

Self-Assessment Survey Results
By Saint Paul Neighborhoods ACTION Team (SPN ACT)
March-May 2014

This report describes the results of the Saint Paul Neighborhoods ACTION Team (SPN ACT) self-assessment. The Saint Paul Neighborhoods ACTION team is one of thirty-one identified *ACT on Alzheimer's*® communities using a community engagement process guided by the *ACT on Alzheimer's*® *Dementia Capable Community Toolkit*.

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Background

SPN ACT

Six St. Paul neighborhoods form one of the communities using the *ACT on Alzheimer's® Dementia Capable Communities Toolkit* to identify community needs and help address the impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. *ACT on Alzheimer's* is a volunteer-driven statewide collaboration. It focuses on 5 goals to help prepare Minnesota for the budgetary, social and personal impacts of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The goals include: (1) sustain caregivers, (2) raise awareness and reduce stigma, (3) invest in promising approaches, (4) increase detection and improve care, and (5) equip communities.

From February to December 2013, the SPN ACT group worked through the ACT on Alzheimer's Toolkit and process for assessing the current state of the St. Paul neighborhoods "dementia capability." Nine open-invitation working meetings were held between the Kick-Off Forum (February 12, 2013) and December 17, 2013. More than 350 individuals followed the activities of the SPN ACT effort. Involvement ranged from "information only" participants who kept updated via email communication, to those who attended regular monthly meetings. Approximately one-third (90+ individuals) attended at least one of the nine working meetings. The meetings' content corresponded to the process included in the *ACT on Alzheimer's Dementia Capable Community Toolkit*. This included: review of the Toolkit, development of lists of names of individuals who could be surveyed using the assessment tools included in the Toolkit, review of the activities completed in-between each meeting (such as the number assessments completed and the service sectors that were surveyed), synthesis and review of results from all of the assessments, development of priority areas for action (using an iterative voting method during the meetings), and development of a work plan and timeline to launch the priority action item. Short and long-term goals for 2014 were identified, along with a process to accomplish the goals. The next phase of work for SPN ACT began in 2014, and included (1) the development of a local community resource list, and (2) a training/education effort called "Dementia Champions" (trainers) and "Dementia Friends" (volunteers).

Survey

This survey was developed by Deborah Paone, DrPH, MHSA of *Paone & Associates, LLC* for any Community Action Team that is conducting a collective work effort to build dementia capability through using the *ACT on Alzheimer's® Dementia Capable Community Toolkit* and process (see www.ACTonalz.org). *Paone and Associates* is providing a formative evaluation, particularly focusing on the work of select communities using the *ACT on Alzheimer's Toolkit*.

The content of the survey is based on the work of researchers¹ who have contributed to the understanding of how coalitions function and what factors help drive success. For example, in a review of community coalitions, factors predicting satisfaction, participation, and planning included: community leadership, shared decision-making, linkages with other organizations, and a positive organizational climate (Butterfoss, Goodman, and Wandersman, 1996).

Researchers who have extensive experience in the field working with community engagement coalitions around health or other key social issues recommend that the coalition evaluate its results at three levels (Butterfoss and Francisco, 2004):

1. Level 1: Coalition Infrastructure, Function, and Processes
2. Level 2: Coalition Programs and Interventions
3. Level 3: Health and Community Change Outcomes

This survey was focused on the Level 1 elements of the SPN ACT group—their infrastructure and processes, leadership, and how members worked together. The questions probe the following areas:

- Understanding about purpose
- Organizational structure
- Resources available
- Group participation, Engagement
- Communication
- Outreach & representation of the community
- Effectiveness
- Group strength
- Commitment
- Confidence

The survey was designed to be used at key points in the life of the team/coalition. In each natural phase of evolution of the coalition's lifecycle, the players/participants may change—thus those who are completing the instrument would also change. Natural phases in the life of the *ACT on Alzheimer's* Community ACTION Teams were assumed to include:

- After the convening, assessing, synthesizing steps have been completed (Phase 1, 2, 3)
- After the action planning around the top priority area(s) is done, with a workplan generated that includes action steps and leads, timeframe, and measures or markers for gauging progress (Phase 4)
- After the community has initiated one or more action steps, involving collective action by individuals and organizations in a coordinated way, and have finished/completed those steps and are working toward elements of sustainability or embedding the efforts in one or more organizations (Phase 5)
- During a collective review or final evaluation process

¹ Researchers include: Francisco, Schlutz, Fawcett, Becker, Wandersman, Goodman, Butterfoss, Miller, Chervin, Katz, and others. See list of references provided.

Methods

The survey had 12 questions and was designed to be very simple to complete. Scaled adjectival response options were given for each question. The scale is shown below:

Yes, Always Or Yes, Definitely	Most of the Time	Sometimes	Not Usually	No, Never	Don't Know
5	4	3	2	1	

Each survey participant chose a response option closest to his/her experience, and was also invited to provide more detail in an additional comment narrative text box. The survey was anonymous. The survey was administered and distributed electronically via a dedicated URL link address. The respondent would click on the link and the survey instrument would open with the following description:

This survey is designed for ANYONE who has participated in the St Paul Neighborhood ACTION Community Team (SPN ACT) work in 2013 or in early 2014.

