Nothing About Us Without Us: Authentic Youth Engagement in Public Health

Webinar
July 16, 2019
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Positive Approaches to Adolescent Health

Nothing About Us Without Us: Authentic Youth Engagement in Public Health

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Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs
Director of the Office of Adolescent Health
HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
July 16, 2019
OPA’s Youth Engagement Work

- Grantee Youth Leadership Councils
  - Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program grantees implementing evidence-based programs expected to have Youth Leadership Councils
  - Council members contributed by:
    - Providing feedback on programming and curricula
    - Recruiting and mentoring other youth
    - Delivering program content
    - Helping hiring program staff
    - Participating in communications activities
- 2018-2019 Youth Listening Sessions Special Project
  - Supported 13 grantees in exploring different strategies for soliciting youth input
  - Conducting listening sessions allowed grantees to get feedback or program ideas they would not have otherwise known about
Nothing About Us Without Us: Authentic Youth Engagement in Public Health

Elizabeth Berard, Youth Branch Chief, Office of HIV/AIDS, U.S. Agency for International Development

Topic: What is authentic youth engagement

Nikki Payne, Assistant Vice President

Dr. Nakisha Watts, Program Manager

Jordan Jones, Youth Leadership Council Member

Delta Health Alliance, Stoneville, Mississippi

Topic: Authentic youth engagement in practice
Positive Youth Development & Meaningful Youth Engagement

Elizabeth Berard
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July 2019
Overview

1. How does Youth Engagement fit in Positive Youth Development (PYD)
2. Youth in the drivers seat (2 examples)
3. Youth Engagement Measurement
4. Challenges & Opportunities
We’re all about **Positive Youth Development (PYD)**

**ASSETS + AGENCY + ENABLING ENVIRONMENT + CONTRIBUTION = Healthy, Productive, and Engaged Youth**
Definition: Meaningful Youth Engagement

YouthPower Learning
2 EXAMPLES
1. YouthPower Action:
Anyaka Makwiri (Smart Girl) Pilot

GULU, UGANDA

22 Anyaka Makwiri groups formed
490 Adolescent Girls Young Women (AGYW) participated
88 mentors trained to facilitate sessions
6 months implementation
Phase 2: **Girl-centered design** workshops told us:

**Challenges**
- Persistent gender-inequality
- Domestic-violence
- Sexual violence
- Early marriage
- Early pregnancy
- Lack of work
- School-drop out

**Desired information**
- Relationships
- Gender-based violence
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Communication
- Financial capabilities
Youth Led Community Projects

- Examples include:
  - Water source clean-up
  - Supporting the elderly by cleaning
  - Erected hand cleaning tap (Tippy Taps)
  - Fetching water for a health facility
  - HIV prevention skit targeting sex workers
2: **YOUTHLEAD**

The Virtual Destination Site for Young Changemakers

[www.youthlead.org](http://www.youthlead.org)
YouthLead Features and Content to Help Young Changemakers
YouthLead Ambassadors Selected

Alejandra Guatemala
Joseph Bangladesh
Shakira South Africa
Adebiyi Nigeria
Maryem Pakistan
Jupille Haiti
Purvi Nepal

Ephrem Ethiopia
Viktorija Macedonia
Wendy Bolivia
Israel Chad
Guacy Guyana
Rahama Mali
Natalia Peru

Danilsa Dominican Republic
Saje Philippines
Abdulwahab Yemen
Ebenezar Nigeria
Aung Myanmar
Ronald Zimbabwe
Youth Engagement Measurement

YouthPower Measurement and Indicators

Technical Brief: Making the Pitch for Youth Engagement

Six Tips for Increasing Meaningful Youth Engagement in Programs
# Youth Engagement Indicator Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement statement</th>
<th>Illustrative indicator example</th>
<th>Source</th>
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| Youth are actively engaged in program (a) design (b) implementation (c) monitoring and evaluation | • Number of invited young people in the program who attend 80% of all program activities.  
• Number/proportion (%) of youth participating in: ____________ (e.g., program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.)  
• Number of youth trained in monitoring and evaluation | PYD Measurement Toolkit |
| Community leaders see youth as credible and competent. | • Number of community leaders who adopt and implement policy recommendations made by youth  
• Number of community organizations or institutions that hire or appoint youth to leadership positions as a result of their efforts through the program | Indicators developed by YouthPower Learning |
### Challenges:
1. Youth voices need to reflect all youth.
2. Engage youth at all levels.
3. Provide youth more info on donors’ processes, projects, requirements.
4. Understand pain points for youth engagement.
5. Provide adequate funds for youth-led organizations.

### Opportunities:
1. Dialogue with youth has value in itself.
2. Insert specific language in their solicitations/RFPs ensuring direct support to youth-led organizations.
3. Consider direct funding support for youth-led organizations.
The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the United States Agency for International Development, the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief or the U.S. Government.