

Board Members Roles and Responsibilities

1. Know exactly what your board does and what it is charged to do and stick to it!
2. Know the difference between board responsibilities and staff responsibilities.
3. Focus on Direction – Long Term Thinking, Big Picture, Priorities, Standards
4. Represent the connection between the Public and the service being provided.
5. Know the constituencies, issues, and needs.
6. Understand the role the board has in the organization it serves.
7. Know the larger organization, its priorities, and how your board fits within it.
8. Operate as a body both at meetings and outside meetings. (A 7-0 vote for approval is the same as a 4-3 vote for approval.)
9. Understand a board member's role with staff and Director.
10. Be prepared, informed, and involved. (Develop a culture of inquiry)
11. Leave your own special interests at the door.
12. Know your political role. How and when you speak in public as a board member.
13. Recognize, understand and acknowledge conflicts of interest.