



the learning community
for person centered practices



THE GATHERING PLAYBOOK

*Sharing, Learning, and
Growing Together*



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SHARING

LEARNING

GROWING

TOGETHER

WHAT IS A TLCPCP GATHERING?

The TLCPCP Gathering is a special event where people come together to learn, share, and connect. It's hosted by The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices (TLCPCP), a group inspired by Michael Smull, who has worked for over 30 years to spread Person Centered Practices around the world.

The first Gathering happened in 2000 when nine people met in Oregon to talk and learn from each other. Today, it has grown into an annual event that brings together more than 100 people from all over the world, typically during the month of July.

What makes the Gathering different from a regular conference is the **focus on connection and shared learning. We celebrate successes, learn from mistakes, and work together to improve.**



WHAT HAPPENS AT A TLCPCP GATHERING?



SHARING & LEARNING

Activities like Learning Marketplaces, World Cafés, and breakout sessions let everyone share ideas and learn in fun ways.



FLEXIBILITY

You can participate in ways that work best for you. If a session isn't the right fit, it's okay to leave and try something else—no hard feelings!



TRAINER UPDATES

Trainers and Mentor Trainers get updates on new tools and best practices to help them support others.



FUN & CONNECTION

There's plenty of laughter, hugs, and chances to meet new people.



CASUAL ATMOSPHERE

Wear what makes you comfortable, whether it's shorts and flip-flops or business casual.

Sometimes we meet in person, and sometimes we gather virtually to make it easier for people everywhere to join.

We often call our annual event the "mothership" because it's where new ideas are often introduced, and the energy of the community comes alive.

The TLCPCP Gathering is more than a meeting—it's a place to grow, share, and belong.

Everyone is welcome, and there's always room to jump in and help out!

WHAT IS A LEARNING MARKETPLACE?

A Learning Marketplace in the context of The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices (TLCPCP) is a dynamic and interactive way for people to share knowledge, tools, and ideas in an open, engaging environment. *It's not like a traditional presentation where one person talks and others listen.* Instead, it's more like a bustling market where everyone has something to offer, and participants can "shop around" for what they find most interesting or useful.

WHY IT'S POWERFUL

Choice: People can choose what they want to learn based on their interests and needs.

Collaboration: It fosters collaboration and sharing, creating a sense of community.

Flexibility: The format encourages creativity and adaptability, allowing for diverse learning styles.

Energy: The open and informal setup creates a lively and engaging atmosphere.

A Learning Marketplace is a cornerstone of TLCPCP Gatherings because it embodies the principles of person-centeredness: honoring choice, valuing diverse perspectives, and creating spaces for meaningful connection.

How It Works

Setting the Scene:

- A variety of locations, with schedules sprinkled throughout the Gathering
- Each Marketplace presents a topic, tool, question, or idea related to Person Centered Practices.
- Hosts may prepare materials, such as handouts, visuals, or demonstrations, to share their knowledge or just come ready for a good ol' fashioned conversation.

Marketplace Style:

- Participants move freely between sessions, choosing which ones they want to visit.
- They can stay at a session as long as they like or move on if something else catches their interest.

Conversations and Sharing:

- At each session, the host shares their topic in a conversational way. It's informal, interactive, and flexible.
- Participants can ask questions, share their own experiences, or take away ideas to use in their own work.

Diverse Topics:

Topics can range from practical tools like using a one-page profile, to creative approaches like using art in person-centered planning, to deep dives into lessons learned from real-world challenges or anything else that strikes your fancy or piques your interest.

Active Participation:

The marketplace thrives on participation. Hosts and participants learn from each other, and everyone has the chance to contribute.

WHAT IS A GALLERY WALK?

A Gallery Walk at a TLCPCP Gathering is a fun and interactive way to learn from each other by looking at creative displays, just like walking through an art gallery! Each display is about a different topic or idea related to Person Centered Practices, and you get to explore at your own pace.

How It Works

Setting Up the Gallery:

- People or groups create posters, charts, or other visuals to share something they've learned or done.
- The displays are set up around the room, like an art exhibit.
- There's no wrong or right way to set up a display. Get creative! Be resourceful!

Walking Through the Gallery:

- Everyone walks around the room, stopping to look at the displays that catch their eye.
- You can read the posters, ask questions, and talk to the people who made them.

Sharing Ideas:

- The creators of each display are usually there to explain their work and answer questions.
- It's a great way to learn new ideas, get inspired, and hear about what others are doing.

Lots of Choices:

There's no right or wrong way to explore! You can visit every display or just focus on the ones you're most interested in.

WHY IT'S FUN AND USEFUL

Easy to Join: You can join in at any time and move at your own speed.

Creative Learning: You get to see ideas in a colorful and visual way.

Lots of Sharing: It's a chance to learn from many people in a short time.

Meet New People: While you explore, you'll have conversations and make connections.

A Gallery Walk is one of the most exciting parts of a TLCPCP Gathering because it lets everyone share their work in a fun, relaxed way while learning from each other!



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WHAT IS THE ANNUAL BANQUET & AUCTION?

Each year, the TLCPCP Gathering holds a banquet on Wednesday evening to offer an opportunity for participants to gather and have some fun. A fun, themed dinner is provided alongside music, dancing, drinks and fun!

During the banquet, TLCPCP hosts a silent, live and virtual auction to support the Mary Smull Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund is a resource for self-advocates, family members and supporting staff to attend the Gathering (live and virtually!) each year.

How the Auction Works

Prepping for the Auction:

- Gather donated items for the Silent and/or Live Auction
- Take a picture of donated item(s) for posting to the virtual auction padlet
- If attending the Gathering in person, plan for space in your luggage to take items with you when the Gathering is complete.

What Can Be Donated?:

Here are some items that have been donated, previously:

Silent Auction ideas:

Handmade jewelry, art, and pottery
 College and Pro Sport Team Memorabilia
 Books, cards, etc. that align with Person Centered Practices
 Gift baskets and Regional Items

Live Auction ideas *(to be held during the Group Dinner Event):*

- Donated stay at your AirBNB
- A Learning Community Quilt
- Coach Purses and Wallets
- Michael Smull Bobble Head



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