MEANINGFULLY ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES…
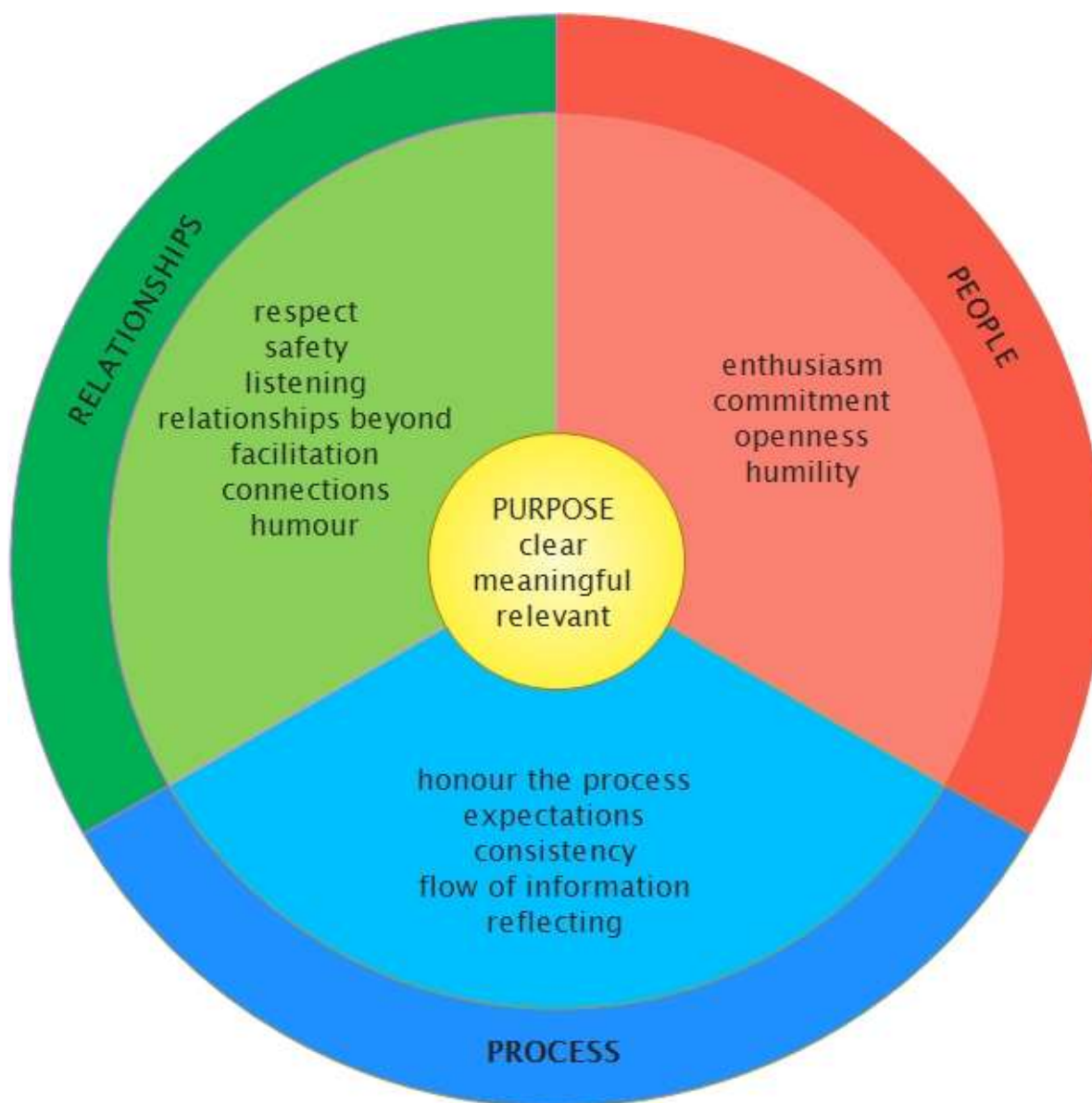
WHAT WORKS

RELATIONSHIPS

respect
safety
listening
relationships beyond
facilitation
connections
humour

PEOPLE

enthusiasm
commitment
openness
humility

PURPOSE
clear
meaningful
relevant

honour the process
expectations
consistency
flow of information
reflecting

PROCESS

Lakehead UNIVERSITY

Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange

Alzheimer Society ONTARIO

For more information, see our website
www.rethinkingdementia.ca
or contact Dr. Elaine Wiersma
Centre for Education and Research on
Aging & Health
Lakehead University
Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
(807) 766-7250
ewiersma@lakeheadu.ca

Engaging meaningfully together… some thoughts

Purpose	Do you have a clear, meaningful purpose?
	Can the team see the relevance of the purpose and opportunities to make change?
People	
Choose your team carefully	Does your team share enthusiasm for this project
	Are they committed to the project and to similar values?
	Are they open to innovation? Willing to learn?
	Are they humble about their own strengths and limitations?
Evolving partnerships	Have you built on existing partnerships?
	Can you leverage existing partnerships to build new ones?
Relationships	
Respect	Do you show gratitude for people's contributions and expertise?
	Is respect embedded in your interactions?
	Do you celebrate others' accomplishments and achievements?
	Do you ask for and value others' opinions?
Safety	Have you discussed and adopted group guidelines?
	Do you have protocols in place to deal with different opinions?
	Has this been discussed
Listening	Has everyone had a chance to talk?
	Do you act on suggestions and recommendations?
Relating beyond the project…	Do you care for your partners as people?
	Do you know what is going on in their lives?
Facilitation	What qualities and characteristics does your facilitator(s) have?
	How does this help or hinder the process?
Connection	Are you connecting with partners in between meetings?
Humour	Do you laugh together?
	Do you laugh at yourself?
Process	
Honour the process	Have you slowed the pace?
	Are you flexible with your timelines?
Define expectations	Does everyone know what is expected of them?
	Are the goals of the project clear? Are the goals of meetings clear?
Consistency	Do you have consistent meeting times? Facilitators? Location?
Flow of information	When do people want meeting materials to review?
	Do people know what they need to successfully participate?
	Can participants see their contributions?
Reflecting	Do you reflect on and change your processes accordingly?
	Do you reflect on and celebrate your accomplishments?

SUCCESS=TRANSFORMATION