Things to Consider When Developing Questions for a Community Survey

a. **Use a Likert Scale for question responses.** A Likert Scale enables you to assign a number value to each response and helps in data analysis. It also allows you to develop a baseline to which you can compare later data.

   The question may be worded like this:

   Recovery is possible (individuals with substance use disorder can get better)
   1. *Strongly Disagree*
   2. *Disagree*
   3. *Neutral/have no opinion*
   4. *Agree*
   5. *Strongly Agree*

b. **Avoid including multiple variables in one question.** By that we mean, do not ask about two different things in one question. For example,

   *People in our community are able to access **treatment** and **recovery supports** when they need them.*
   1. *Strongly Disagree*
   2. *Disagree*
   3. *Neutral/have no opinion*
   4. *Agree*
   5. *Strongly Agree*

   Including both treatment and recovery supports in the same question makes it difficult to separate the two issues. They could agree with one part but disagree with the other. Instead, separate those issues into two questions (still using the Likert Scale), like the following:

   People in our community are able to access substance use treatment when they need it.

   People in our community are able to access substance use recovery supports when they need it.

c. **Be careful about the language you use.**
   - Write survey questions at a 6th grade reading level if possible. This could be tough with some of the questions we want to ask but try to keep it at an 8th or 9th grade level, for sure.
   - Will you need to provide the survey in multiple languages? That depends on the makeup of your community. Give yourself enough time to make that happen.
   - Make sure the statements you use are not open for multiple interpretations. For instance, asking about whether your community has ***adequate*** *recovery meetings for people who need them* could be problematic because the word **adequate** can mean different things to different people. What could you use instead? It depends on what you are trying to measure. How about using the Likert Scale to measure the following statement instead:

Individuals should have access to local recovery support meetings.

d. **Ask yourself- What is it that the ROSC Council wants to find out?** You may want to find out about:

- <u>People's understanding/attitudes related to addiction, recovery, multiple pathways, MAR, etc.</u> Here you are asking respondents to rate statements using a Likert Scale. The statements could include things like:
  - *Addiction is a disease, like diabetes and cancer*
  - *Addiction is a choice*
  - *Recovery is possible (individuals with an addiction can get better)*
  - *Trauma is a reason some individuals have substance use disorders*
  - *Individuals with supportive families rarely become addicted to drugs or alcohol*

  Note that these are just examples and are NOT an exhaustive list.

- <u>Awareness of resources</u>- Use the Likert Scale
  - *People in our community know where to go for help related to mental health*
  - *People in our community know where to go for help related to substance use*
  - *There are recovery support group meetings (for individuals) available within our community*
  - *Treatment options for people who use drugs are publicized within our community*
  - *Recovery support options for people seeking or maintaining recovery are well publicized within our community*

  Again…not an exhaustive list

- <u>Awareness of the ROSC Council</u>- This is a great way to determine if people are seeing your materials and hearing your messages
  - *Over the past 6 months, have you seen materials or social media posts from the Sample City ROSC Council?*
  - *If YES, which materials did you see? (list out items you put out…or social media accounts)*
  - *How do you like to receive messaging about community issues? Then list out different distribution methods (flyers, posters, social media posts, mailings, etc). Note- only list out things you have the capacity to do.*