The background features a light gray grid with various mechanical illustrations. In the top-left and bottom-left corners, there are yellow gears connected to green shafts. The top-center has a large teal gear with a hexagonal hole, surrounded by smaller yellow gears. The right side is dominated by a complex assembly of yellow and teal gears, some with internal patterns like a mountain range or a gear-like shape. A yellow and black striped hazard bar is visible on the right edge. At the bottom, there are more teal and yellow gears connected by shafts.

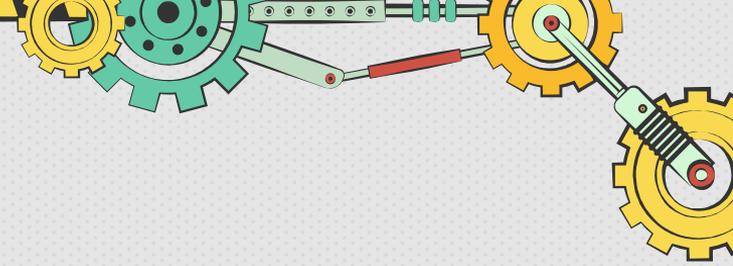
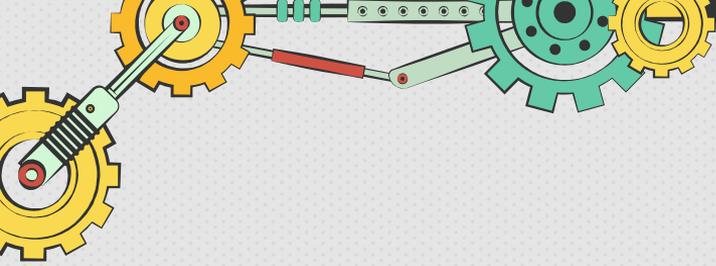
Connecting the Dots: How to Serve as an Effective Backbone

Valerie Frost, Kentucky Site Team Co-Lead
Thriving Families, Safer Children Supplemental Session
October 8, 2024

Introduction



Valerie Frost



Objectives

01

Define a backbone organization's role and get an example of what it looks like in action.

