



Northwest Regional SBHC TA/T Partnership

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Youth Engagement: What We Mean

- Working within a **Positive Youth Development** framework
- **Meaningful participation** by all youth, particularly youth who are marginalized, disenfranchised, and disconnected.
- Goal: allowing youth to **inform and influence** policy and decision-making, **contribute** to solutions, and undertake projects and initiatives that are of interest to them and that benefit our community.

Youth Engagement: Examples

Yes

Developing a Youth Advisory Council (YAC):

- **Youth identify** the issues important to them
- **Youth propose** solutions to those issues
- **Youth work** towards those solutions with the guidance and support of adult mentor/coordinators.

No

Coordinating an event with youth volunteers:

- Idea for event is generated by adults
- Event planned by adults
- Youth are brought to a meeting and issued volunteer jobs
- Youth show up to event, volunteer, and leave.

Benefits: Youth

- **Increased skills**
 - Leadership
 - Communication



- **Increased sense of self efficacy**
 - Feel more empowered
- **Increased health literacy**
 - Not just a consumer of services but active in the process

Benefits: Youth (cont.)

- **Youth voice represented in decision making process**
- **Youth receive more tailored health visit experience**
- **Engaged youth possess a sense of belonging and purpose – both are protective factors**



Benefits: Health Centers

- **Increased awareness and utilization**
 - Youth often trust their peers' referrals over that of an adult
- **Decreased stigma/ perceived barriers to access**
- **Positive advancements in policy decisions**



Benefits: Health Centers (cont.)

- **With youth input, health centers get a better sense of what will work realistically with programs and services**
- **Providers often find their sense of commitment and energy for the work is enhanced**
- **Better relationships develop between SBHC/ school**
 - Leads to greater integration into the school climate



Benefits: Schools

- **Better awareness-> greater utilization
-> healthier student population->
decreased
absenteeism**

- **Connectedness to
SBHC leads to
connectedness to the school**



Benefits: Families

- For Families:
 - **Youth engagement often leads to families being engaged as the health center provides an access point.**

How can families help?

- Fund raisers
- Health fairs
- Open house
- Testify at school board meetings and talk to legislators
- Volunteer to facilitate programs!



How can youth engagement help meet the challenges in the SBHCs?

Challenges:

- Funding
- Low utilization numbers (overall, or among certain populations)
- Strengthening relationship with the school
- Building legislative support
- Building community support





Group Activity

- Each group will have a facilitator and an assigned challenge that SBHCs face.
- Need to identify one note taker and one person to report out.

Questions:

- *How can youth be “engaged” to help address the challenge of the SBHC?*
- *What are 3 concrete steps towards engaging youth to address that challenge?*

Group Assignments

- **Green** → Funding
- **Blue** → Low utilization numbers (overall, or among certain populations)
- **Yellow** → Strengthening relationship with the school
- **Red** → Building legislative support
- **No Dot** → Building community support
- What to report back-
 - *How can youth be “engaged” to help address the challenge of the SBHC?*
 - *What are 3 concrete steps towards engaging youth to address that challenge?*

Resources

The **GLSEN Jump Start** guide has a section on **Youth Adult Partnerships**

http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/000/971-1.pdf

Youth On Board:

Youth on Board helps young people and adults think differently about each other so that they can **work together to change society.**

<http://www.youthonboard.org/site/c.ihLUJ7PLKsG/b.2039165/k.BE6D/Home.htm>

Information on creating **Youth/Adult Partnerships** – tips from Free Child Project:

<http://freechild.org/YAPtips.htm>

Community Tool Box: Including youth on your board, commission or committee

http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1380.aspx

Community Tool Box (or CTB) is a great tool , best used when you are exploring something for the first time , or are coming back to something you haven't done in a while. CTB is full of information and it can take a while to read through everything.