It is a quick, 5 to 7 minute survey that asks questions about specific elements in the way that the group has worked. These elements have been shown in the research to foster group effectiveness. Please choose the response option closest to your experience/opinion for each of the questions.

We'd appreciate your response by end of April, 2014

Thank you!

--Deborah Paone, DrPH, MHSA - Evaluator

The survey was mailed via email to 67 individuals who were participating in the effort. It was emailed by Georgia Lane, SPN ACT Coordinator. There were 32 individuals who completed the survey for a response rate of 48%. According to Georgia, there were approximately 32-35 individuals who had been most active in the ACTION team—therefore she considers this a good response rate, capturing the input from members who were most involved in the work effort.

The first respondent completed the survey on March 26 and the last respondent completed the survey on May 14. Time to complete the survey ranged from a low of 55 seconds to a high of six minutes. Most respondents completed the survey in 2 to 3 minutes.

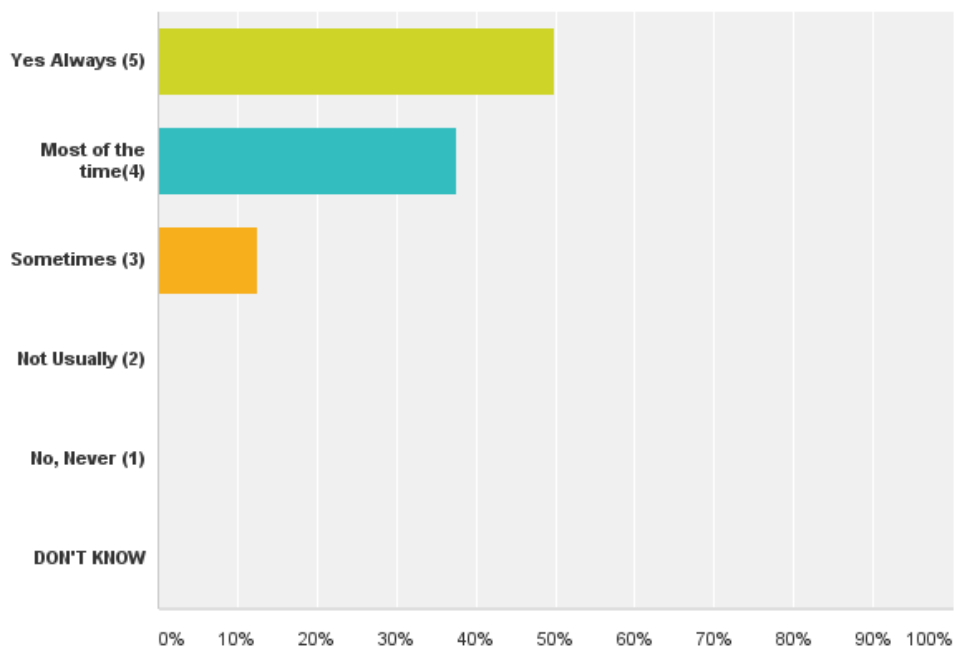
Results

Purpose

Most (88% or 28 people) of the respondents said that they were “Always” or “Most of the time” clear on the purpose for the St. Paul Neighborhood ACTION Community work.

Q1 I am clear on the PURPOSE for the St. Paul Neighborhood ACTION Community work.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Goals, Purpose:

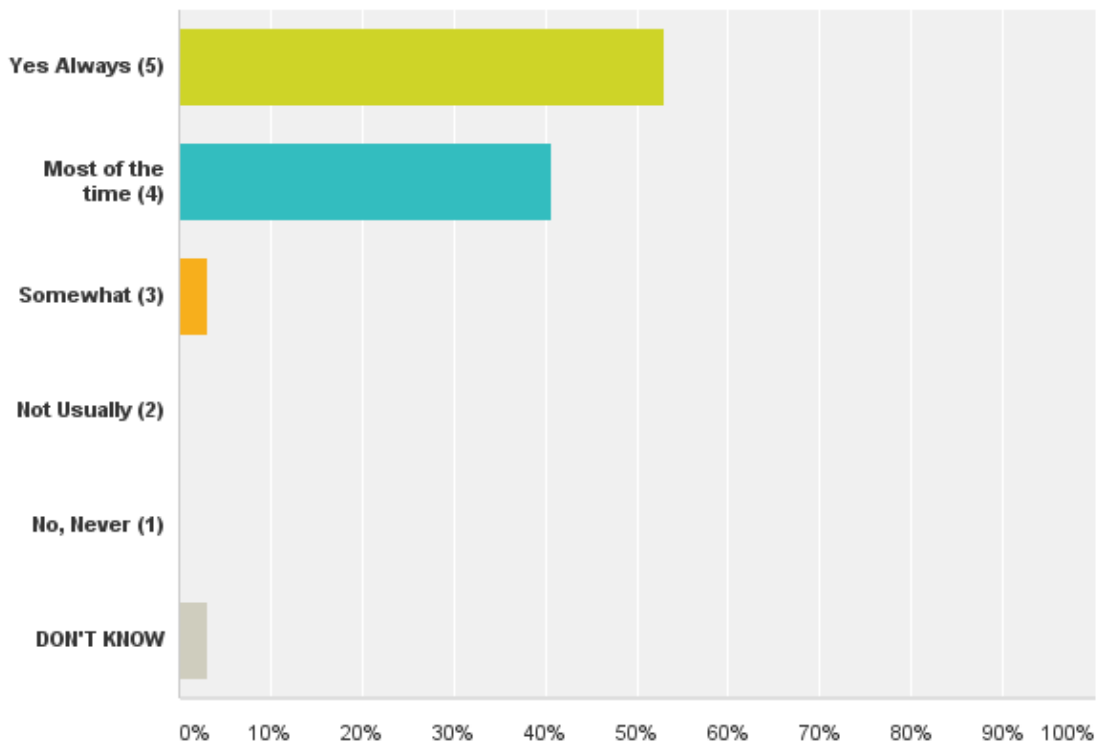
- *I think reviewing the goals briefly at each of the meeting would be helpful.*
- *I only came to one meeting.*
- *It was very confusing at the beginning but as I attended the meetings, it became more clear -- the importance of this project.*
- *Engagement*
- *People seem very comfortable sharing ideas, it would be nice if more people offered their time to contribute to executing their ideas.*