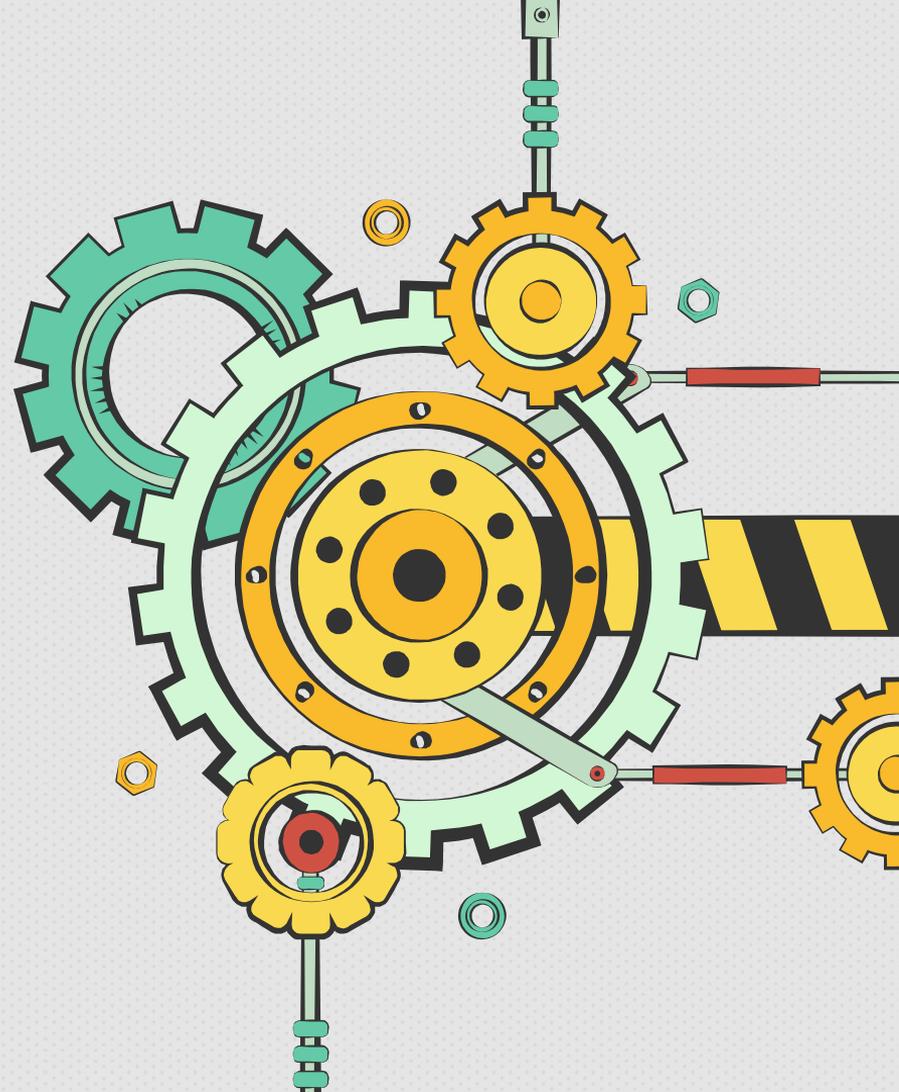
02

Learn what it really takes behind the scenes to establish trust, build relationships, and gain true buy-in for collaboration and seamless coordination.

03

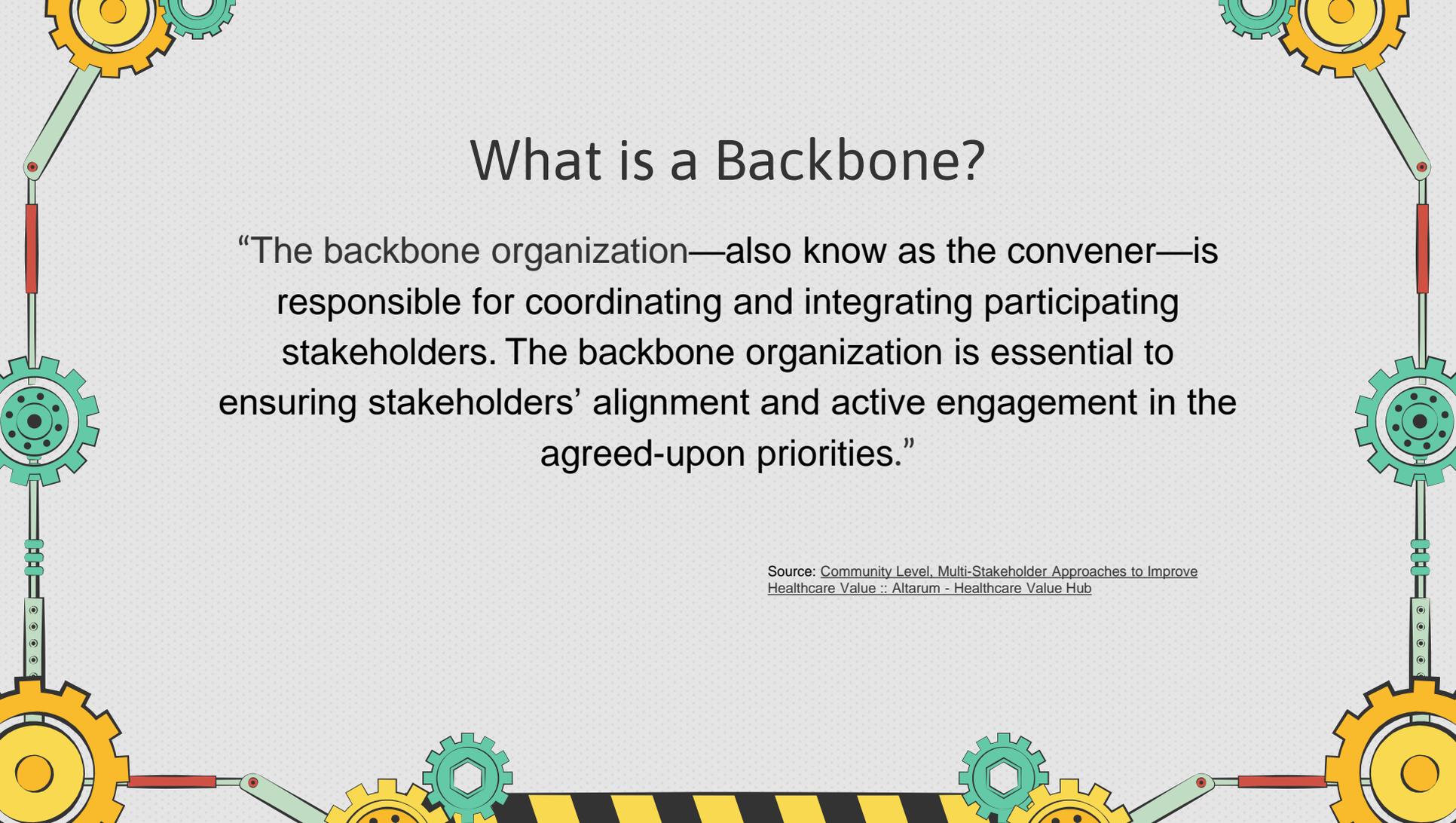
Connect with other sites to share resources and pose questions to one another.

