

**Center for Technology in Government  
MIII Justice Modeling Project**

**Focus Group Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** May 4, 2004  
**Place:** CTG Meeting Room  
**Time:** 9:00

**List of Attendees:**

David Andersen	(DA)
Tamas Bodor	(TB)
Brian Burke	(BB)
Donna Canestraro	(DC)
Anthony Cresswell	(AC)
Fikret Demircivi	(FD)
Mohammad Mojtahedzadeh	(MM)
Theresa Pardo	(TP)
George Richardson	(GR)
Carrie Schneider	(CS)
Fiona Thompson	(FT)
Yi-Jung Wu	(YW)
Luis Luna	(LL)

DA Introduced the work for the day, explaining that we will be doing a fishbowl exercise, in which the modelers sit in front of the group and talk about the better to conduct the meeting.

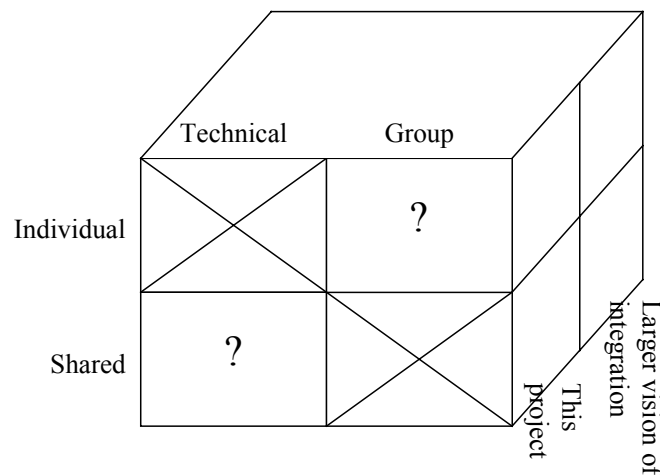
LL Made a brief presentation reporting the progress from the previous meeting.

Modelers starting talking about the model, and while they were talking and running experiments, issues and ideas about the model were written on the board. The following is a list of the issues and ideas produced by the group:

- Perceived legitimacy and tipping point formulation (trap vs. enabler)
  - There is a threshold effect involving shared understanding of social processes
  - When group is more engaged, group facilitator's efforts go down –there is a tipping point between “their” work and “our” work [see Group Empowerment]
  - Individual commitment needs work: specifically it should help engagement [Champion factor?]

- Group engagement follows shared understanding
- Effectiveness vs. effort formulation
- Individual commitment follows individual understanding
- Are clarifying and Formalizing equivalent? If different how?
- Are individual and group effects similar? If not, how different?
- Individual understanding is about substantive ideas [Technical]
  - Prior understanding of integration
  - Understanding of the job to be done
  - Understanding of the issues
- Shared understanding is about group process [Social]
  - How to be a better group
- Disagreement: Shared understanding must be technical as well
  - We need to separate out shared understanding into technical and group process component
- Threshold effect in which early effort go into group understanding, and late effort goes into technical understanding
- Disaggregate effort into
  - Technical work
  - Group process work
- There is no decay in group engagement.

Where's alignment?



The modeler team suggested that the main two issues to work out in the model were those associated with the tipping behavior, and disaggregating technical and social understandings in the group side.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 to 12:00. In that meeting, a second version of the model will be presented, using a table of scenarios to explore the structure of the model.