

Accelerating decision-making with dynamic group processes and state-of-the-art systems.

Case Study

EMS planning

"Our organization accomplished more with Prism Decision Systems than at any of the other "strategy" meetings we have ever had," said Joseph Nirchi, President, Board of Directors—Union Volunteer Emergency Squad (UVES).

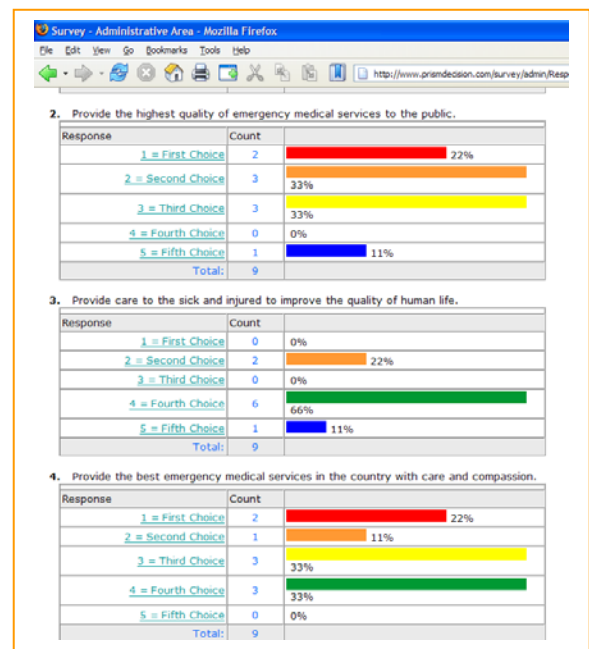
Like many not-for-profits, UVES needs good long-range planning to thrive and grow. The challenge is time: the board is volunteer; the management team is flat out. Prism's goal: use dynamic group processes and powerful Web-based and face-to-face decision tools to make this the quickest, most robust planning process UVES has ever experienced.

Online ranking: mission and vision

In a preliminary hour-long session, Prism led the joint Board-Management planning team through a creative session to draft vision and mission statements. Over the next two weeks, the team then logged into Prism's Web survey to rank the six mission and seven vision statements. (See insert right for sample results of Board preference for Mission statements.)

Planning retreat

Armed with the Web survey data, Prism was quickly able to facilitate strong consensus agreement on both a mission and vision statement.



This strong agreement was a springboard to strategic target setting. By the end of the first evening, the planning team had also agreed to eight strategic targets in the areas of finance, operations, quality and members.

Strategies and priorities

The planning team arrived excited early the next day. They had a clear vision to compel them to the future and a set of targets to measure their progress toward it. Now all they needed was a set of strategies that would articulate what they need to do to get from where they were to where they wanted to be.

By lunch, they had agreed to a set of five-year strategies. Shortly after lunch, they used [Prism's group decision support system](#) to complete a strategic profile and identify two immediate, high-leverage priorities.

According to Mr. Nirchi, "Prism's group decision support system and the interaction with Mr. Brady focused the Board and management team on what was important for the future of the organization to become a leader in the EMS field. Over the next year, we look we look forward to focusing on our strategies and priorities and on hitting our targets."