Let's take a
poll!



What is a Backbone?

silent leader glue
connector
bridge
cat header



What is a Backbone?

“The backbone organization—also known as the convener—is responsible for coordinating and integrating participating stakeholders. The backbone organization is essential to ensuring stakeholders’ alignment and active engagement in the agreed-upon priorities.”

Source: [Community Level, Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to Improve Healthcare Value](#) :: Altarum - Healthcare Value Hub



Wellbeing System
REGIONAL
RE-VISIONING SESSIONS
Re-Visioning Session
May 3, 2024 - 12:00-2:30pm ET
Kya

Regional Re-Visioning Session Northern Kentucky May 3, 2024

Photo credit: Kentucky Youth Advocates

Thriving Families, Safer Children Hybrid Quarterly Meeting - March 2024



Photo credit: Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families

TFSC KY Site Team

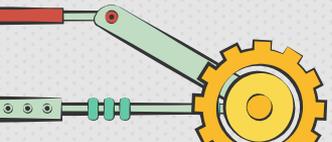
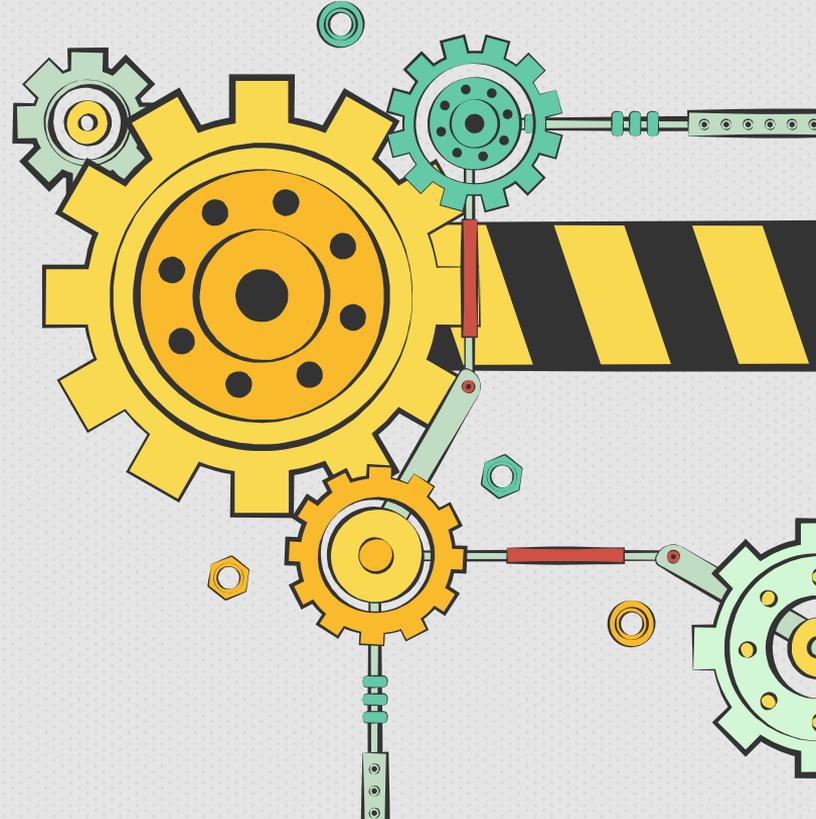
Structure:

