

Welcome!

How would you describe:

- a community?
- a professional?
- what it means to learn?

Use the flip charts to record your answers.

Strengthening Program Quality Using Professional Learning Communities

IYI Kid's Count Conference
December 1, 2009

The Association's Mission:

**To ensure that young people in
high-poverty communities have
access to high-quality
summer learning programs.**

The Association works to:

- Increase the number of providers offering high-quality summer learning programs to young people living in poverty;
- Increase the number of organizations and policymakers that identify summer learning as a public policy priority; and,
- Increase funding for high-quality summer learning programs for young people who currently lack choices and opportunities.

The National Association for Summer Learning has partnered with the Summer Youth Program Fund partners to achieve four primary goals:

- **Strengthen quality**
- **Strengthen relationships**
- **Increase knowledge**
- **Document the successes**

Session Objectives:

- Identify characteristics of a Professional Learning Community
- Brainstorm possibilities for onsite implication

Characteristics of a PLC

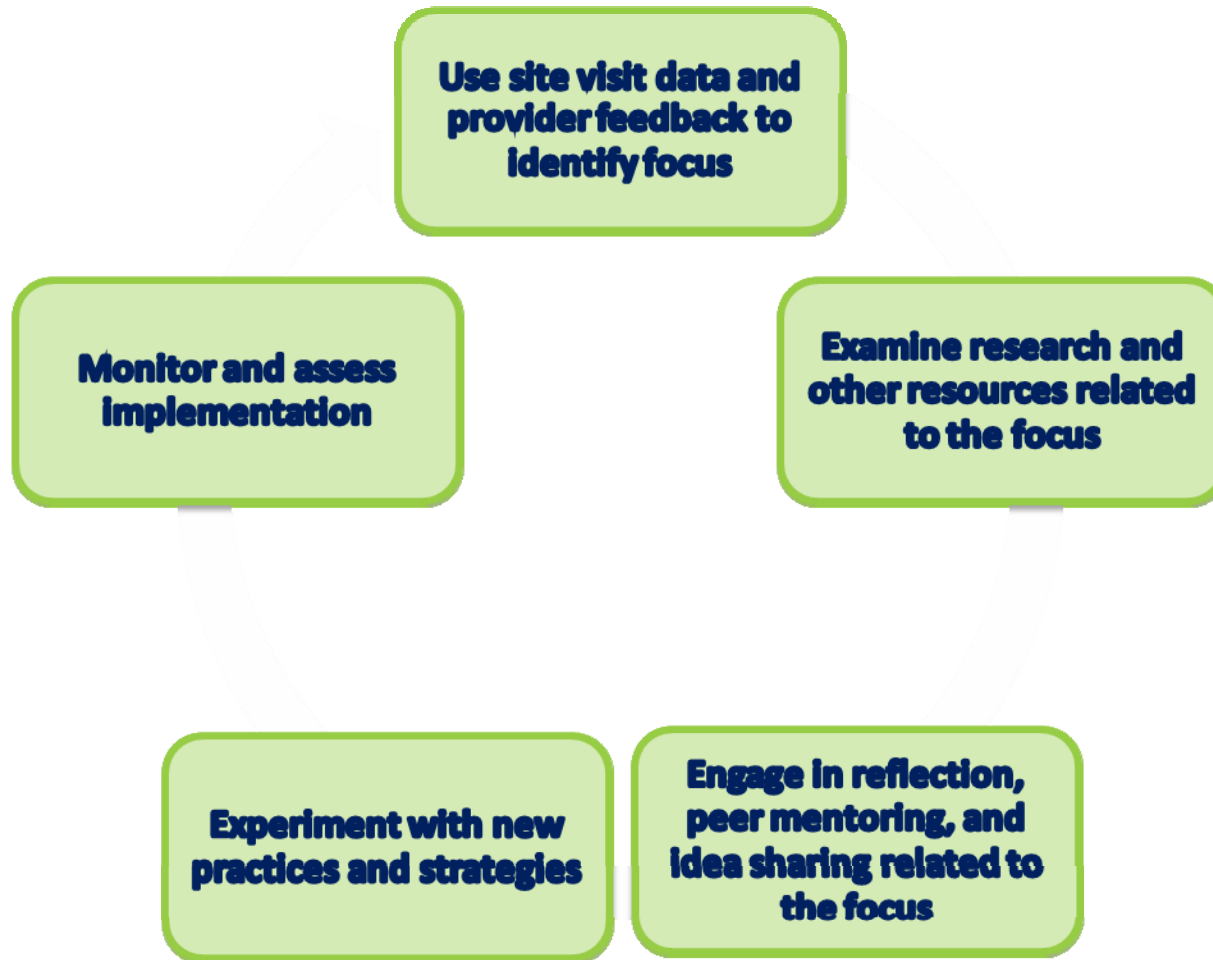
- supportive and shared leadership
- collective creativity
- shared values and vision
- supportive conditions
- shared personal practice

www.sedl.org

NSLA 's Characteristics of a PLC

- Shared leadership, everyone contributes
- Common focus on strengthening program quality
- Quality participation is essential to impact on program quality

PLC Process (PLC)



