

# Community, Organized

Coalition Building For Housing First Oriented Systems

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*Content from Industrial Areas Foundation  
& CCESL Community Organizing 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

# The Human Condition

## **World As It Is**

Self-Interest

Power

Conflict

Pragmatism

*We Live Here*



## **World As It Should Be**

Being For Others

Love

Harmony

Idealism

*We Are Working Towards*

# Power: *posse*, to be able, ability to act

*Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely*  
– Lord Acton

## **Unilateral**

Coercive

Hierarchy

Arbitrary

Effect

Non-Relational

## **Relational**

Collegial

Reciprocal

With, Not Over

Exponential

Relational

# Elements of Power

- Agency: the ability to choose
- Consent: how we obtain it matters
- Iron Rule: Never do for others what they can do for themselves
- Strength v. Intentionality
- Bureaucracy v. Accountability
- Organized Money v. Organized People

Self-Interest: *inter-esse*, to be among/between

*Without an understanding of who you are, what you believe in and what you are willing to become unpopular for, it's impossible to create relationships with others and to make it through the thickets of public life. –CCESL Community Organizing Handbook 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

Confrontation: *foreheads together, face to face*

Agitation: being active, activate

# What does this have to do with homelessness?

- Do you know why you do this work? Do you know why your colleagues and community partners do this work?
- How do we operate in a world where resources are limited? What can we do together that we cannot do by ourselves?
- Are we in relationship with one another? Do we hold one another accountable/confront/agitate when we see a public concern?
- How do we work with bureaucracies?
- **Broad-based organizing is about building a collection of institutions built for power around self-interest, with a sustainable timeframe that is not based on a budget or election, but a generation. Sound familiar?**

# For those in your life who haven't drank the Housing First Kool-Aid...

- Find out what motivates them to work in the homelessness sector? (It ain't the \$\$\$)
  - Faith?
  - Personal Experience?
  - 'Poverty reduction'?
- Utilize your honed techniques of Harm Reduction
  - Meet them where they are at
  - Progressive engagement
  - Honest conversations
- Build a collective self-interest
  - What is their relationship with/to power?
  - Agitate & confront to build shared vision
  - Limit the scope of the project/partnership





Sen. Ted Kennedy,  
D-Mass.



Sen. John McCain,  
R-Ariz.



# Leadership Panel

Amanda Henderson  
Jeff Hirota  
Shelley McKittrick  
Bradley Weinig  
Scott Moore  
Erik Solivan

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
Boulder Community Foundation  
City of Aurora Homeless Programs  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Denver Office of HOPE

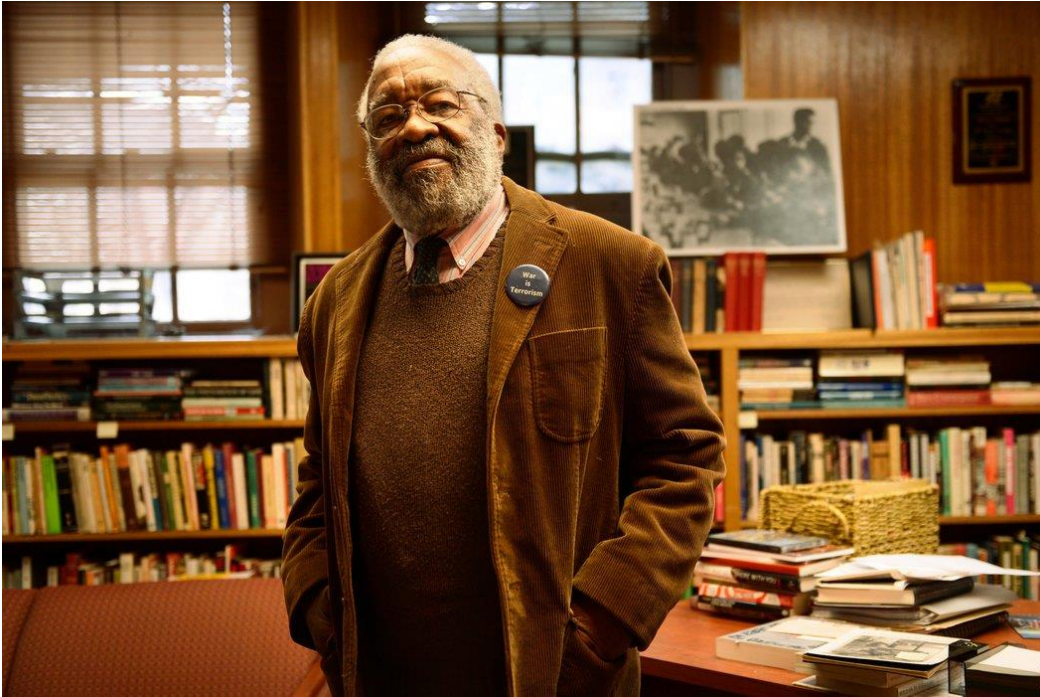


# Homework

- Reclaim definitions of power and organizing in your work
- Explore your own self-interest in relation to homelessness
- Get to know your local organizing groups
- Learn to do one-to-one relational meetings and then DO THEM with people in the services sector to build power
- Find an accountabilibuddy™

# For the library or Tattered Cover bookstore...

- Rules for Radicals by Saul Alinsky
- Cold Anger by Mary Beth Rogers
- Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer
- Faith-Rooted Organizing by Alexia Salvaterra & Peter Heitzel
- The Search for Common Ground by Howard Thurman
- Pathologies of Power by Paul Farmer



*We are building up a new world,  
builders must be strong.*

-Dr. Vincent Harding