- Contract with state agency
- Collaborative of partners committed to family wellbeing

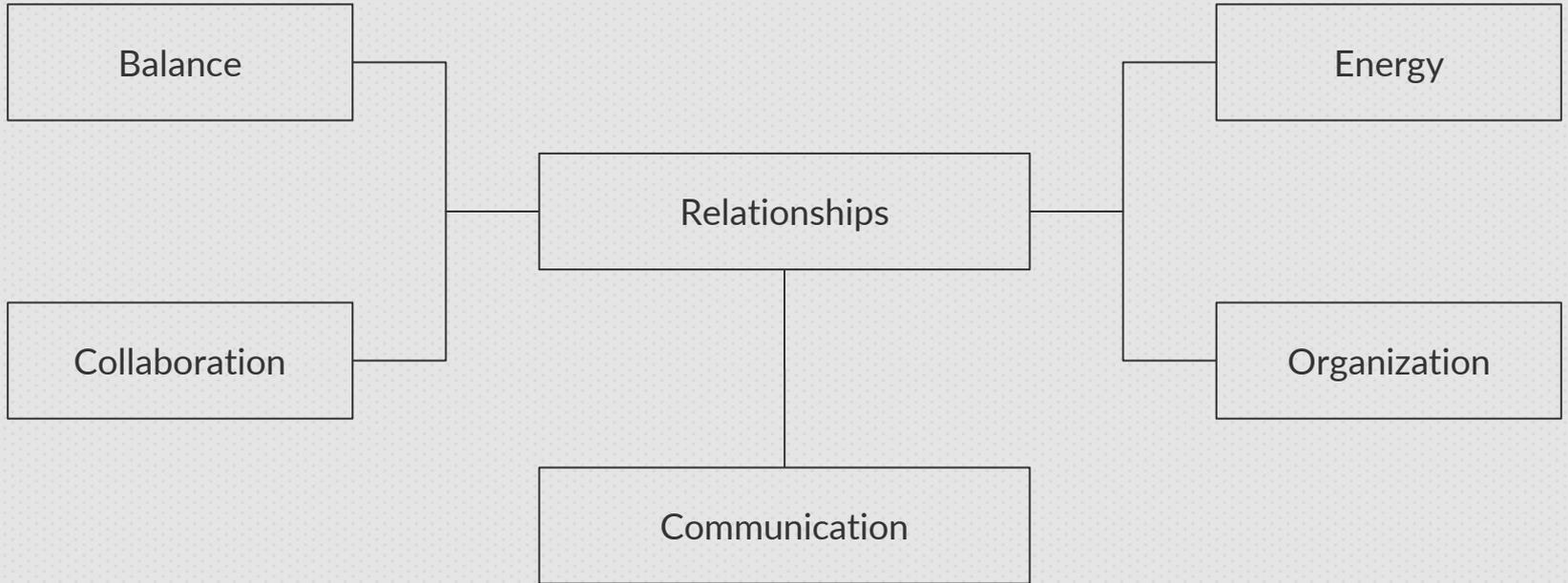
Responsibilities include:

- Maintain meeting cadence
- Organize team notes and documents
- Facilitate meetings
- Support communications

And the most important thing: Maintain alignment between partners and broader national space



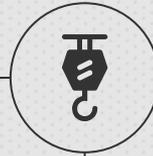
Keys to a Backbone Role



What Are the Dots?

