


GETTING HELP FROM STRANGERS

Building an interagency
learning collaborative

A large group of birds, possibly starlings, are perched on the bare, thin branches of a tree. The birds are silhouetted against a clear, light blue sky. The branches are intricate and spread out across the frame, with birds scattered throughout, some perched on single branches and others in small groups.

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WHAT ARE WE DOING?

In the next 45 minutes, we hope you'll understand the key elements for starting and maintaining your own local, interagency learning collaborative.

We'll talk about:

- identifying & recruiting members
- building value for participants & their bosses
- keeping the collaborative going

We'll practice:

- identifying & defining a problem to be solved
- clarifying understanding before solving
- reflective, appreciative listening

What do you hope to get
from and give to the
people in this session?

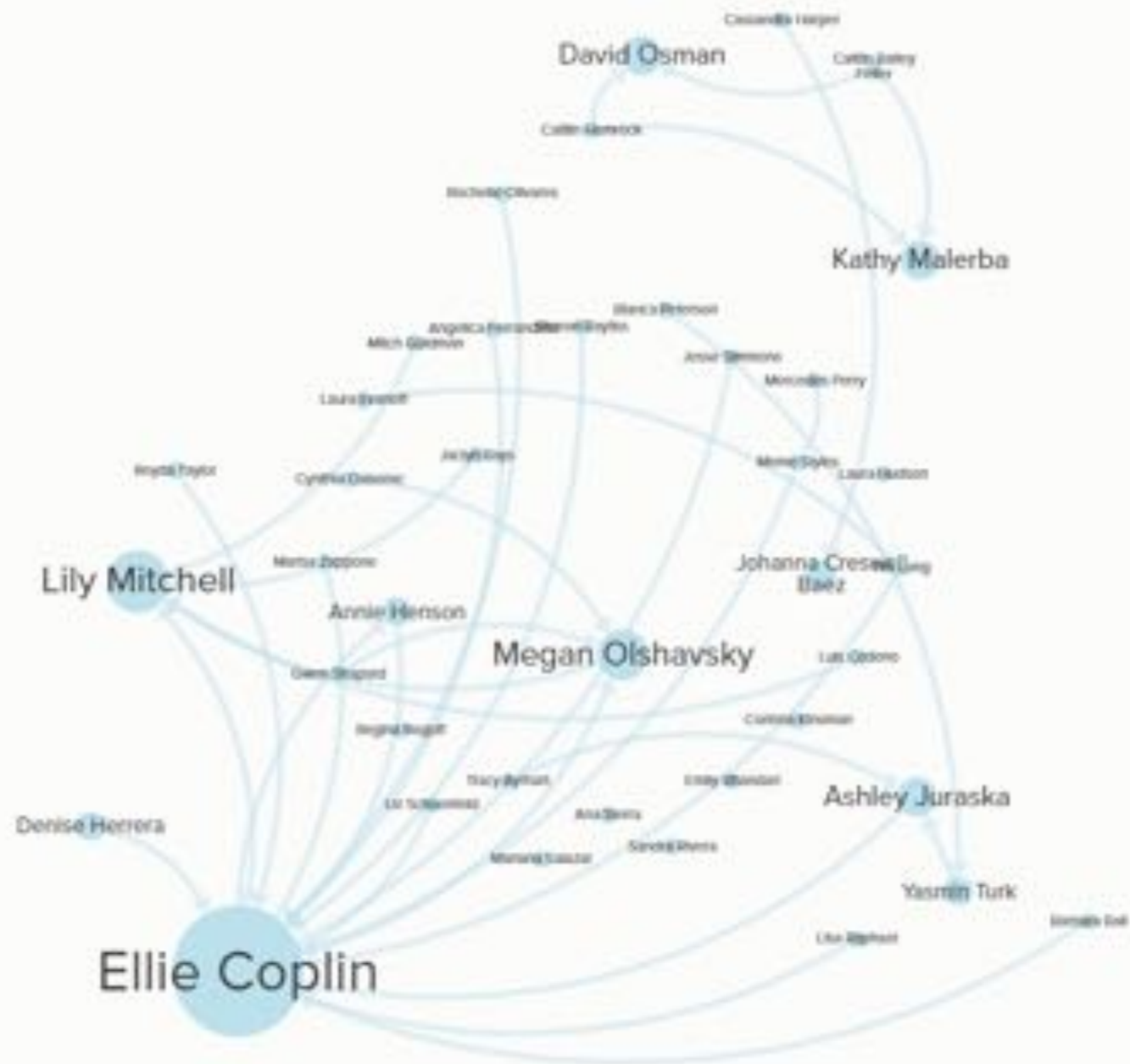
In your experience, what makes a collaborative group work really well?

