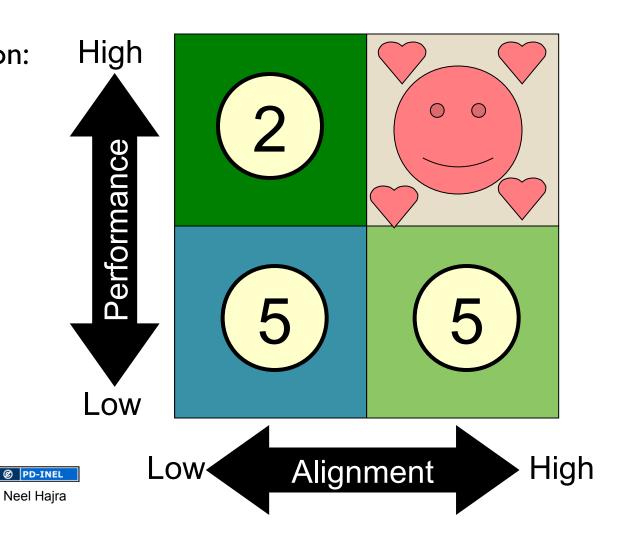
- Feels good, BUT...
- ...what are implications on:
  - Morale
  - Leadership transition
  - Goodwill

# Science Department Story

- Denying tenure to "good" teacher made space for "great" teacher
- Put your self in the shoes of a department head... what are the implications of this G2G example?:
  - Patience: Do we have the time?
  - Feasibility: Is this a realistic standard?
  - What about other strategic implications??

#### Illustration: NEW's Bus

- In eight years: 9 terminations, 3 timely departures
- Implications on:
  - Hiring
  - Culture



# HR Policy Implications

- HR critical for sector success, but finding, competing for, and retaining talent is hard
- Talent still tends to gravitate to money, but nonprofit sector does have some advantages
- Compensation can be a no-win situation
- Reputation of sector is a problem, but changing
- Huge issue with the "next generation"

# Activity Part II: Mission Metrics

 In the same group that created your mission, devise five success metrics that demonstrate mission achievement.