Structure

Most (94% or 30 people) said that the organization and structure supporting the Team’s work is effective “Always” or “Most of the time.”

Q2 The organization and structure supporting the team’s work for SPN ACT is effective.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0

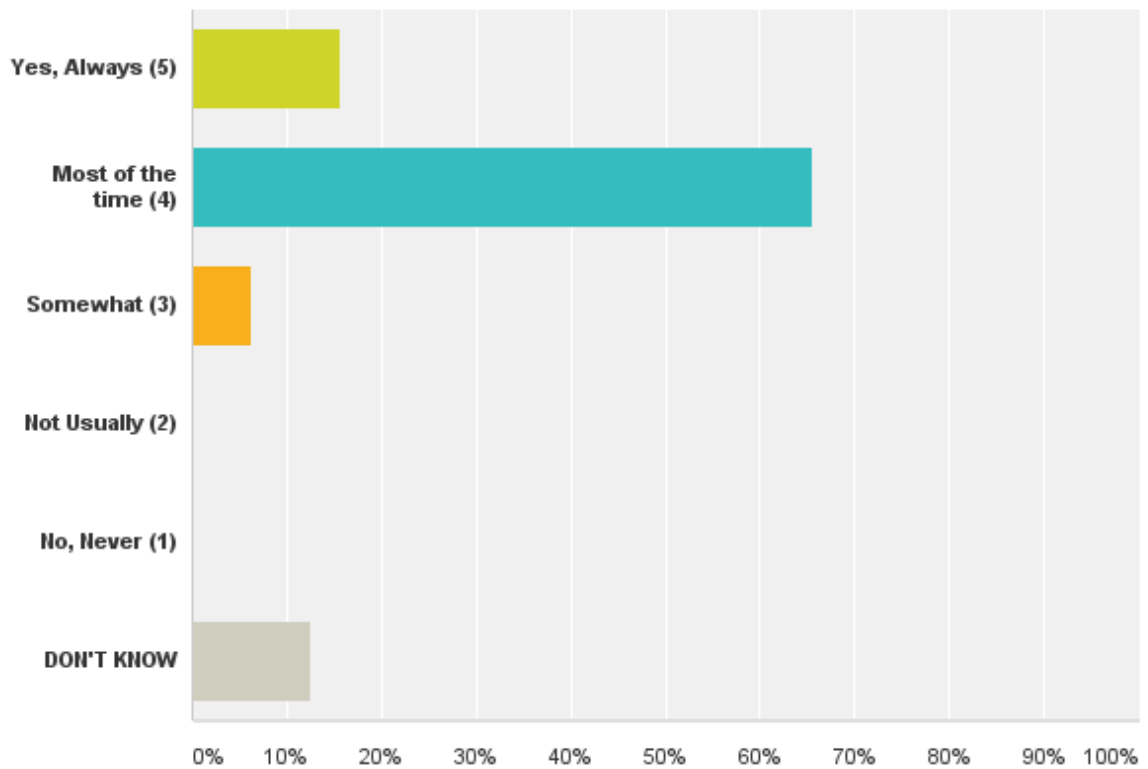


Resources

Many people said that the initiative had the right resources to accomplish the work, although there were more people who replied “Most of the time” rather than “Yes, Always.”

