

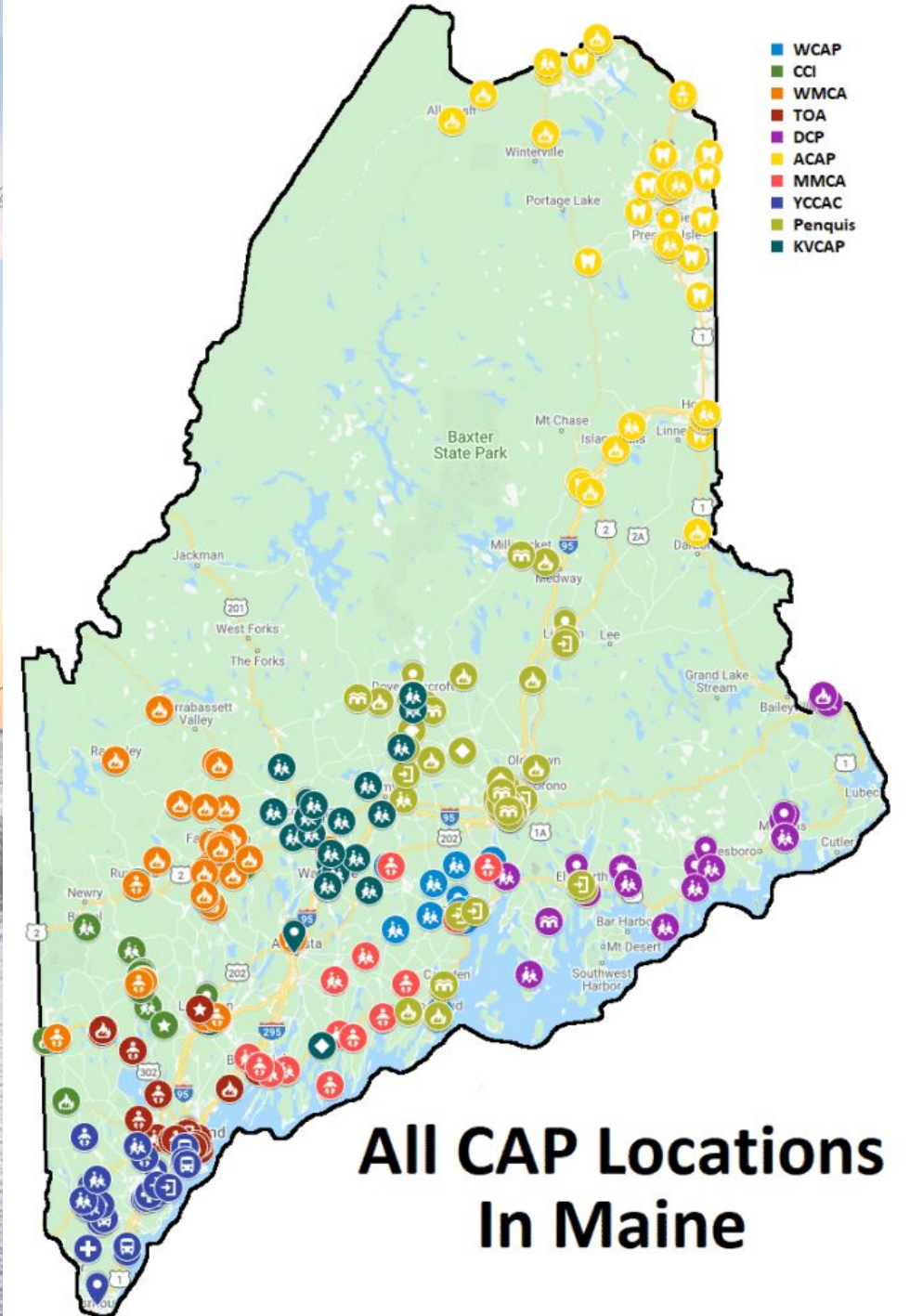
Maine CSBG Network

16 Counties

10 Eligible Entities – all private

Allocation \$4M

MeCAP – State Association
CSBG State Office



Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice (COPs) are dynamic networks formed by the dedicated staff of agencies, united by their commitment to shared program activities. These COPs serve as platforms for learning, where members collaborate to enhance their programs, exchange best practices, and identify growth opportunities. COPs are empowered to use their expertise to advise leadership, speak with a unified voice, drive coordinated change, advance initiatives of the system as identified and requested by leadership, improve contracts, strengthen partnerships, and bolster overall impact.

