HOW TO IMPLEMENT SUCCESSFUL YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS IN THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SETTING

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INTRODUCTION

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TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Introductions and Ice Breaker
2. Why This Matters
3. Theories That Guide Our Work
4. Youth Advisor Projects
5. Successful and Unsuccessful Youth Engagement
6. Applying What You've Learned; Group Activity
7. Q & A
8. Post-Lesson Reflection
Let's break the ice

Scan the QR code below to enter an ice-breaker game.
LET'S BEGIN!
WHY DO WE CARE?

“Nothing About Us, Without Us”

“Young people are effective advocates for and consumers of their own health care. As key stakeholders, youth can shape programs, policy, and outreach activities that affect the health of their peers in their schools, communities, and nationwide.”
- The School-Based Health Alliance
Some organizations may find the idea of partnering with youth overwhelming. This session will support participants in taking manageable steps towards incorporating youth voice. At the end, you will be able to identify strategies for engaging young people in a meaningful and effective manner. You will walk away understanding what it really means to “Bring youth to the table.”
WHAT IS POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

Strength Based

- Use strengths individuals already have and build upon them
- Explore strengths and directing an individual's ideas/belief/motives

Inclusive

- Use individuals' ideas to achieve greater things
- Hearing out individuals' ideas
- Being aware of race, gender, culture, language, social comfortability, sexuality, accessibility

Youth as Partners

- Building relationships w/ youth
- Encouragement of ideas and exploration
- Providing opportunities
- Keeping things simple and interactive
- Asking for youth input
- Shared decision making

Collaborative

- Acknowledging the caring adults in youths' lives
- Community partnership

Sustainable

- Ongoing Support
- Leadership buy-in
- Continuous Quality Improvement
OUR APPROACH TOWARDS
SOCIAL JUSTICE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
THE GOAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SJ YD):

CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

A PERSON’S ABILITY TO CRITICALLY INTERPRET THEIR WORLD AND ACT UPON IT
THE GOAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SJ YD):
CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Embrace Youth Culture
- Celebrate youth culture in organizational culture
- Language
- Personnel
- Recruitment Strategies

Encourage Collective Action
- Involve oneself in collective action and strategies that challenge local and national systems and institutions
- Community Organizing
- Rallies and Marches
- Walkouts
- Boycotts and Hunger Strikes
- Electoral Strategies

Analyze Power in Social Relationships
- Political Education
- Political Strategizing
- Identifying Power Holders
- Reflecting on power in one's own life

Make Identity Central
- Join support groups and organizations that support identity
- Read material where one's identity is central and celebrated
- Critique stereotypes regarding one's identities

Promote Systemic Social Change
- Work to end social inequality
- Refrain from activities and behaviors that are oppressive to others

Ginwright and James, 2002
**Youth Advisor Projects**

DENVER HEALTH SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

1. **TikTok**
   - Proposed a fun-educational approach for promoting services and engaging with youth (during COVID)

2. **Instagram**
   - Proposed alternative/addition social media platform besides Facebook

3. **Senior Packets**
   - Proposed an informational package to help with the healthcare transition after graduation

4. **Youth Ambassador**
   - Working directly with students in schools with SBHCs to achieve a better engagement network and gain better insights from younger students

5. **Content Creation**
   - Creates appealing content, from flyers, to videos, to Instagram posts etc for youth

6. **Patch**
   - Employ 8-10 Teen Educators annually, who lead workshops with medical providers and their peers, focused on improving patient/provider relationships

*We've got the foundation. Now it is about how we BUILD off of it!*
COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

• Youth-led activities, in which decision-making is shared between youth and adults (youth and adults are working as partners)
• Youth-led activities with little input from adults
• Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed
• Adult-led activities, in which youth understand the purpose and have a role in decision-making
COMMON COMPONENTS OF UNSUCCESSFUL YOUTH engagement strategies

• Adult-led activities, in which youth follows along as directed without understanding purpose
• Adult-led activities, in which youth understands the purpose but have no input on how it was put together
• Adult-led activities, in which youth have zero to minimal opportunities to give feedback
Before hiring, investigate what other organizations in your community are hiring youth. Can you leverage that connection to start working with those young people? This is a nice way to dip your toe on the water.
Hiring Youth

1. Hiring Youth - Short-term
   - Hiring youth as CONTRACTOR
     - Paid as employee but on a short-term contract
     - No employee benefits
     - Easier to transition on/off

2. Hiring Youth - Long-term
   - Hiring youth as EMPLOYEE
     - Paid as employee until further notice
     - Employee benefits
     - Easier to transition on/off

3. Experience-Service Exchange
   - Offer non-financial benefits in exchange for service/expertise
     - Volunteer hours/credit
     - Class credit - external internship through schools
     - Internship
     - Professional development training
     - Various training opportunities
ACTION ITEMS 4 YOU

Discuss with your team for each action item, then use 3 sentences to answer Action 1 - Action 4.

**ACTION 1**
**Come up with a:**
Benefit Statement

**ACTION 2**
**Think about:**
What are you currently doing?

**ACTION 3**
**Think about:**
What is your long-term goal?

**ACTION 4**
**Think about:**
Where would you like to be in a year?
PLEASE SHARE WITH US YOUR ACTION PLAN!
Questions?

Comments?

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Let's see how much you learned today!

Scan the code below to test your knowledge?
Please take a few minutes to give us some feedback!