Q3 The SPN-ACT initiative has the right resources (e.g., time, money, human resources) to accomplish its work.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Resources:

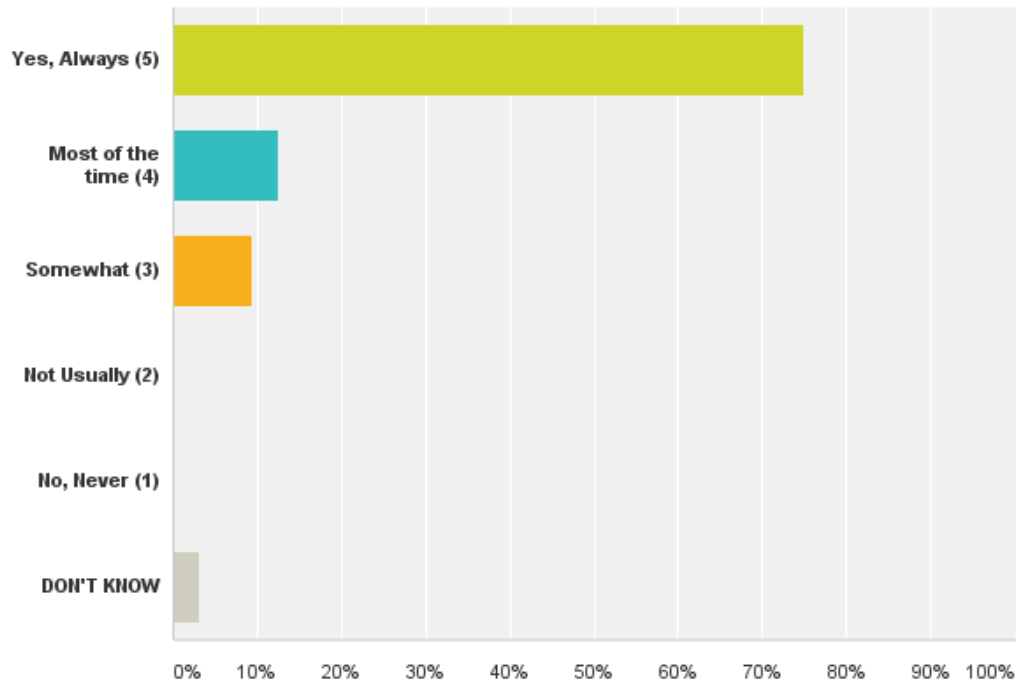
- *Is it sustainable as it moves forward and more people become involved?*
- *I am sure more funding would be appreciated*

Group Engagement, Openness

Most (88% or 28 people) said that there was an opportunity for involvement in the meetings and decision-making within the SPN ACT initiative. Three people said this was “Somewhat” true, and one person responded that she/he did not know.

Q4 There is an openness and opportunity for involvement in SPN ACT meetings and decisions within the SPN ACT initiative

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Openness, Engagement

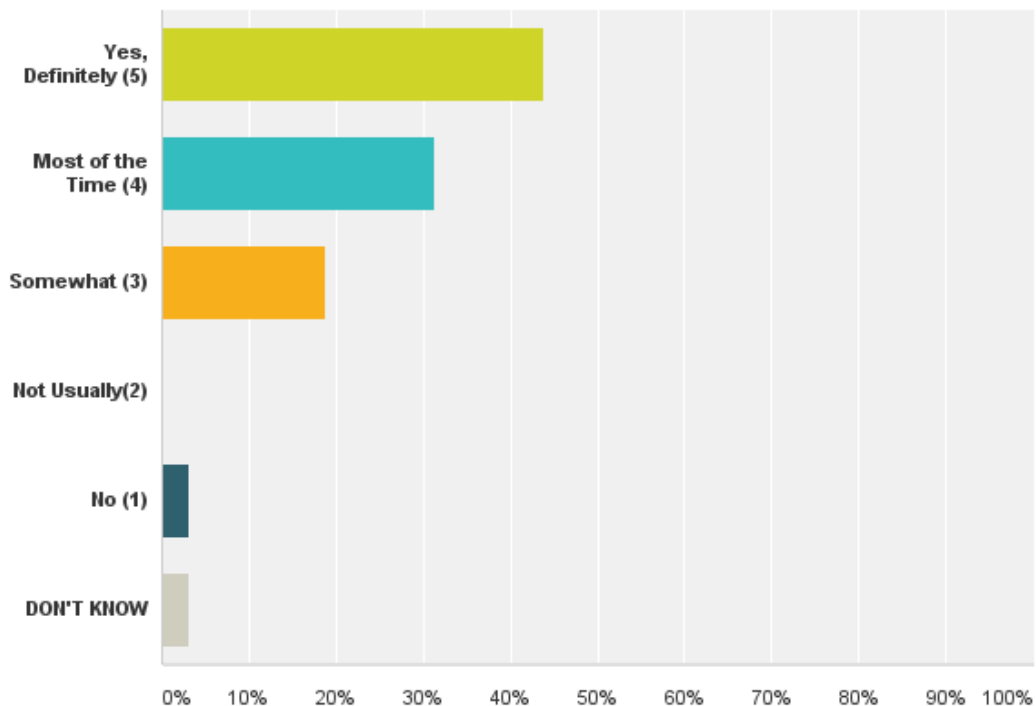
- *Absolutely!*
- *Input is always graciously listened to.*
- *The whole process is very open to suggestions*
- *I felt it is open if the comments following in line with what the facilitators want to hear. Outside comments seem to get looked over. I've seen this on a few occasions from different parties*
- *It's hard to always be effective with so many people involved, but I think we do quite a good job!*

Group Strength, Collective Action

The group of respondents had somewhat more mixed opinions about the collaborative needing one person/organization to maintain momentum. Fourteen (44%) responded that the collaborative did NOT depend on one person/organization; ten people (31%) said that “Most of the time” this was true; six people (19%) said this was “Somewhat” true.

