THE TWELVE BEST PRACTICES OF HIGHLY PERFORMING BOARDS

1. The board and key agency staff agree on the core values that will guide the agency's mission and implementation.

2. The board plans ahead and pays attention to the strategic direction needed by the agency to insure continuous success and improvement.

3. The board is committed to excellence and is willing to take an appropriate amount of risk to be among the best.

4. The board and the executive director agree on how they will know when the agency is successful and use a key set of data in tracking program and financial performance.

5. They have a clear, complete board job description.

6. The board's membership is appropriate to the agency's mission and core values and includes lots of "boundary spanners."

7. Their members work effectively as a team.

8. Board meetings are spent on the issues that "matter most."

9. They have an active "board development" committee.

10. There is an annual assessment of their performance.

11. The boards are committed to helping chief staff officers succeed.

12. They combine having fun as a group with making a real difference in the community.