



Social Impact Networks, Used As Tools

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Presentation Outline

1. Explore 3 models of organizational units/models
2. A 4th model, the Social Impact Network (S-IN)
3. Utilizing S-INS' features of *dynamic cross-sector engagement through a learner-centric culture* as a tool
4. Case studies of a network weaver using S-INS to optimize organizational effectiveness.
5. Risks/Rewards

Part 1: Examine core features of the three organizing units/models

1a. (Hierarchical) Organizations

1b. Coalitions

1c. Scattered networks

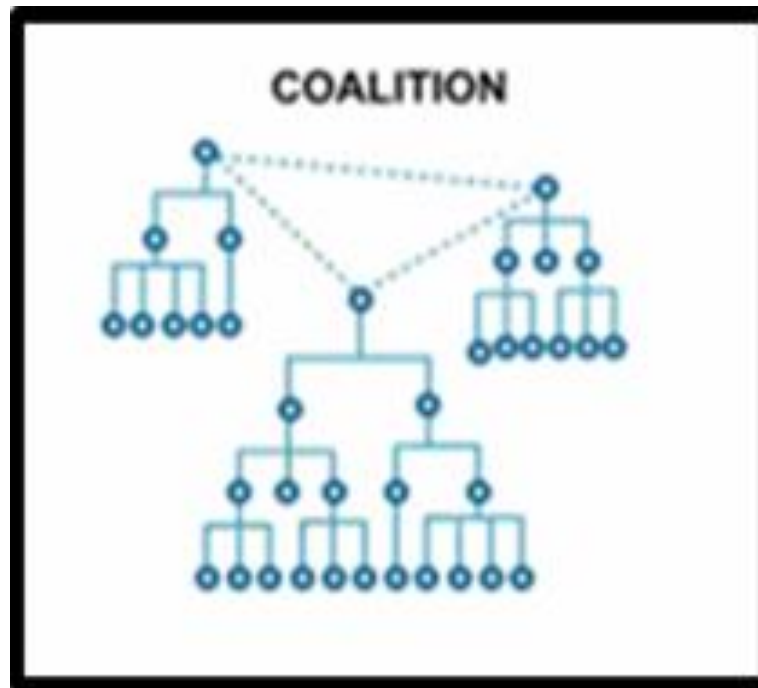
1a. (Hierarchal) Organization

A pyramidal structure wherein a single individual, called the principal, is at the top, and other individuals are assigned direct superiors.



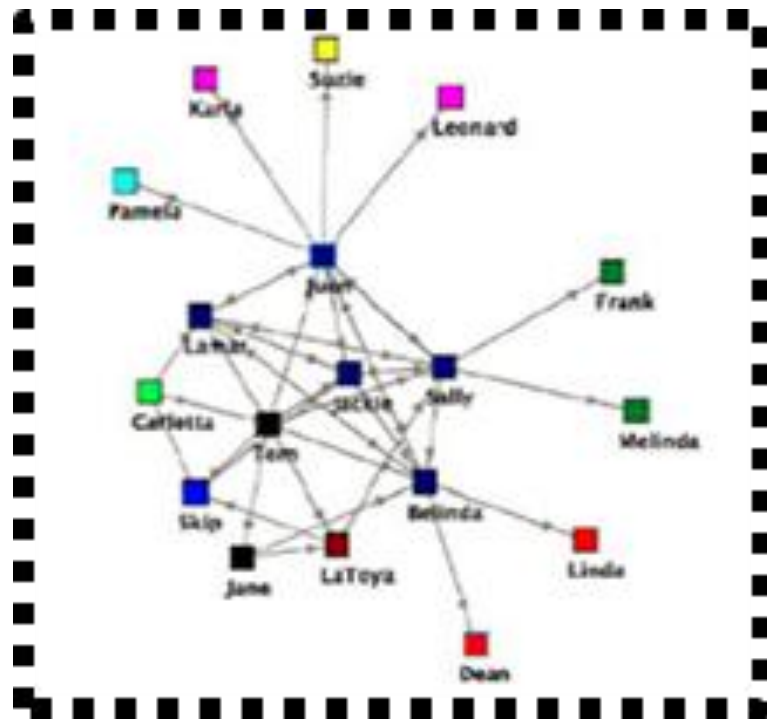
16. Coalitions

An interacting group of organizations (or individuals nested within organizations) that are: (1) deliberately constructed; (2) mutually-perceived in their membership; (3) issue-oriented; and (4) driven by member action.