Q5 This is a collaborative that does not depend on one person or organization for sustaining the momentum.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Group Strength:

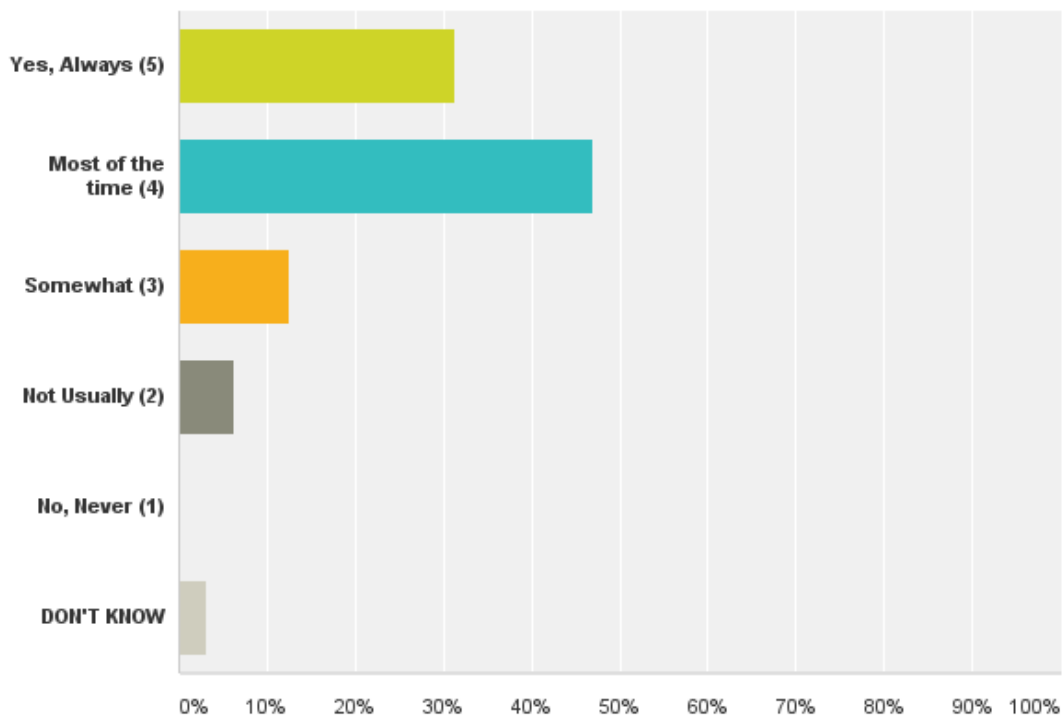
- Georgia and Carondelet Village have done a lot of the legwork, but many others have contributed in many valuable ways.
- It's been exciting to see where we are today in concrete plans compared to when we started.
- We are a collaborative, but without Georgia much of the work wouldn't get done.
- Occasionally the group needs a push from Georgia before volunteering/ getting started.
- Not sure about this. If Georgia wasn't coordinating and keeping us on track, I'm not sure how we would continue. Maybe we need some sort of accountability structure for the broader group for long term sustainability.

Representation

While still positive, there was also a mixed response to the representativeness of the ACTION team. Ten people (31%), said “Yes, Always,” fifteen (47%) said “Most of the time,” and four people (13%) said “Somewhat” in answer to the statement about good representation of people and organizations in SPN ACT. Two people said “Not Usually” to this statement, and one person did not know.

Q6 There has been good representation of people and organizations involved in SPN-ACT.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

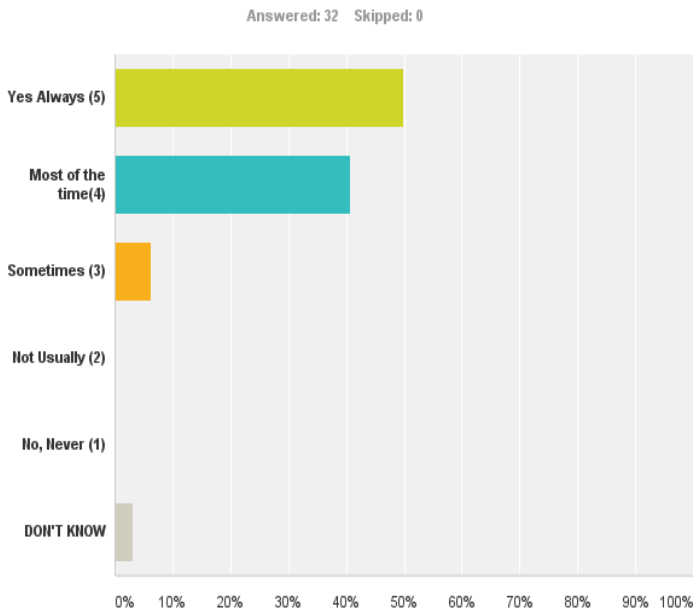
Outreach/representation

- *Perhaps more policy people would be helpful?*
- *As always, continue to invite diverse populations. It is a very white crowd.*
- *It felt like a broad approach was the goal and they always strived for that*
- *Disappointed in the faith community and business representation, thus far.*
- *Could use a few more active men*
- *Gaps in cultural communities and local businesses.*

