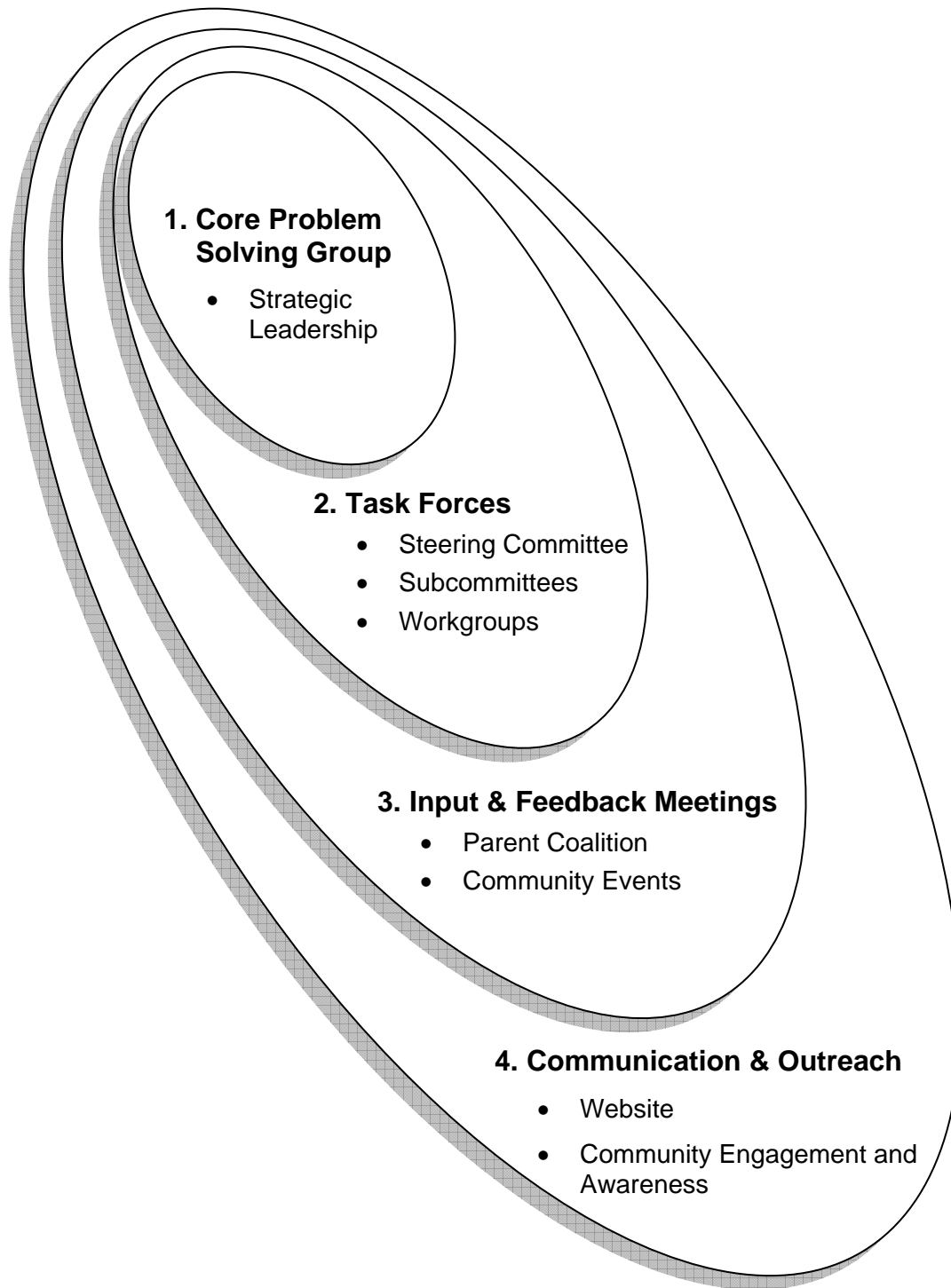


Great Start Collaborative – Oakland



Straus, David. How to Make Collaboration Work: Powerful Ways to Build Consensus, Solve Problems, and Make Decisions. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2002.

A Great Start to ensure ALL children in Oakland County are safe, healthy, prepared, and eager to succeed in school and in life.

In the process of collaboration, it's helpful to think in terms of expanding rings of involvement, whereas each larger ring includes more people but at a decreased intensity of involvement.

The innermost ring is responsible for managing the process, decision making, and integrating the work of the other groups. Members of the Strategic Leadership Group must have decision-making power from their organization and attend at least 75% of the meetings.

The second ring of involvement includes members of the steering committee, subcommittees, and workgroups. This ring still involves intensive problem solving, but the scope of the topic is limited to a subset of the larger issue at hand. Committees will recommend actions to the Strategic Leadership Group.

The third ring of involvement includes those people who might attend one or more large-group, information sharing meetings. This third ring typically involves intense but periodic activity. Participants in this ring may attend a meeting to offer input and engage in extended collaborative problem solving.

The outermost ring of involvement includes broad-based communications and outreach activities. Stakeholders involved in this ring may receive information through the website, e-newsletters, and other written materials. They may also offer some form of response from a distance (via email or electronic polling). Through outreach efforts, large numbers of people can stay informed about a problem-solving process without making much of a commitment in time or resources.

The boundaries between the four rings of involvement are permeable. There may be times when a stakeholder is involved in different levels, depending on the situation.



For more information how to become involved with the Great Start Collaborative-Oakland, please contact Darlene Zimny at Darlene.Zimny@oakland.k12.mi.us or 248.209.2588. Also, visit our website at www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org.

Straus, David. *How to Make Collaboration Work: Powerful Ways to Build Consensus, Solve Problems, and Make Decisions*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2002.