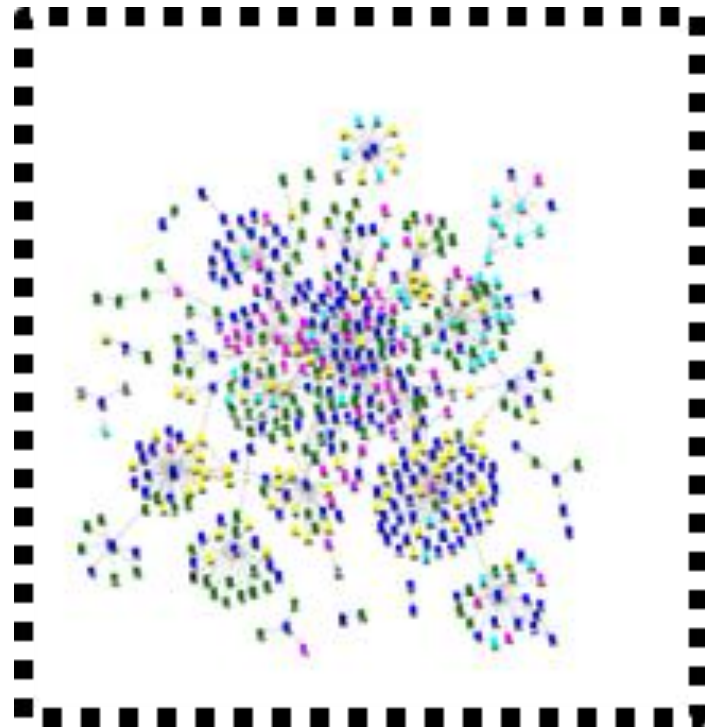
1c. Scattered Networks & Associations

Groups of individuals loosely affiliated and loosely bounded, yet possessing a core of people who know each other and peripheral members that add a limited degree of dynamism.



Part 2: a fourth organizing unit/model

“Networks of individuals or organizations that aim to solve a difficult problem in the society by working together, adapting over time, and generating a sustained flow of activities and impacts.”



*Definition from Peter Plastrik, Madeline Taylor, John Cleveland in Connecting to Change the World: Harnessing the Power of Networks for Social Impact.

Part 2 Attributes of S-JNs:

A dynamically **generative**, **flexible** and **diverse** system of **trust-based**, **“learner-centric”** relationships that evolve over time to navigate complex issues of community concern.

*(Amy’s Adapted Definition)**

Attributes of SJNs: Requires Weaving

- It's not that I want to change every group into a Social-Impact Network, but rather, optimize the effectiveness of any group by adopting features of SInS as tools

Network Weaving

Function: Connector, Guardian, Coordinator, Facilitator*

Focus: Emerging, future state

Features: Iterative, not prescriptive, curious process

Requirement: Listening, feeling, trusting, knowing,

*See June Holley, [An Introduction to Network Weaving](#)**

Part 3: Case Examples of SJNs as tools

Kenosha County Energy Team/Sustainability Team
(Sustainability)



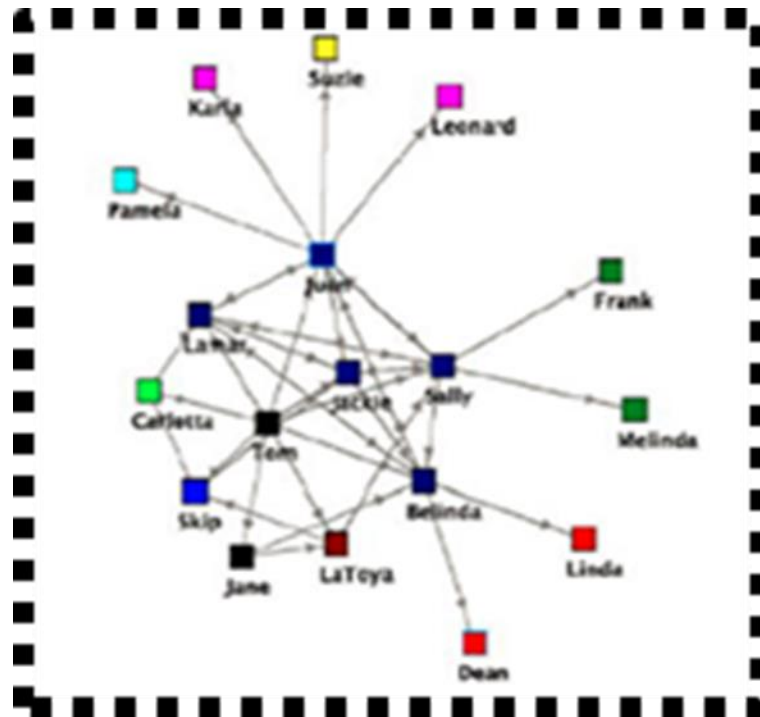
Part 3: Case Examples of SJNs as tools

Kenosha Creative Economy Stakeholder Group
(Implementation of Countywide Strategic Plan)



Part 3: Case Examples of SJNs as tools

Downtown Kenosha, Inc. Volunteer Committee
(Economic Revitalization)



Part 4: Risks of Being a network weaver

- Upsetting the status-quo
- Discomfort with change
- Misunderstood intentions

Part 4 (cont.): Rewards of introducing social impact networking

- Valuing equity of voice
- Expanding membership and tapping resources is made easier.
- Infusing creativity, proactivity, continuous improvement to be the heart of their work
- Scale and scope of impact is limitless

Recap and Questions

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Resources

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