OUR COLLABORATIVE IS LIKE A FLOCK OF GRACKLES

- ✓ Omnivorous
- ✓ Colonies of 20-100
- ✓ Behaviorally flexible*

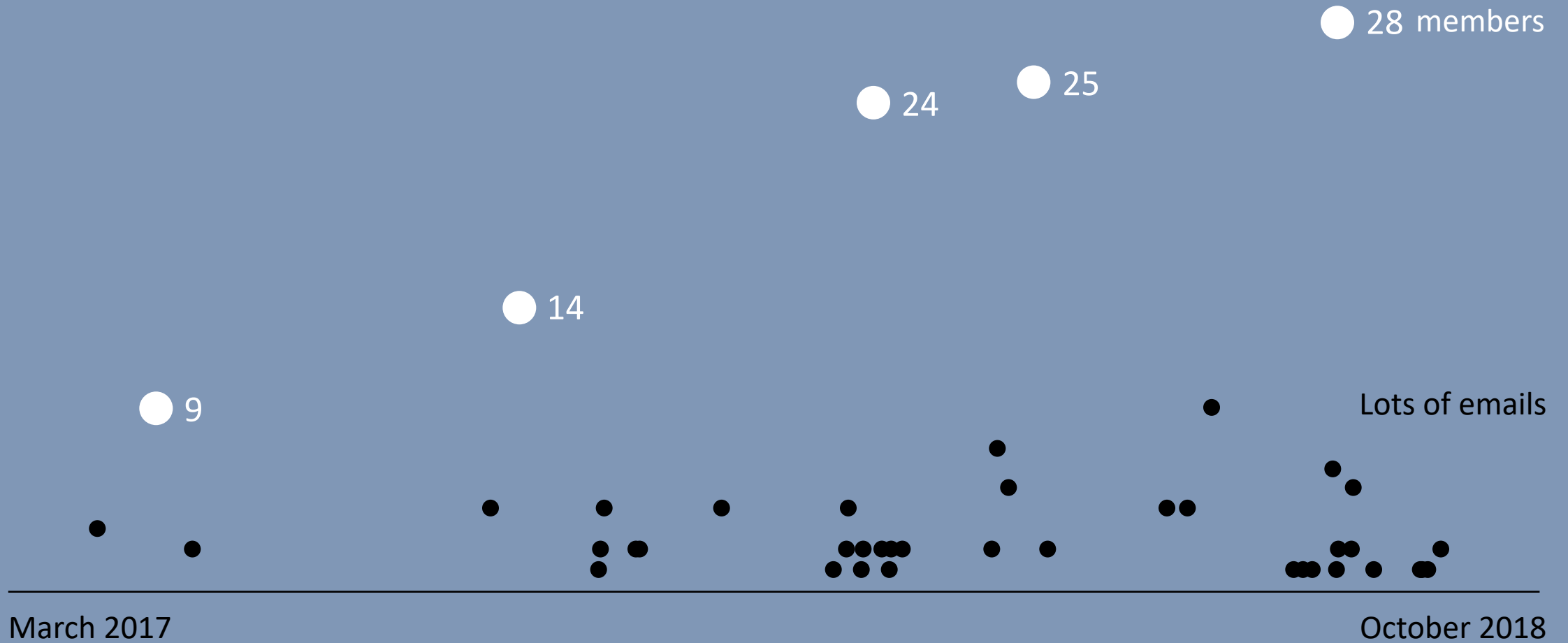


*They aren't particularly innovative, but we'll ignore that.



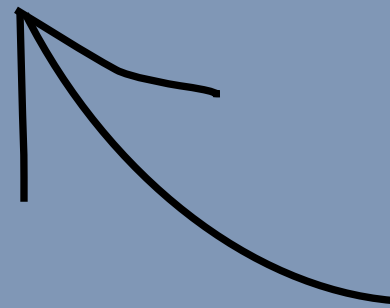
A steady email rhythm supports our group.

● 28 members



GRACKLES LEARN BY DOING

“Grackles, for example, might look under rocks at the beach for something to eat, or switch to discarded sandwich wrappers in a city park.”



Role models!

LET'S DO THE SAME

LET'S DO THE SAME

What is a major
challenge you're working
on?

CREDITS AND REFERENCES

The first slide uses a picture of grackles in a tree from Flickr user sodai gomi under a creative commons license.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/49774228@N00/31196183614>

We used two facilitation techniques from *The Surprising Power of Liberating Structures: Simple Rules to Unleash a Culture of Innovation*. It was written by Keith McCandless and Henri Lipmanowicz. They've got a great website: <http://www.liberatingstructures.com/lis-menu/>.

Want to read more about grackles, their behavioral flexibility, and failure to innovate? James Gorman wrote a piece called *The Grackle's Secret to Success* in the New York Times in 2016, based on the research of Dr. Corina Logan at Cambridge. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/20/science/the-grackles-secret-to-success.html>