Leading By Convening — A Blueprint for Authentic Engagement

Partnership: A Hybrid of Top Down and Bottom Up

	Leading: Top-Down Model	Leading: Bottom-Up Model	Leading by Convening: The Partnership Way
Who	 Senior administrator(s) drive policy decisions. Designated specialists contribute and carry out work. 	 Representatives of a cross-stakeholder group have influence in guiding actions and decision making. Dynamic leader(s) convene(s) group. 	 Groups with authority over the issue join with groups that have influence in the field. Persons with expertise and/or experience share knowledge and skills. Representatives of diverse stakeholder groups engage through consensus to identify issues, solve problems and take action.
How	 Invite interested participants to a meeting. Solicit and consider input from participants. Administrators chart path, make decisions and empower others to take action. 	 Interested parties join together. Creative agreement strategies are used to bring the group to consensus. Group charts the path and direct action. Leaders emerge. 	 Leading by convening. Sharing perspectives among the members of the group. Sharing leadership opportunities and responsibilities, based on role, expertise and needs of the group in specific contexts or situations. Attending to both the human and technical elements of change; building relationships.
Why	 Responsibility resides with the leader. He or she has the most say. Leader driven; autocratic or small core group of people. 	 Buy-in across groups is desired. Responsibility resides with all. Grassroots investment engages participants and empowers action. Broad commitment to implementation. Sustainable after current leaders have moved on. 	 Decision makers, practitioners and consumers understand that collective influence has the potential to change outcomes. Stakeholders with authority and influence have a role and their interactions produce value. Building relationships across roles and levels broadens the area of impact and supports sustainability.

