

PRESENTATION

### **Introduction to Note-Taking**



**PHS Planning & Design** 

Prepared For: NYSPHC March Consortium 3/1/2023 Speaker: Elizabeth Whelan





- The Benefits of Good Note-Taking
- Taking Notes for Yourself
- Formal vs. Informal Notes
- Before the Meeting
  - Setting Expectations
  - Formal vs. Informal Notes
  - Templates and Consistency
- During the Meeting
  - Helpful Tips
- After the Meeting
  - Organizing Meeting Minutes & Agendas
- Questions

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### The Benefits of Good Note-Taking

# Why is it important to take good notes?

- Memory is not perfect
- People may be absent
- To identify action items, decisions, risks, and next steps
- Can be referenced in the future

## What does a good note-taking system look like?

How easily be can you start taking notes?

How quickly and accurately can you write everything down? •ੁੱਸ How easily ∀ can you find past relevant notes?



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## What kind of notes do you take most often in your Fellowship role?



### Taking Notes for Yourself

### **Quadrant Method:**

This method works best for updates and team meetings where the main objective is keeping track of assignments or follow-ups you don't want to forget.

#### **Questions:**

Document any questions that come to mind during the meeting and make sure to get an answer or someone to follow up with before leaving

#### Notes:

Document the discussion in the meeting as well as any other insights, decisions, or next steps

#### **Personal to-dos:**

Deadlines, projects, and milestones you're responsible for delivering

#### **Assign to others:**

Information you need to pass along to others. This might include tasks that others volunteered for during the meeting or tasks that are most appropriate for a specific person/role







### Formal vs. Informal Notes

**Informal Notes** 

### **Formal Notes**

External stakeholders, large groups, or more official meetings

Full sentences and complete thoughts

Write out all acronyms and avoid short-hand language

Require formal reviews before sharing with attendees

Can use a template

Internal or external meetings

Documents action items, decisions, risks, etc.

Should be cleaned up after the meeting

Internal meetings or for personal use

Include short-hand and acronyms

Could be used for short ad-hoc meetings

Refer to people by first names with no designation

More polished template

Bulleted notes, lack full sentences

**Presentation Title** 



## Before the Meeting

Introduction to Note-Taking



# What type of information do you need prior to taking notes in a meeting?

# What expectations may your client/audience have?



### **Setting Expectations**

- Have a checklist of what the client/audience is looking for in the minutes
  - Ask these questions  $\rightarrow$
- Confirm the process for the meeting minutes following the meeting:
  - Turnaround expectations
  - Review process
  - Are the notes shared with attendees and by whom?

Would they like the notes in an informal or formal style and what does that look like?

Do they have a predetermined format or template for meeting minutes?

Do they prefer a short summary of the key points or a more detailed dialogue of the discussion?

Would they like to record the names of who said what?

How should you refer to various groups in the notes? Are acronyms or short-hand acceptable?



# What should be included in meeting minutes templates?





- Templates are important for recurring meetings
- An organization may have standard meeting minute templates that should be used across all meetings
- > Templates may include:
  - Meeting name
  - Meeting date & time
  - List of attendees (and invitees)
  - Agenda (including owners and time blocks for each item)
  - Action items section

		Date:	
Meeting Minutes		Тіме:	
		PLACE:	
MEETING CALLED		Түре оғ	
BY:		MEETING:	
Facilitator:		PROJECT:	
Note Taker:		k	
ATTENDEES:	DOH:		
	NYSTEC:		

AGENDA TOPIC	
Presented By:	
Discussion:	
Conclusions:	

Action Items	Responsible	Deadline



### Preparing for a Meeting

- Prep note-taking documents ahead of the meeting
  - 1. Make a copy of the meeting minutes template and rename it for the date and purpose of the meeting, according to your organization's standards
  - 2. Pull items from the agenda into the meeting minutes template and fill in the date, attendees, agenda items, etc. before the meeting begins

This allows you to see the structure of the meeting and organize thoughts in a readable way while taking notes





## During the Meeting



### During the Meeting

- If virtual, consider recording the meeting to refer to if something was not captured in the minutes
  - Meeting attendees should be made aware of the recording and its purpose
  - Recording meetings can impact the candor and engagement of attendees
- Have a back-up note taker to supplement or fill any gaps in the notes
- Don't be afraid to ask someone to repeat themselves or ask for clarification
  - It will allow you to fully understand the discussion and lead to better minutes
- Use acronyms and shorthand during the meeting and fix it later



### During the Meeting

- In more formal meetings, an individual should be assigned to take notes and should not have any other roles (facilitation, technical support, etc.) in order to focus on capturing the full discussion with no distractions
- In virtual meetings with breakout rooms, you may need to consider having multiple people assigned to take notes for each room



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## After the Meeting



### After the Meeting

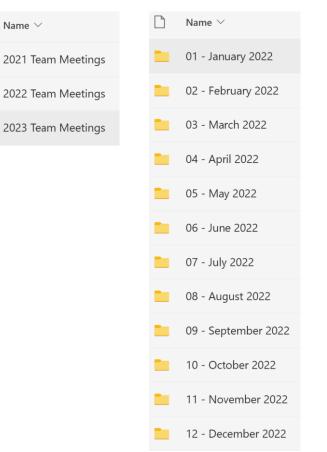
- After the meeting, the note-taker should review the notes to ensure they are well organized and free of spelling or grammatical errors
  - Even if there is not a formal review/approval process, it is good practice to have a colleague review the minutes if they are being shared with attendees
- Identify decisions, risks, and next steps and include those in a separate section that clearly shows owners and deadlines
- Save minutes to a central location and name the files consistently across all meeting minutes documents
- Minutes should be shared with appropriate individuals in a timely fashion, based on the expectations set ahead of the meeting



### **Organizing Files**

Name  $\sim$ 

- Being organized will help everyone when looking for notes to refer back to
- **Organization Tips:** 
  - Create a shared folder for all minutes and agendas
  - Create subfolders for each year or month, for recurring meetings
  - Be consistent when naming documents
    - Starting the file name with the date (YYYY.MM.DD) will sort all files in chronological order



	Name $\checkmark$
W	2022.12.01 NYSPHC Team Meeting Agenda.docx
W	2022.12.01 NYSPHC Team Meeting Minutes.docx
	2022.12.08 NYSPHC Team Meeting Agenda.docx
W	2022.12.08 NYSPHC Team Meeting Minutes.docx
	2022.12.15 NYSPHC Team Meeting Agenda.docx
W	2022.12.15 NYSPHC Team Meeting Minutes.docx



## Questions?



# What did you learn today that you will take with you?