Creating Public Value Through Building Network Influence and Sustainability

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Abstract

This paper uses a multiple case-study design utilizing standard interview/questionnaire methodology to identify the factors influencing collaborative network policy influence and sustainability. Examined cases include a metropolitan-wide law enforcement network, a regional economic partnership and a county-based interagency review team. Preliminary findings indicate positive associations between network involvement and sustainability measures as well as agency enhancement and network participation. The results of this study support the argument that Mark Moore’s (1995) precepts regarding public value have considerable merit. With a greater focus on public value there is a corresponding move from programmatic government to being mission and values-based governance utilizing goals and networking to address issues that transcend boundaries. A belief in public value, as articulated by Goldsmith and Eggers (2004), will gradually change the way government is conceptualized and eventually reflect on the way business is conducted in the public sector. Collaborative networks (O’Toole 1997; Klijn and Koppenjan 2016; Koliba et al 2019) play an integral role in this effort.

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