People

Bringing people together toward a common goal or function



Cohesion

Finding alignment between separate entities with possibly conflicting interests or attitudes

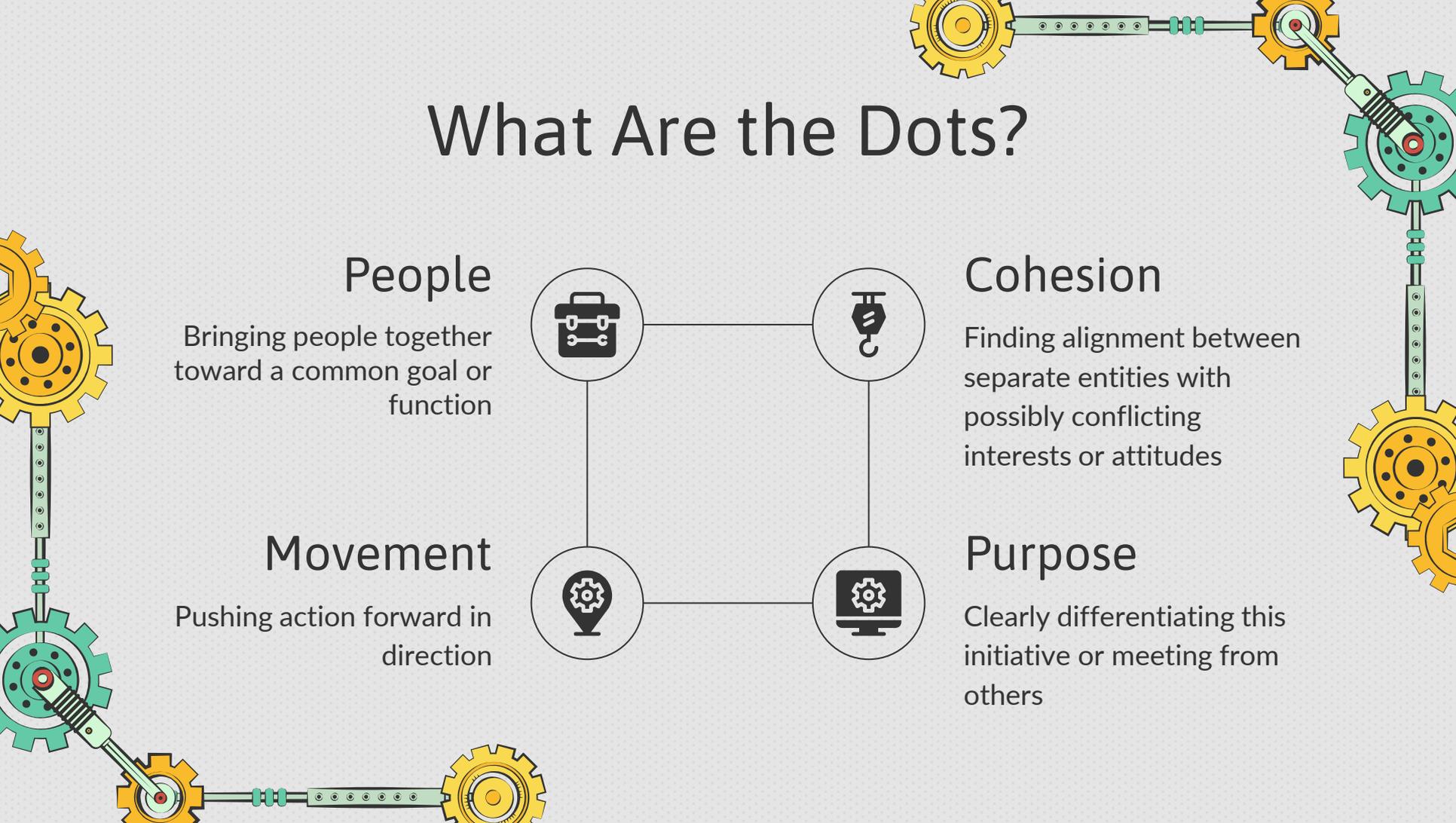


Movement

Pushing action forward in direction

Purpose

Clearly differentiating this initiative or meeting from others



Participant Needs



Are they learning something?



Is there meaning and purpose?



Are they getting connected to others to build their network?



Does everyone know their role?