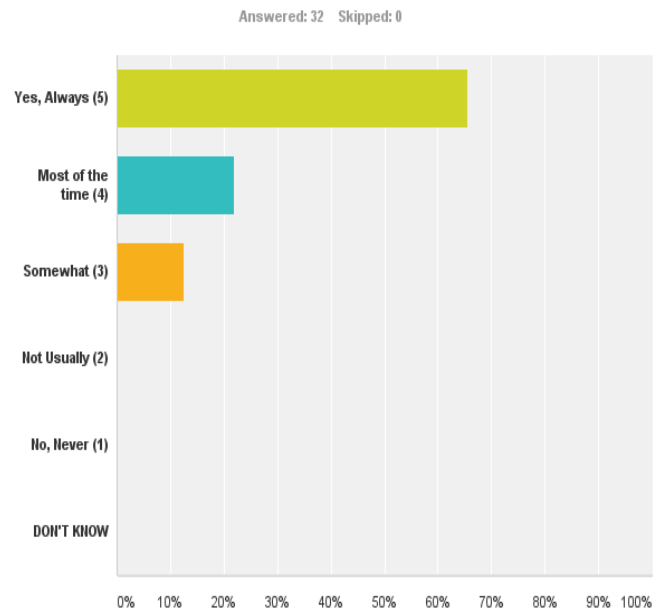
Communication

Most people said that the existing channels and methods of communication were sufficient. Half (N=16) said that this was always the case, and another 41% (13 people) said this was the case “Most of the time.” Only one person said he/she did not know. [NOTE: these responses were similar to the responses about feeling informed, so the comments have been combined]

Q7 The existing communication channels and methods are sufficient in providing information about SPN ACT activities and progress.



Q8 I feel informed.



Narrative Comments Provided

Communication, Feeling informed

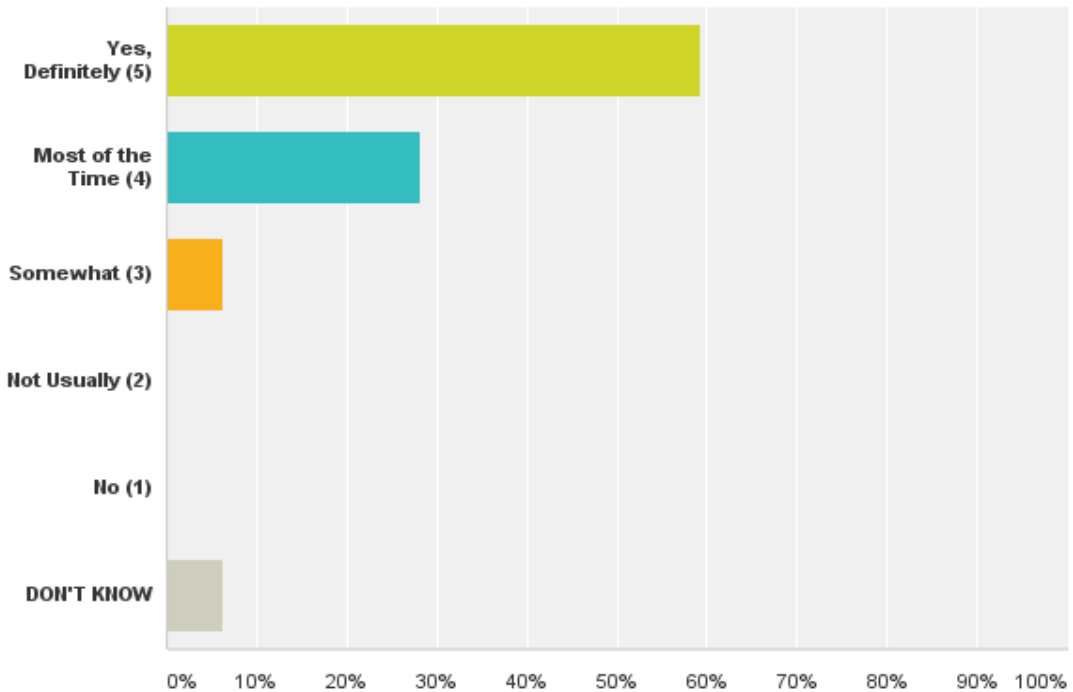
- *I think communication efforts among the group have been exceptional*
- *Have missed several meetings, so am not up to date.*
- *Generous amount of communication and inclusion*
- *Enough info is provided. It is more my time to keep myself up on everything.*

Action Plan

Many felt positive about the SPN ACT work yielding action. Nineteen people (59%) said “Yes, Definitely,” and nine people (28%) said “Most of the time” this was true. Two people said this was “Somewhat true,” and two people did not know.

