World Café Conversations: A Powerful Method to Support Community Systems Development
Slide Deck Two of Three

Principles and Etiquette

The World Café Process
Create the conditions for great conversation
Welcome and set the context
Engage in multiple rounds of conversation
Harvest the conversation
Create the Conditions - Invitation

- Send out an intriguing, inquiry-based invitation
- Get people thinking before they arrive

Create the Conditions - Space

- Café tables with 4-5 seats
- Room to move
- Wall space for etiquette, questions, and harvest
- Natural light
- Supplies

Set the Context

- Warm welcome
- Purpose and intention
- Provide the necessary background
- Who is in the room
- Explain Café process and etiquette
Engage in Multiple Rounds of Conversation

- Typically 3 rounds
- 20-30 minutes/round
- Initiated with a question
- Each round:
  - 1-2 minutes/person to introduce self and give initial short response to question
  - Open up conversation
  - Everyone captures conversation on flip chart paper
- Table host remains; everyone else moves

Harvest the Conversation

- Capture/record the key learning and insights
  - Round questions
  - Other “lens”
- During, in-between rounds and/or after all rounds
  - Everyone harvests
  - Lead harvester(s)
- Methods
  - “Tablecloths”
  - Personal harvests
  - Large group reflection/sharing
    - Formally capture or get a sense of conversation
    - Speak for self not others
- “Final” harvest

World Café Fundamentals: Questions or Comments?
Please go to Slide Deck Three