Potential Benefits of a PLC

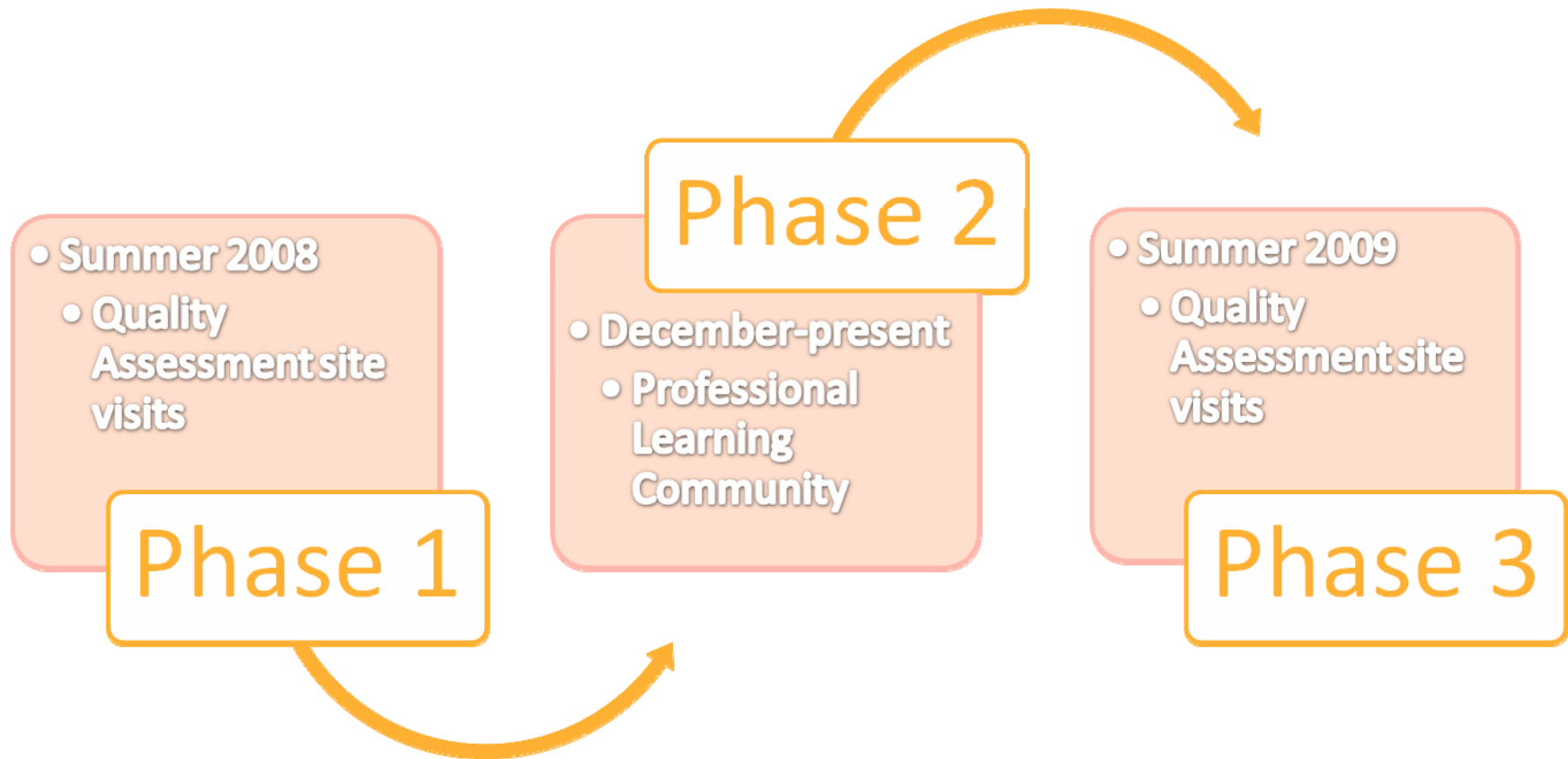
Staff

- Supports shared leadership
- Maintain a focus
- Opportunity to apply and reflect
- Peer collaboration

Youth

- More engaged
- Increased attendance

Review of the Process



Overview of NSLA's Quality Standards

- **Program Infrastructure**
 - **Purpose**
 - **Planning**
 - **People**
 - **Professional Development**
 - **Partnerships**

- **Approach to Learning**
 - **Individualized**
 - **Intentional**
 - **Integrated**

Focus of the PLC

- Summer learning research
- Strengthening the learning focus
- Program sustainability
- Planning staff development

Lesson learned...

- 100 Black Men/St. Vincent Unity Development Center
- Hawthorne Community Center

100 Black Men/St. Vincent Unity Development Center

2008 Identified opportunities for improvement:

- “Specify youth development goals that express the program’s desired outcomes.”
- “Staff members have limited opportunities to meet once the program is in operation. There are breaks, but no joint planning time.”

2009 Observed improvements:

- “Identified specific and measurable learning goals.”
- “Strengthened communication amongst staff and increased collaboration.”

Hawthorne Community Center:

2008 Identified opportunities for improvement:

- “Program needs to assess youth’s academic skills in order to identify and establish learning objectives of the target youth, and developing programming to meet the learning objectives.”
- “There is no scheduled reflection time for staff to share insights and support each other.”

2009 Observed improvements:

- “Goals are evident and different types of data collection are evident including surveys.”
- “Program activities are tied to stated goals.”
- “Program director integrated staff meeting time into the schedule to promote feedback and sharing of best practices.”
- “Staff orientation includes orientation to summer learning loss.”

Establishing a PLC at your site...

Beginning Points:

- Understand what a PLC is
- Consider an external facilitator
- Identify opportunities and challenges
- Keep program improvement as the focus
- Work together to determine a focus

Establishing a PLC at your site...

In the middle

- Role of the facilitator
- Maintaining a collaborative culture
- Commitment from staff
- Incorporate the PLC into existing practices

Establishing a PLC at your site...

Measuring Impact

- Assess the impact based on goals of the PLC
- Adjust according to progress
- Revisit the expectations of the group

Resources

- **All Things PLC**

www.allthingsplc.info

- **National Staff Developmental Council**

www.nsd.org

- **Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development**

www.ascd.org

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