



Ten Characteristics of Effective Boards

A Board of Directors is effective to the extent that it possesses the following characteristics:

1. **Diversity** – The Board, as a whole, contains differences in skills, experience, interests and social background.
2. **Structure** – It is organized in such a way that individuals and committees assume a proper, active role in its functions.
3. **Member involvement** – Its members demonstrate a high degree of interest in their role and responsibilities and are genuinely concerned about the organization's operation and the social forces that are affecting service delivery.
4. **Knowledge** – Its members are well informed about the organization's operation and the social forces that are affecting service delivery.
5. **Respect** – Its members have mutual respect for each other regardless of differences of opinion and maintain a productive working relationship with each other.
6. **Sense of Priorities** – Its members are concerned with important and long-range issues, not trivial matters.
7. **Strength** – It is strong enough to achieve effective policy decisions.
8. **Responsible** – Its members accept the legal, financial and ethical responsibilities of their charge.
9. **Leadership** – The relationship between the Executive Director and Board Members and its Chair are respected and is skilled in making certain that various points of view are expressed and satisfactory decisions are reached.
10. **Accomplishment** – It has a genuine sense of progress and achievement and members gain satisfaction from their services.