Where did we start?

How did we get here?

Where do we hope to go?



Linkages?

CSBG Annual
Reporting

Federally Supported Best Practices -
SMWG

Innovation

Why do we engage in COP?

The Results Oriented Management and Accountability Cycle

Assessment
Needs and Resources



Evaluation
Analyze data,
compare with
benchmarks



Planning
Use assessment data and
agency mission statement
to identify results, and
strategies



**Achievement
of Results**
Observe and report
progress



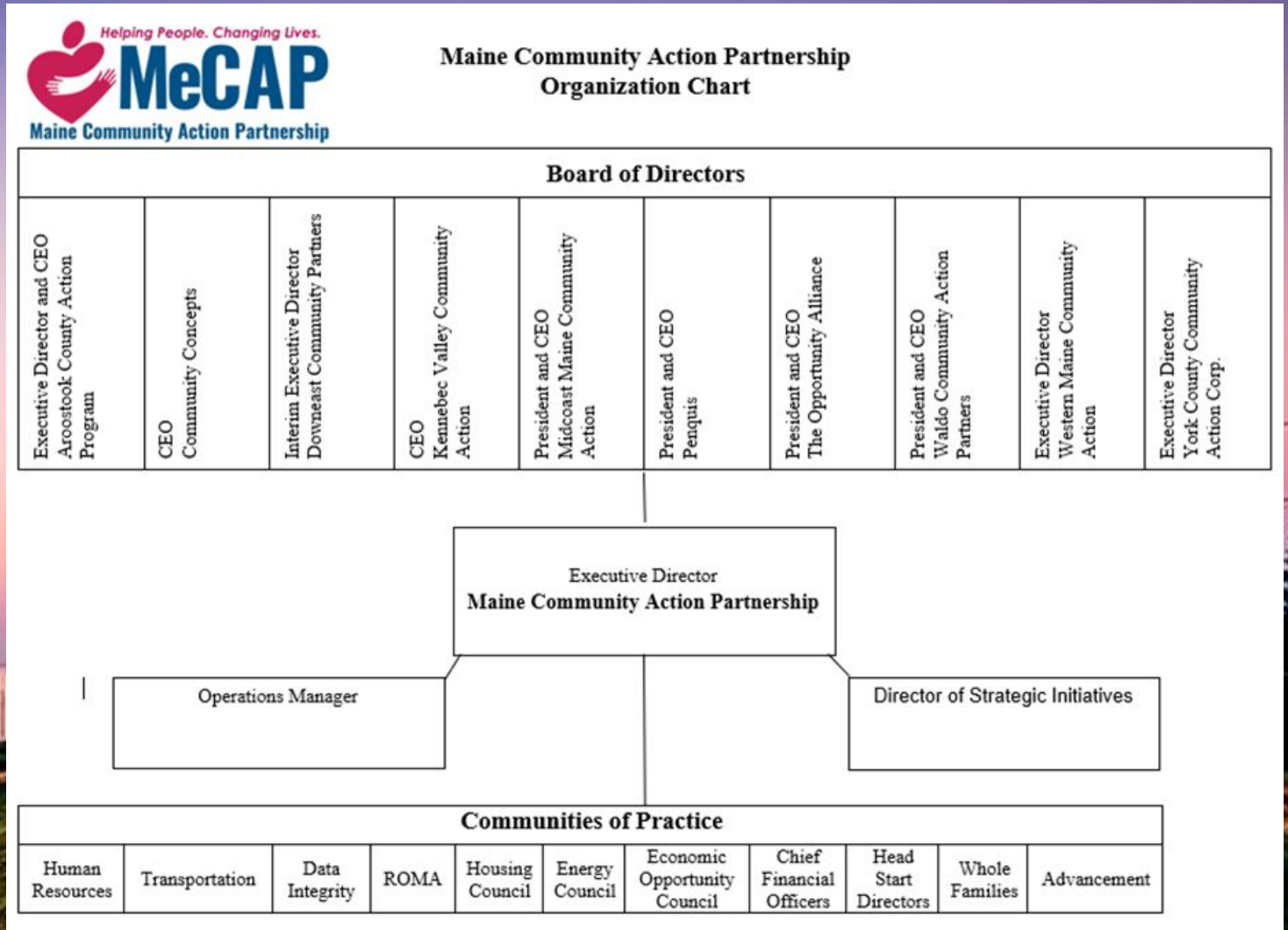
Implementation
Strategies and
services



- ❖ Meet the challenges of increasing capacity of the network
- ❖ Break the cycle of getting repeated requests for training about the same topic.
- ❖ Explore barriers and celebrate success
- ❖ Improve application of knowledge to improve results

Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP)

MeCAP is a statewide organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Maine people by advocating for, promoting and supporting the work of the Maine community action agencies.



