

## Qualities of an Effective Board

- Every Board member accepts every other board member with a due appreciation of her strengths and tolerance of her quirks and weaknesses.
- There is an easy familiarity of approach amount the members of the board, with an awareness of one another's backgrounds and viewpoints.
- Everyone concerned with decisions helps to make them.
- The contribution of each person or group is recognized.
- The board has a sense of being rooted in an important tradition and of providing continuity of a program that has been and continues to be important. Alternatively, the board is launched on a new and exciting mission, and its members are constantly challenged by the need to be innovative.
- The attitude of the board is forward-looking and is based on a confident expectation of growth and development in the program.
- There is a clear definition of responsibilities so that each person knows what is expected of her.
- The members of the board can communicate easily with one another.
- There is a sense that the whole board is more important than any of its parts.
- There is the capacity to resolve dissent and discord or, if it cannot be resolved, keep it in perspective regarding larger purposes.
- There are acceptance and conformity to a code of behavior, usually involving courtesy, self-discipline, and responsibility.
- Most important of all, the board members share a clear understanding of and commitment to the mission of the agency.