



The PATH & MAPS Handbook

Person-Centered Ways to Build Community

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What do the acronyms stand for?

In addition to her genius as a facilitator, Marsha Forest delighted in creating acronyms. And she didn’t hesitate to change what the letters stood for when the desire struck her. At one point, maps stood for “**making action plans**”. At another time it was the “**McGill Action Planning System**”, named after the university that hosted a Summer Institute on Inclusion where many people learned maps and from which Marsha and her colleagues published two papers that are referenced in the professional literature.* Now, at least for us, it is simply maps, and no more an acronym. path sometimes went by “**Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope**”. Now we think the word itself says well enough what the process is about and we have retired this acronym too.

What about the earlier formats for path & maps?

Think of what’s here as an alternative rather than a replacement. This Handbook describes the ways we facilitate maps and path and the way we teach people now. However, we know that many people get results that suit them with earlier formats and we don’t want to discourage their practice. Inclusion Press will keep materials that support earlier alternatives available.

Thanks

To Eric Trist and David Morley for the logic of the search process.

To David Sibbet for teaching us graphic facilitation.

To Connie Lyle O’Brien, Beth Mount, David Wetherow, Faye Wetherow, Patti Scott, Dave Hasbury, Mike Green, Jo Krippenstapel, Candee Basford, Heather Simmons, Sherrie Anderson, and Stacey Rameriz for their help with this handbook.

To journey through chaos, we must engage with one another as explorers and discoverers. I believe the passage is possible only if we claim these roles. We need to realize that no single person or school of thought has the answer, because what's required is far beyond isolated answers. We need to realize that we must inquire together to find the new. We need to turn to one another as our best hope for inventing and discovering the worlds we are seeking...

If we take seriously the role of explorer and inventor, we'll realize how much we need each other. In this time of chaos, the potential for disaster is as strong as for new possibilities. How will we navigate these times? The answer is, together... We cannot hide behind any old boundaries or hold onto the belief that we can make it on our own. We need each other to test out ideas, to share what we're learning, to help us see in new ways, to listen to our stories. We need each other to forgive us when we fail, to trust us with their dreams, to offer hope when we've lost our own.

—Margaret Wheatley