



PARTNERS IN ACTION

PIA 2—What is the Difference between an Advisory Committee and a Board?

Advisory Committee ¹	Board ^{2,3,4}
• Advises or supports an organization.	• Determines the organization's mission and purpose.
• Not authorized as decision-makers; only gives advice and counsel.	• Selects the Executive Director/Officer.
• Evaluates the performance of the organization.	• Supports the Executive Director/Officer and re-view his or her performance.
• Serves as advocate for the organization to the community it serves.	• Ensures effective organizational planning.
• Provides feedback to the organization from the community.	• Ensures adequate resources.
• Reviews, monitors or assesses specific programs.	• Manages resources effectively.
• Provides a means to involve people who are willing to give very critical assistance, but have limited time.	• Determines and monitors the organization's programs and services.
• Provides technical expertise.	• Serves as a court of appeals.
• Gathers input from or serves as a liaison with relevant constituencies.	• Assesses its own (the board's) performance.
• Builds a corp of outside, experienced experts whose interest and support are important.	• Board members mostly consist of professionals in the area of the institution.
• Provides an independent, unbiased sounding board.	• Protects the perpetuity and long range future of the organization.
• Fulfills the purpose for which it was established.	• Plans beyond their present task, addressing future needs.
• Dynamic; shifts roles as circumstances change.	• Maintains the organization's stability and structure.
• Assists the staff in developing determined important activities.	• Determines directions to go and plans to be implemented.
• Alters its purpose and structure in the course of its duration.	• Controls and fosters the institution through collective authority.

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Leadership Development Through Committee Work

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Keith L. Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension. May 1998 1st printing