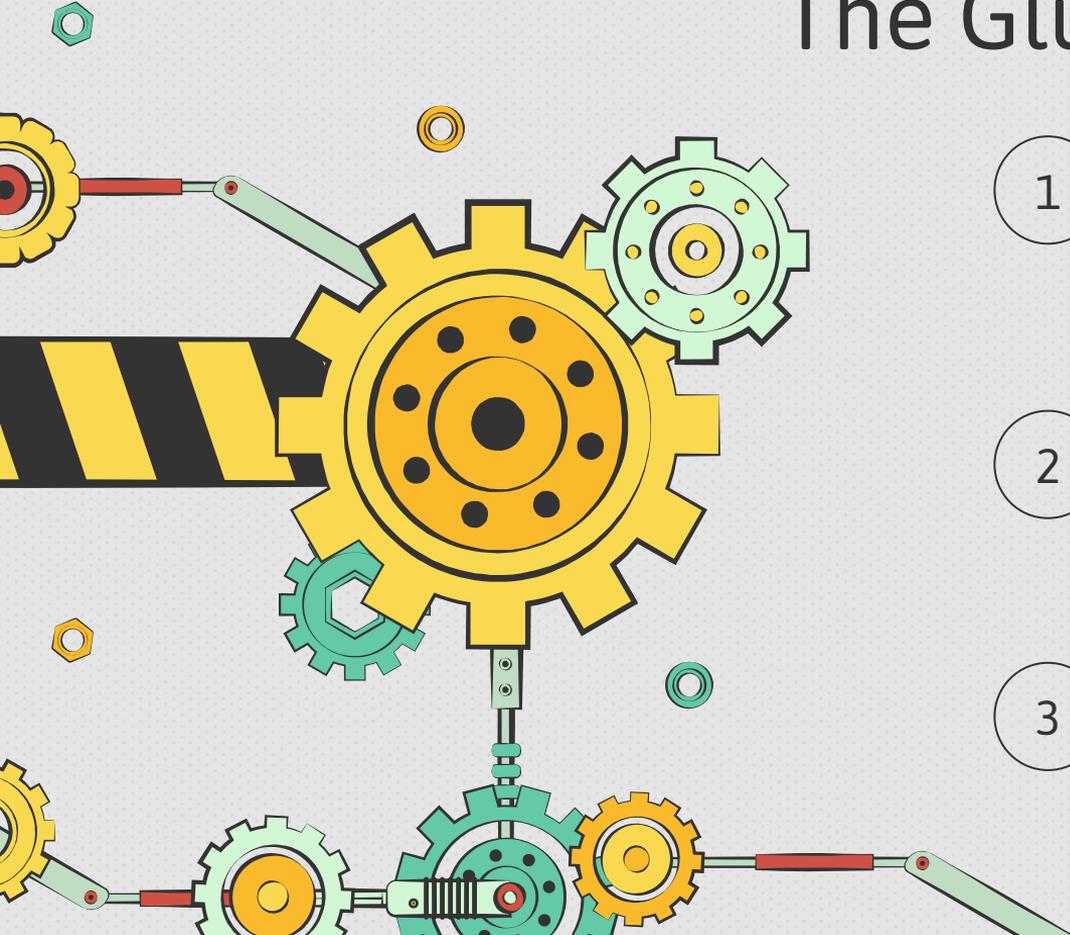
Is it advancing a cause they care about?



Are they enjoying the space?



The Glue



1

Time

Building and maintaining relationships and keeping track of all the moving pieces is a lot of work!

2

Commitment

Your dedication will energize those you are bringing together and keep the fire burning.

3

Authenticity

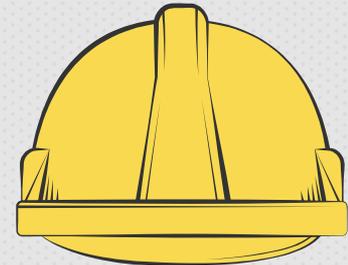
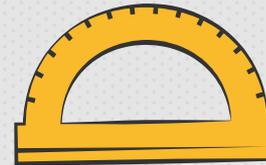
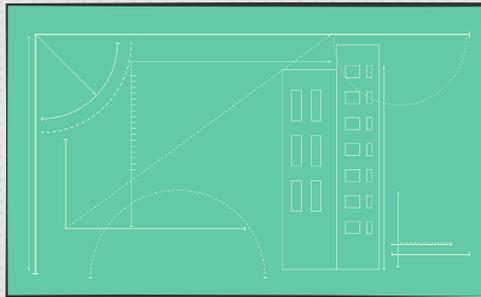
People want to follow a leader they respect and feel inspired by.



