



Making a Difference, One Board at a Time

January, 2007

## Policy Governance® News.....You Can Use

Topic: Governance Planning for the New Year

The Policy Governance Network is a Michigan based coalition of organizations and individuals providing support, training, and assistance to Board members and executives interested in the benefits found by using the Model of Policy Governance.

### Up Coming Events

Policy Governance® 101  
Coming in January  
Postings will appear on the  
website.

### PGN on the Web!

[www.mipolicygov.org](http://www.mipolicygov.org)

Policy Governance is a  
Service Mark of John Carver  
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### MAKING THE MOST OF THE NEW YEAR IN GOVERNANCE

A number of governance questions can help board's kick-start their planning sessions in January. Here is a short list of ideas that can stimulate board dialogue along the lines of getting more benefits throughout the year from the practice of Policy Governance®.

**The AGENDA** Is our agenda organized to streamline the review of reports, giving enough time for Ends study, board education, and the dialog necessary to continually craft our vision of the future? Can we find the time consuming bottle necks that prevent more discussion on the most important issues? Do we spend enough time during the month on board education?

**MONITORING with SPEED** Are members reading and judging the written monitoring reports in the board packet, so a quick poll at our board meeting can be held to determine compliance? Are the monitoring reports written to be easily read to determine if the interpretation is reasonable and the data is there to judge compliance?

**ENDS REVIEWED** Are the board's End Statements correctly written to avoid the use of Means language and other unnecessary words? Do some End Statements require additional discussion in light of current and future trends? Have we taken the time to ask, "at what cost or value" our Ends should be described as they relate to all other Ends?

**The OWNERSHIP** When was the last time the board had a discussion to identify or update who the ownership is? Have changes occurred in the service area or market that may require the board to change its definition of who the owners are? Does our Ownership know that they are Owners and that we, the board, represent their interests?

**LINKAGE PLANNING** How did last year's linkage activities work? Can we schedule activities for this year that will provide us with the type of information we will need as we review certain Ends or emerging issues? As board members do we personally accept the responsibility for linking with Owners and engage in the plan activities?

**The CENTRAL QUESTIONS for 2007** What are the central, most important, questions that should preoccupy the board throughout 2007? Can we identify a short list of issues and questions that will lead education, discussion, and an update vision (Ends) for the future? Will we have the discipline to "work on" these questions in a planned way during the year and in our agendas?

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