BUILDING CAPACITY FOR YOUTH/ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

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TA Partnership Youth Engagement Team
HOW DO YOU BUILD AND CREATE YOUTH-GUIDED PARTNERSHIPS?

Answer:
You reach authentic youth-guided partnerships by strengthening capacity:

- Within your broader community (the micro level)
- Across your broader community (the macro level)
- Through your Health Transitions Initiative (your community’s operational umbrella for change)
KEY GOAL:
YOUR STATE MUST BE STRATEGIC AND INTENTIONAL ABOUT:

- Age and skill appropriate youth & young adult involvement
- You (Young adults): Developing relationships and partnerships with state partners
- Your community (adults): Developing relationships and partnerships with youth
ACTION STEP:

- Create a draft strategic plan of how to strengthen and build youth partnership

- This plan will serve to be your roadmap in implementing the principle of youth-guided

- The creation of this plan should (ideally) be lead by your Youth Coordinator
MY STATE DOESN’T HAVE THIS PERSON HIRED YET!!??!

CAVEAT: WE DON’T HAVE A YOUTH COORDINATOR!??!!

- Talk with your state partners about finding the most appropriate leader/facilitator

- This lead role should be held by someone with the ability to bring adults and youth together in a working capacity
#1 START SMALL AND START WITH WHAT YOU KNOW

Stop and think:
Where are your state’s accomplishments and history in youth and adults working together?

Remember:
Successful past projects + a new plan = Working smart and being strategic
#2 CREATE AN UPFRONT COMMITMENT

All partners (young adults and adults) must commit to be intentional about continuously developing youth/adult partnerships.

So in real life, in my community when I go home, what are some key examples of how this commitment would operate or be implemented?
IN THE BEGINNING THIS COMMITMENT MAY BE:

- Ensuring youth voice at the table
- Finding youth partners
- Accessing community partners with direct access to youth
- Identifying priority meetings for youth attendance
- Preparing the youth partners for the work environment and their role
- Educating adult partners about youth specific cultural competency issues
- Pairing youth and adult partners together for support and mentorship
AS YOU ADVANCE FORWARD IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT, THIS COMMITMENT MAY BE:

- Ensuring youth voice and actual representation at the table
- Formalizing partnerships within direct youth access channels
- Having higher and more consistent youth participation in advanced community work
- Holding youth/adult partnership building retreats and/or trainings
- Pairing youth and adult partners together for support, mentorship and collaboration
- Providing skilled youth partners with the role of guiding advanced community and policy level discussions
- Developing a ladder of new youth partners, expand leadership opportunities and also provide compensation
- Community partners contributing financially to the sustainability of community level youth involvement
For more information you can contact, Brittany Couch at bcouch@ffcmh.org or 405-706-5180
IDENTIFYING AND BREAKING DOWN MY STATE

Audiences:
- Elected officials
- Career employees
- Private/non-profit businesses and organizations
- Concerned citizens or recipients of services

Levels in each:
- Executive Level: Leaders & administrators
- Mid Level: Managers & administrators
- Direct Level: Managers & deliverers

Who has the authority? Who do people listen to and respect?
Who has the ear of these people with authority?