Let's Discuss!

Alternative resources

- [Backbone_Organizations_Field_Guide.pdf \(ssir.org\)](#)
- [Backbone-Starter-Guide.pdf \(collectiveimpactforum.org\)](#)
- [Collective-Impact-Backbone-Toolkit.pdf \(uncg.edu\)](#)
- [What is a Backbone Organization and What is its Role - YouTube](#)

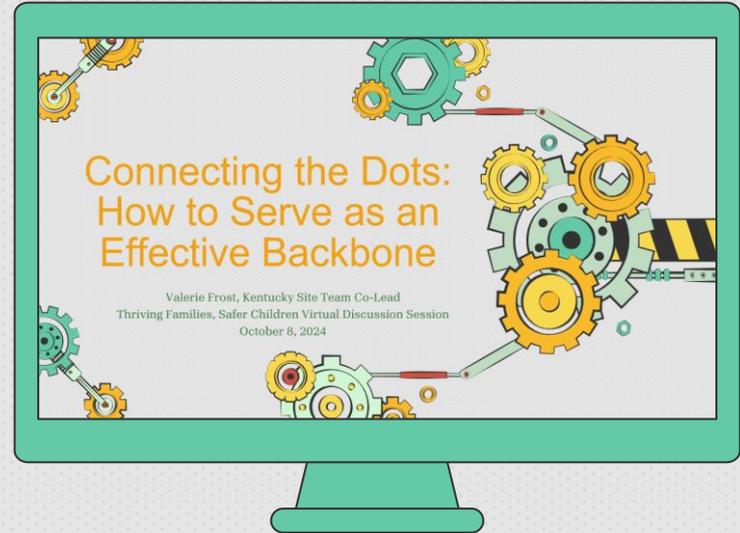


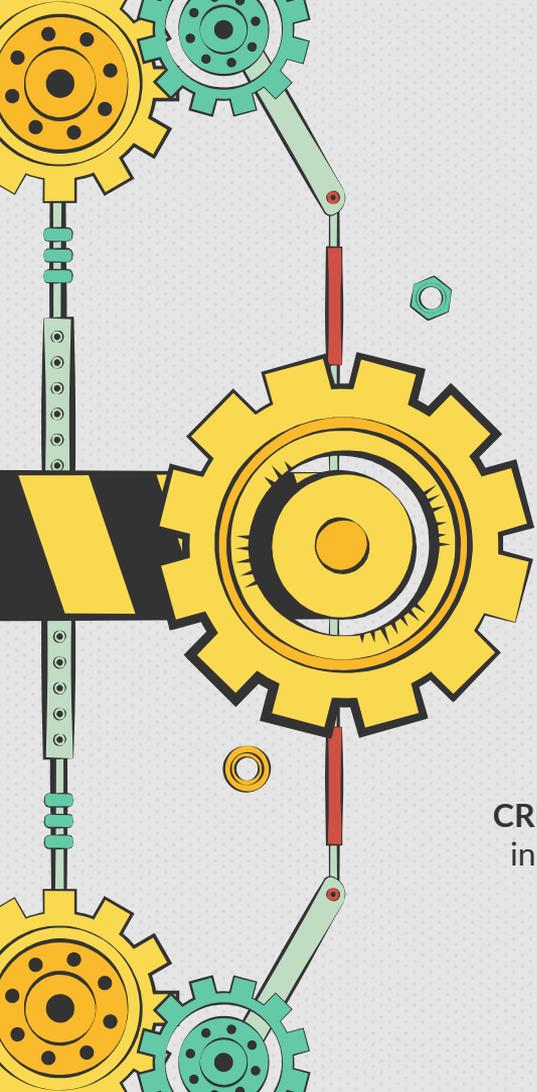
Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

Valerie Frost

hello@valeriefrost.com





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