Why, How, What Analysis

- Why do we exist as a collective?

+

- What do we do together?

+

- How do we operationalize the why and the what?

+

= MeCAP Strategic Plan





What do we do together?

- Policy Development & Advocacy
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Shared Programs and Funding
- Shared Communications and Voice
- Education, Partner and Peer Engagement
- Seek Opportunities for Collaboration to Build Business Efficiencies

Helping People. Changing Lives.

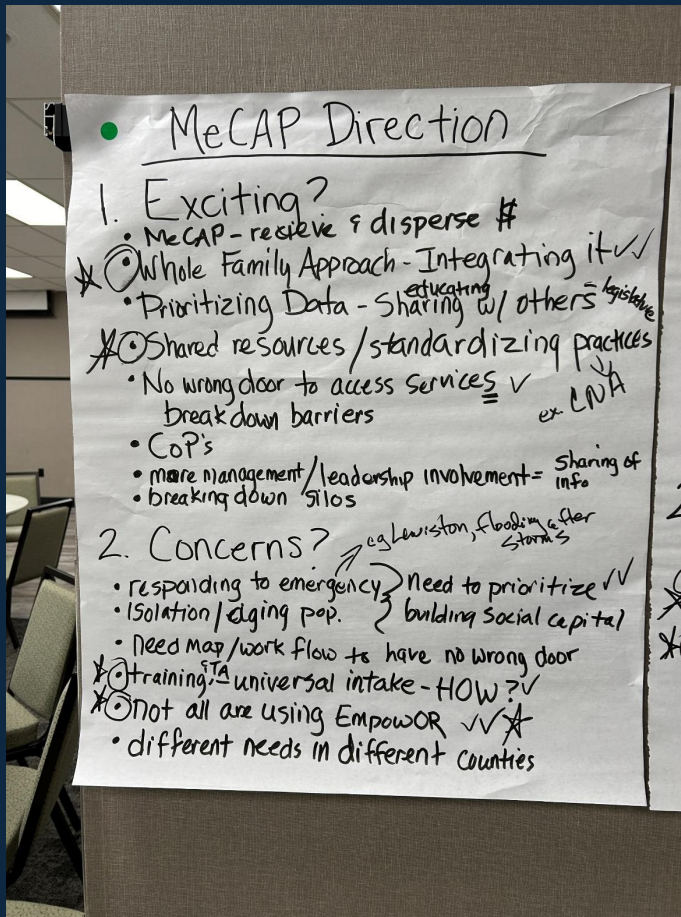


MeCAP Leadership Summit

Maine Community Action Partnership



Breakout Groups



World Café Questions to Ponder – everyone will have the opportunity to work on a couple of sets of questions and conversations per table.

When you look at the strategic plan and the direction Community Action is Taking in Maine:

- 1) What excites you?
- 2) What concerns you?
- 3) What Questions do you have?
- 4) How can the COPs best support this work?

The strategic plan calls on us to work as a system.

- 1) What barriers need to be addressed for this to happen?
- 2) Are there examples in Maine or outside of Maine where this is happening?
- 3) How can the COPs be a key component of this system building?

Our strategic plan calls on us to be innovative and look for opportunities.

- 1) What opportunities exist now for innovation?
- 2) What types of innovation would you like to see?
- 3) Are there examples of innovation in other places that can be brought to Maine?
- 4) Is there an opportunity for the COPs to contribute?

Our strategic plan calls on the COPs to be actively engaged.

- 1) What can MeCAP do to support the COPs to active and engaged?
- 2) What needs to be changed in the ways COPs operate?
- 3) How do we ensure we engage the COPs to maximize the skills and talents of the individuals participating?

Working as a system is a challenge.

- 1) What have we done well across or in parts of Maine that have worked well that we can build upon?
- 2) What challenges are there to working as a system across Maine?
- 3) Are there specific elements of the strategic plan that lend themselves better than others to working as a system?
- 4) How can the COPs support a systemic approach?

