Authentic Youth Engagement

BY NIKKI PAYNE AND NAKISHA WATTS | DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE
Delta Futures Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Delta Health Alliance is a non-profit organization whose primary focus is on improving the health and education of those that call the Mississippi Delta home.
Our approach to this work is that we are deliberate and intentional when it comes to engaging our youth.

Prior to our TPP 15 funding, we offered Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART) to our youth.

From the feedback we received from the youth that participated in that program, we developed our current program.
Youth specifically shared that they wanted more classes like the BART classes.
Youth Leadership Council

Since the Delta Futures program covers 10 Delta counties, it was decided that we would have three Youth Leadership Councils (YLCs).

It was important that we gave all our youth an opportunity for their voice to be heard and have input in decisions being made about the program.
They selected officers and developed their own workplan.

When we met with our YLCs for the first time; it was expressed to them that the YLC was their group and we were there to support them however they needed support.
After the first couple of meetings, we passed the baton to them.

From there the YLC set their own meeting agenda.

They decided what projects they wanted to do.

Also, the YLC determined when, where, and how they were going to do their awareness campaigns.
Here are some of their projects
YLC of the Mid-Delta met with Mayor Rosenthal and discussed Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and asked if he would sign a proclamation.

**Indianola, Mississippi**

**PROCLAMATION**

**Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month**

**WHEREAS**, Every May we take the time to assess our progress and renew our commitment to teen pregnancy prevention.

**WHEREAS**, This year, we celebrate National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month by highlighting a dramatic decrease in teen birth rates with substantial declines in all 50 states and among all racial and ethnic groups.

**WHEREAS**, Delta Futures has implemented evidence-based programs or tested innovative strategies.

**WHEREAS**, The Delta Futures, a project of Delta Health Alliance, focuses on linking young people to youth-friendly health care and social services, and supports in their communities.

**WHEREAS**, Important progress in reducing teen pregnancy has been made, but we still have work to do, especially in addressing disparities.

**WHEREAS**, It’s critical that we continue to design, implement, evaluate, and improve teen pregnancy prevention programs that help adolescents and young adults thrive.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Steve Rosenthal, Mayor of the City of Indianola, in the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim May as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.
TPP Month Celebration
Homecoming and 3K Run/Walk
Follow our journey...

https://www.facebook.com/DeltaFuturesTPP
Lessons Learned
Questions?
Learn more about OPA:
www.hhs.gov/opa
www.hhs.gov/oah

Contact OPA: OPA@hhs.gov

Follow OPA on Twitter: @TeenHealthGov