Q9 The SPN ACT work and activities are yielding plans that we can act upon together.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Action steps:

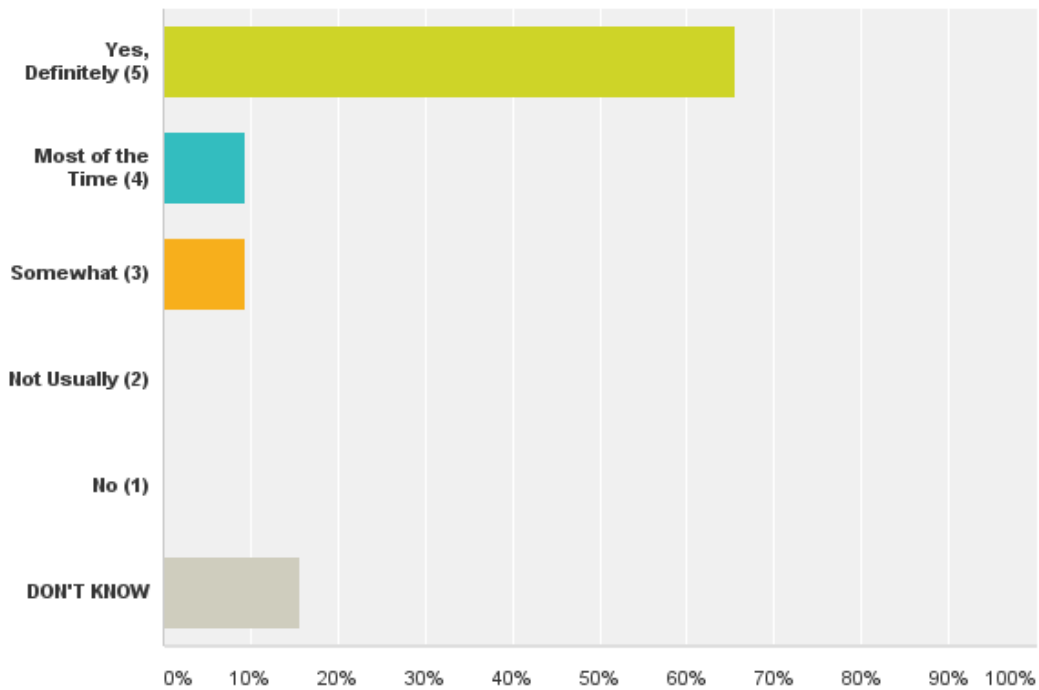
- *The action plan seems like a straightforward way to reduce stigma and increase awareness.*
- *I don't always feel there is a true fit to the public need*
- *It's hard to always be effective with so many people involved, but I think we do quite a good job!*

Impact

The group was largely positive about their collective work having an impact in the target St. Paul neighborhoods. Twenty-one people (66%) said “Yes, Definitely,” and three people said that this was true “Most of the time.” However five people said that they “Didn’t know,” whether there was an impact, and another three people said this was “Somewhat true.”

Q10 I believe our collective work is having an impact.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Impact:

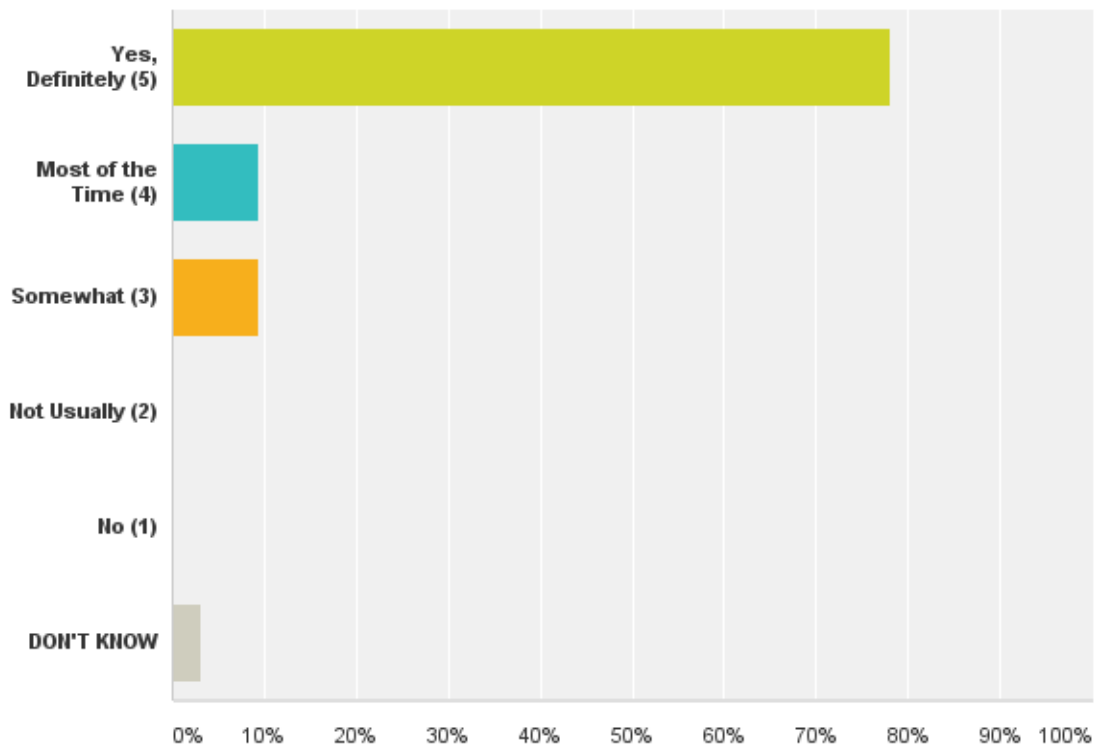
- *The work has not yet gone public to the broad community so am not sure how to answer.*
- *I think it will over time*
- *This is an initiative that has been inspirational in its progress forward.*