Maine Communities of Practice

- Economic Opportunity Council
- Energy
- Housing
- Advancement
- Head Start Directors
- Chief Financial Officers
- Human Resources
- Transportation
- Whole Families
- Data Integrity
- ROMA

COP Membership



MECAP

State CSBG Office

Agency Staff

Guiding Principles “The Rules”



Mutual Respect

Open Communication

Joint Problem Solving

Collaboration for a Stronger Network

***Alone, we can do
so little; Together,
we can do so
much
- Helen Keller***

A lighthouse on a rocky island with waves crashing against its base.

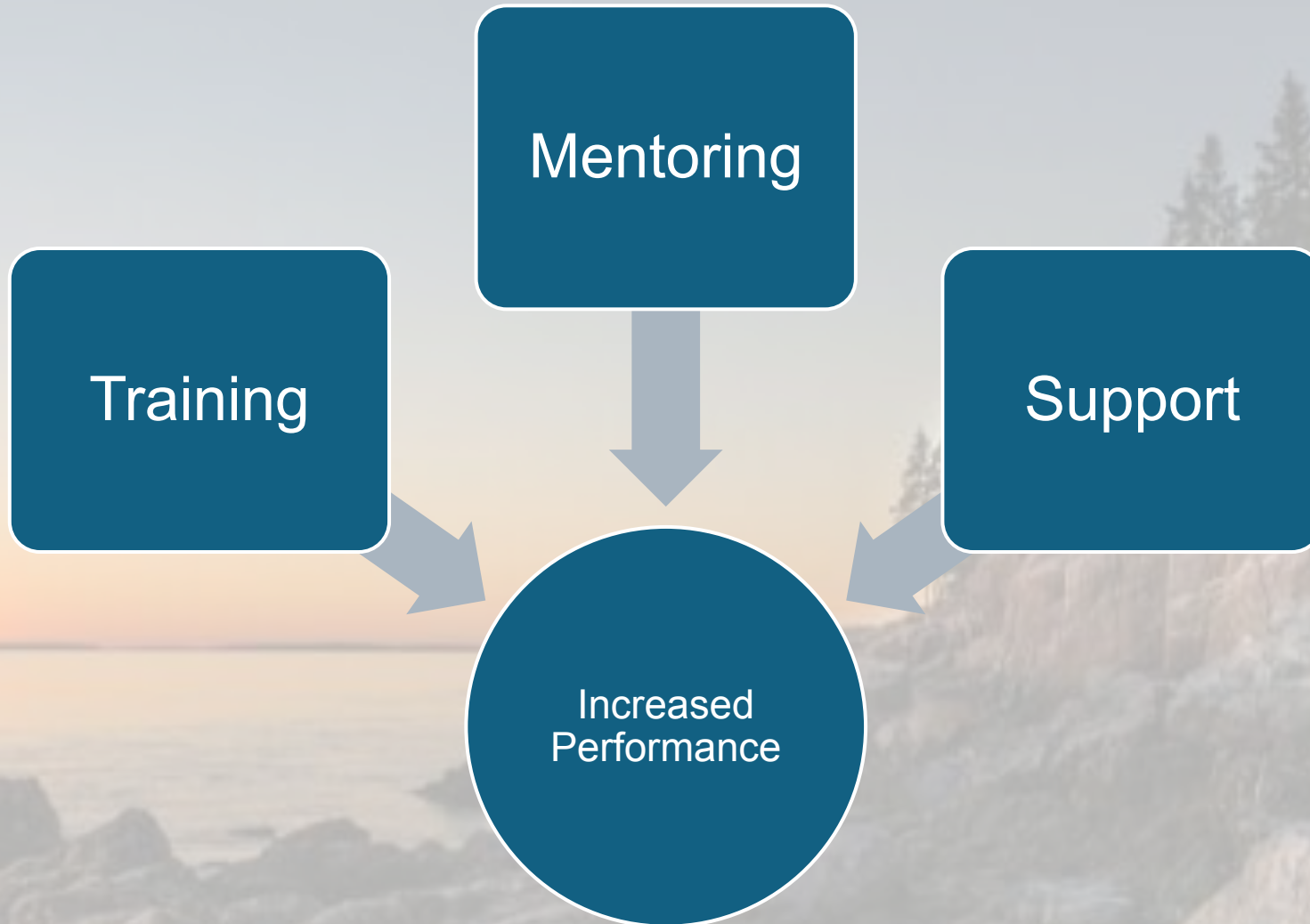
Data Integrity COP

Mentoring

Resource
Sharing

Direct Support

Peer to Peer Learning – The ROMA COP



Questions
?

