



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Guiding Principles

Preamble: The committee will at all times conduct its deliberations and offer its advice respectful of older persons and those who care for them.

- **Employ evidence-based decision-making.**
 - Assumptions and inferences will be tested.
 - Relevant information will be gathered and shared.
 - Generalities will be avoided, and examples will be used.
- **Agree on what important words mean.**
- **Stick to the process. Decisions will evolve from the committee process.**
- **Respect all participants and viewpoints.**
 - No accusations, personal attacks or cheap shots.
- **Important decisions are made by consensus and not by voting nor by the exertion of power or authority.**
 - This does not mean that everyone must agree, but a sense of acceptance by the whole group is sought.
 - The Illinois Department on Aging, as the lead agency, will make final decisions based on the best advice available when no consensus can be reached.
- **Search for mutual gain (“win-win”) solutions based on genuine interests and not necessarily traditional positions.**
- **Leave work hat and “chips-on-shoulders” at the door, and participate as individuals.**
 - The committee will be of little use if old battles over positions re-emerge.
 - Seek opportunities for breaking through logjams. Look at things from new perspectives and new styles of decision-making.
- **A report is due to Illinois General Assembly in January 2006.**
- **Focus on outcomes and actionable reforms.**