



NYL Cabinet - Strategic Planning Update

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Goals & Objectives

In addition to our close collaboration with NYL Co-Chairs Bryan and Ronna, we have a top group of volunteers, community-based professionals, and JFNA colleagues working together to achieve three main goals:

1. Assess the current strengths of Cabinet and determine how we could further enrich and deepen the program for the future; and
2. Build the most robust pipeline into Cabinet (strengthening the brand and overall cachet); and
3. Nurture the most effective transition, as our Cabinet members complete the program and become alumni.

Background

As you may know, this process began in June, when our consultants – Andrea Wasserman and Amy Schiffman– met with the Cabinet Vice Chair Team as the kickoff focus group. We then hosted Andrea and Amy at our Cabinet Retreat in July, where they met in groups and one-on-one with current members of Cabinet as well as with Federation YL and campaign professionals from across North America.

In the subsequent months, they've spoken with nearly 50 additional informants from within the Federation movement and researched 15 top Jewish/secular, for-profit/non-profit leadership development programs to understand their various approaches and to identify potential best practices for us.

The Vision

Bryan and Ronna, NYL Co-Chairs have expressed a vision of Cabinet as the 'R&D department of the Jewish community,' and that spirit of innovation, optimism and out-in-front, active leadership very much factors into our discussions.

Our agenda during this process has been focused on four big questions:

1. What's the opportunity that Cabinet is trying to leverage?
2. What's the 'call to action' for Cabinet?
3. What's the unique value proposition for Cabinet?
4. What are the key skills that Cabinet leaders need?

Of course, all of these questions are bigger than Cabinet, because they point to what the Jewish future might look like and the role that young leaders play in shaping and defining it. As we dig into these questions, we are carefully examining the current Cabinet program and how it might be enhanced to meet the needs of our current and future Chevre, as well as the Federation movement and the larger Jewish community.



Challenges & Opportunities

As you can imagine, it's challenging - - - exciting - - - full of debate and ideas as we build the path forward. Even within the current Chevre, we have many different goals and expectations for why members joined Cabinet and what they hope to get out of it.

Please know that we are listening carefully to everyone's feedback and working to build a Cabinet program that stimulates, inspires and truly captures the imagination of our top talent.

What's Next?

The data-collection phase continues over the next few weeks, with a Cabinet survey and further engagement of local Federation professionals.

The Working Group has been meeting monthly since August, and we'll gather again on October 20. The consultants in close partnership with our NYL staff have carefully reviewed all the data and have begun to develop a Logic Model (or Theory of Change) to ultimately shape what we've been calling (for now) the '21st Century Cabinet Experience'.

We'll meet with the NYL Cabinet VC Team at the GA next month as well as the JFNA Executive Committee to present our recommendations. Ultimately, JFNA's senior leadership will determine how to move forward with the recommendations, as well as the implementation scope and timeline.

We're fortunate to be part of Cabinet during an exciting time of reimagining the full scope of possibilities for the future. Thank you for making your voices heard so thoughtfully and strategically throughout the process.