



OPEN SPACE

**Partnering to Strengthen
Prevention Communities**

MAKING ORDER FROM CHAOS

- **Open Space Technology (OST)** is an approach for hosting meetings, conferences, corporate-style retreats and community summit events, focused on a specific and important purpose or task—but *beginning* without any formal agenda, beyond the overall purpose or theme.
- The Open Space meeting began in part in response to the oft-quoted observation that in traditional conferences, the coffee breaks are the best part.



CONDITIONS FOR OPEN SPACE MEETINGS

- According to *Open Space Technology: A User's Guide* (2008) Open Space Technology works best when four conditions are present:
 - a high level of complexity, such that no single person or small group fully understands or can solve the issue
 - a high level of diversity, in terms of the skills and people required for a successful resolution
 - real or potential conflict, which implies that people genuinely care about the issue
 - a high level urgency, meaning the time for decisions and action was "yesterday"

Owen, Harrison (2008). *Open Space Technology: A User's Guide* (3rd edition ed.). Berrett-Koehler.

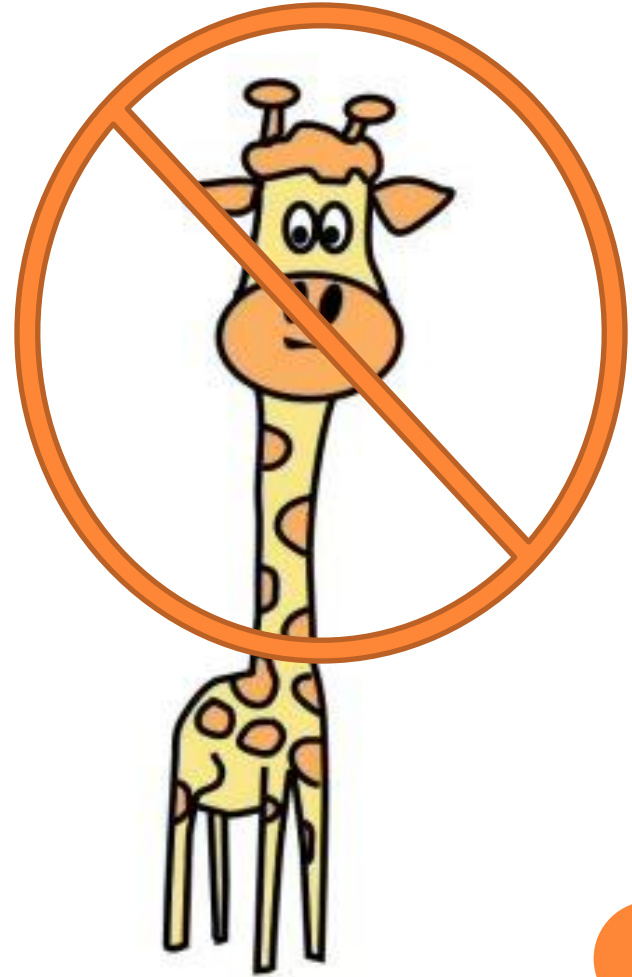


OPEN SPACE MEETING GROUND RULES

- Whoever comes to the table are the right people
- Whenever it starts is the right time
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have
- When it's over, it's over



SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND...



TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- No participant must suggest issues, but anyone may do so. However, if someone posts a topic, it is expected that the person has a real passion for the issue and can start the discussion on it.
- When all issues have been posted, participants attend those individual sessions.



TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Our theme is: “Partnering to Strengthen Prevention Communities”
- So – our topics should be developments from this theme but can be creative, too