Confidence

The group was strongly positive about making progress. Twenty-five people (78%) said that they were “Definitely” confident about making progress in the next year, and another three (9%) were confident “Most of the time.” Three people were “Somewhat” confident and one person did not know.

Q11 I am confident that our group will make progress in the next year toward our goals.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Confidence:

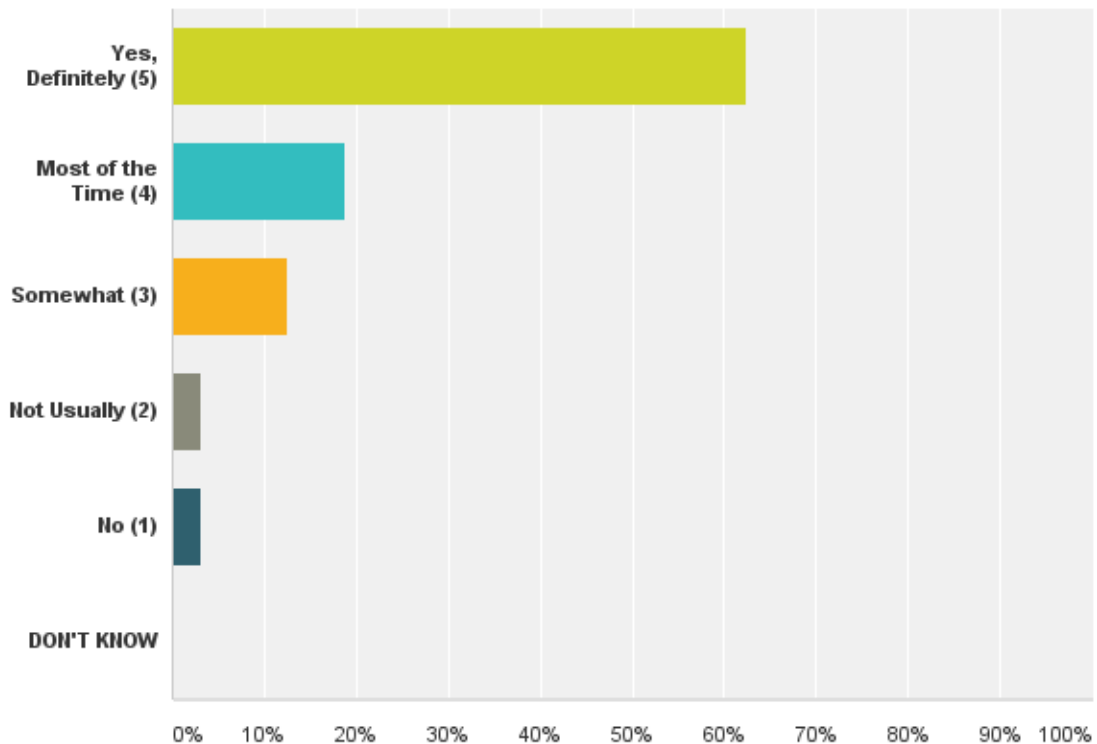
- *Not sure as we haven't yet moved forward with some of initiatives, but I have confidence this will happen*
- *This is an initiative that has been inspirational in its progress forward.*

Commitment

Most people (N=20 or 63%) were “Definitely” committed to staying involved in SPN ACT as it moved forward. Another six people (19%) said they were committed “Most of the time.” Four people said they were “Somewhat” committed, one person said “Not usually,” and one person was not committed to staying involved.

Q12 I am committed to staying involved in the SPN ACT work as it moves forward.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Narrative Comments Provided

Commitment:

- *Newly retired and live in Mpls. Will stay as involved as possible.*
- *I have a hard time making meetings so I appreciate the great communications sent out.*
- *Sorry. I really did not get involved because I was over committed in other projects.*

Discussion

The results from the SPN ACT members' self-assessment around the ACTion team work showed strong positive feedback on the members' understanding of the purpose for the initiative, the way that the effort had been organized, the opportunity for involvement, and their own commitment to the effort. Two areas for additional effort to enhance the group would be to increase representation of sector representatives who had not been too involved (e.g., business, faith communities), and to ensure adequate resources to do the work.

Looking Ahead

The SPN ACT members have been working on the two action items they identified (the resource list and the Dementia Champions/Friends training), with new members of the community now involved. Next steps for the group and the self-evaluation will be to move to the next levels of focus—including tracking the implementation and use of the programs, and assessing the effects or impact on the six Saint Paul neighborhoods which were targeted for action.

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