

CSH Summit Session Preferred Interactive Methods

1. Fish Bowl

- Several chairs are arranged in an inner circle, called the fish bowl, and outer circles of chairs surround this fish bowl. Only people in the fish bowl are part of the discussion to begin with, so that others listen with the intent of hearing, as opposed to with the idea that they may need to be at the ready to respond. After the conversation has progressed, the inner circle listens as the outer circles participate. Or, the two can all engage in a dialogue. In an open fish bowl, the inner circle has one open chair and people in one of the concentric circle can join in the inner circle. If a person chooses to do so, one person in the inner circle must opt to leave to join a concentric circle to create an open seat, moving the “experts” around as the conversation progresses.

2. Simulation

- Group practice technique allows for learning by doing. For example, taking a pro-forma and using real numbers to create a budget takes budgeting from theory to practice. The same is true when a group of people are all given play dollars and titles of capital funders, and financing is layered in real time with one month passing per minute, and explanations of how financing sources relate.

3. Exercises

- Creating an activity to demonstrate a point or lead up to a discussion allows for all participants to share an experience to collectively respond to. For example, if we take real data and line up a pay for success timeline that involves mapping out actual cost savings and the process of financing the program based on savings, we will better understand how this works in practice.

4. Improvisation/Play

- By nature, improvisation involves active collaboration and building on the ideas of others. This can include creative techniques to play in the space you are training in to include interactive, creative, memorable teaching experiences. For example, have a group start at a point you give them with an end goal, where ideas can only be strengthened through the language of “yes, and” and not torn apart.

5. Ted Talks

- Typically, these are short talks that draw out why something matters while also possibly delving into how something can work. Ted talks can be incorporated as a way to hear the voices of multiple experts. They should not be panel discussions.

6. Story Telling

- Tell the tale through the lens of people with lived experience. For example: “Coordinated access is a large community effort that deeply impacted the Ellis family. I want to share with you the experiences that led the Ellis family to connect to permanent housing through the Any Town coordinated access process.” Better yet, Mrs. Ellis will tell you herself.

7. Movement

- People focus better when they have moved recently, so consider a format that involves changing seating patterns when you break into small groups, or an exercise that involves at least standing, related to your content/learning objectives.

8. World Café Method

- Drawing on [seven integrated design principles](#), the World Café methodology is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue.