

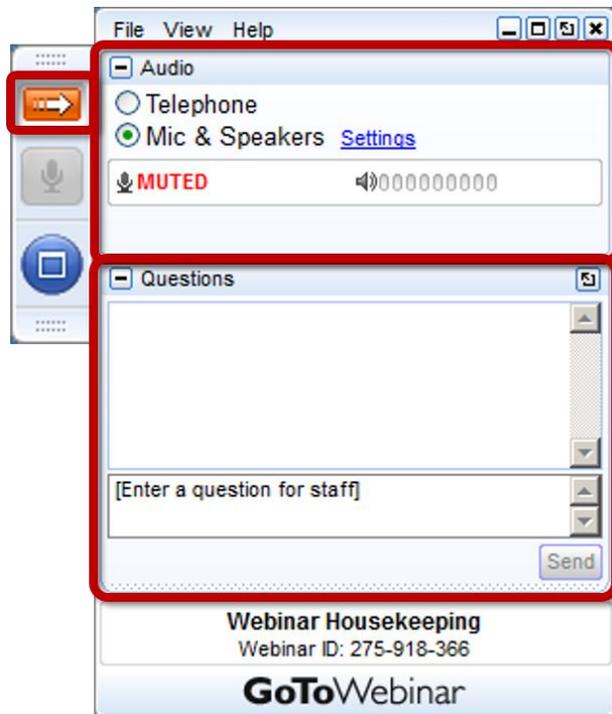


The Art of Youth Development and Leadership Programming Development

January 16, 2019

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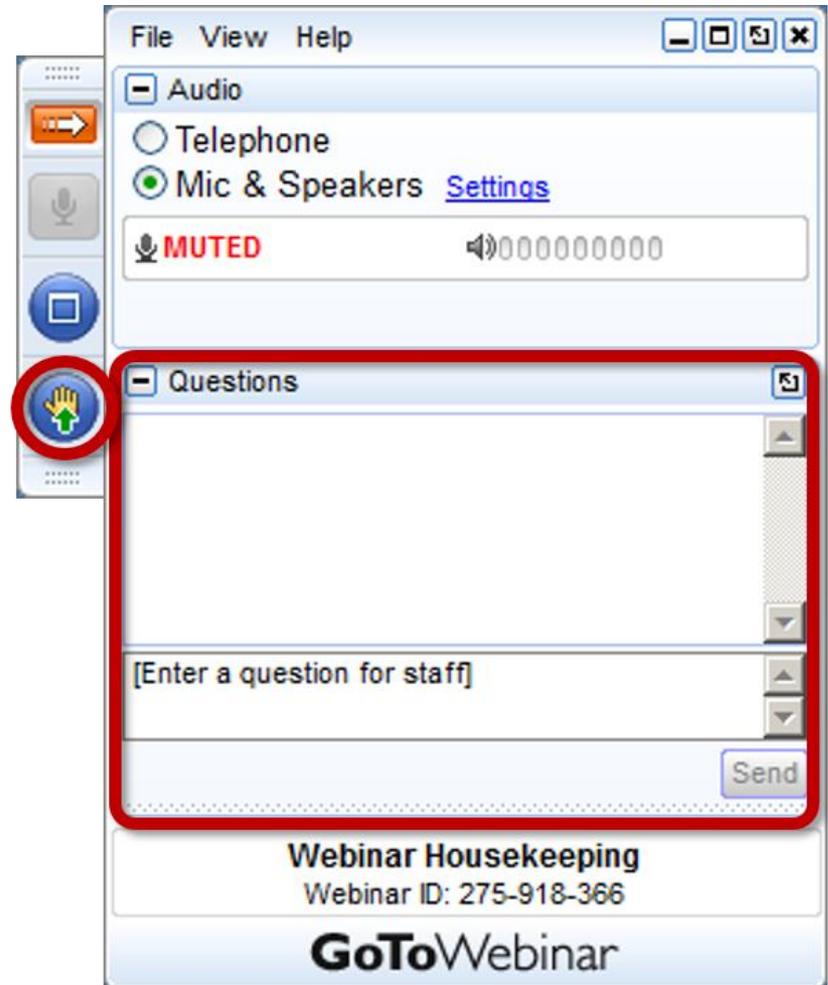
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The National RAISE Technical Assistance Center

Welcomes you to the webinar

The Art of Youth Development and Leadership Programming Development

Presenters

- **Josie Badger**
President, J Badger Consulting Inc
RAISE Co-Director
- **Michael Stoehr**
Knowledge Development and Technical Assistance Specialist with the
National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)
- **Liz Healey**
Founding and Retired Executive Director of the Parent Education and
Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center



Workshop Overview

Youth development and leadership programming has been recognized as a vital element of a successful transition. This webinar will discuss the value of youth led and driven programming, near peer mentoring, the role of an adult ally, and its successful implementation at parent training and information centers.



Framework for Designing Youth Engagement Strategies

Josie Badger, RAISE Co-Director

Youth Development



Youth development

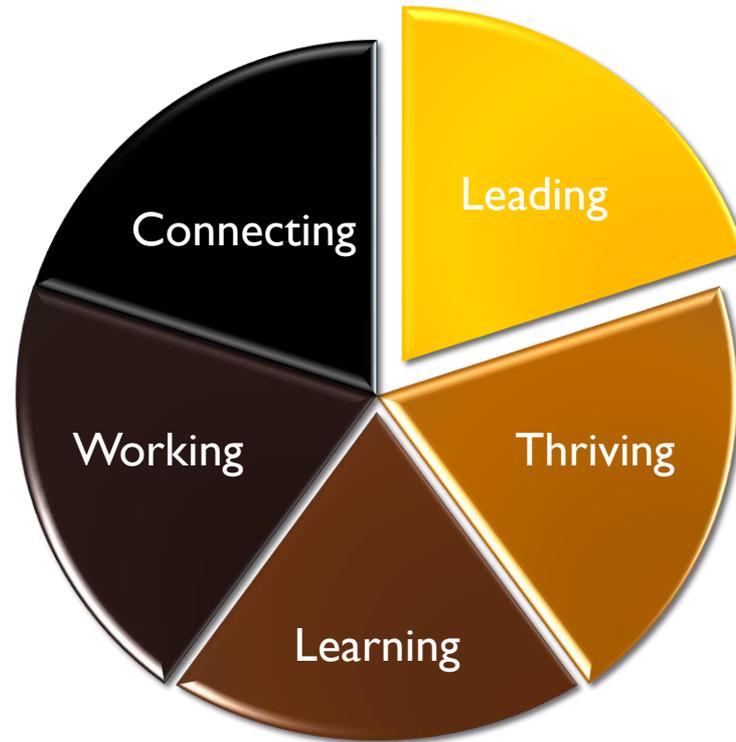
- Preoperational phase leading to adulthood

Youth Development Process

A coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent.

- Uses a strength-based approach, providing support for the individual to achieve their maximum potential.
- Youth benefit from being empowered through involvement in social change.

Youth Leadership



Youth leadership includes intrinsic and extrinsic leadership skills

Five Approaches to Youth Leadership Development

Formal Leadership Development– Supporting the development of youth skills through training, coaching and mentoring

Youth Partnerships– Engaging youth as partners in implementing initiatives both within the youth sector and beyond

- Youth-Driven Action- Supporting youth-led civil society and advocacy
- Youth Voice- Creating spaces for youth voices to be heard by decision-makers
- Youth Governance- Enabling youth oversight of initiatives



Vital elements of successful youth leadership programs

Near peer mentoring

Youth led, youth driven

Engaged adult allies

True change making opportunities

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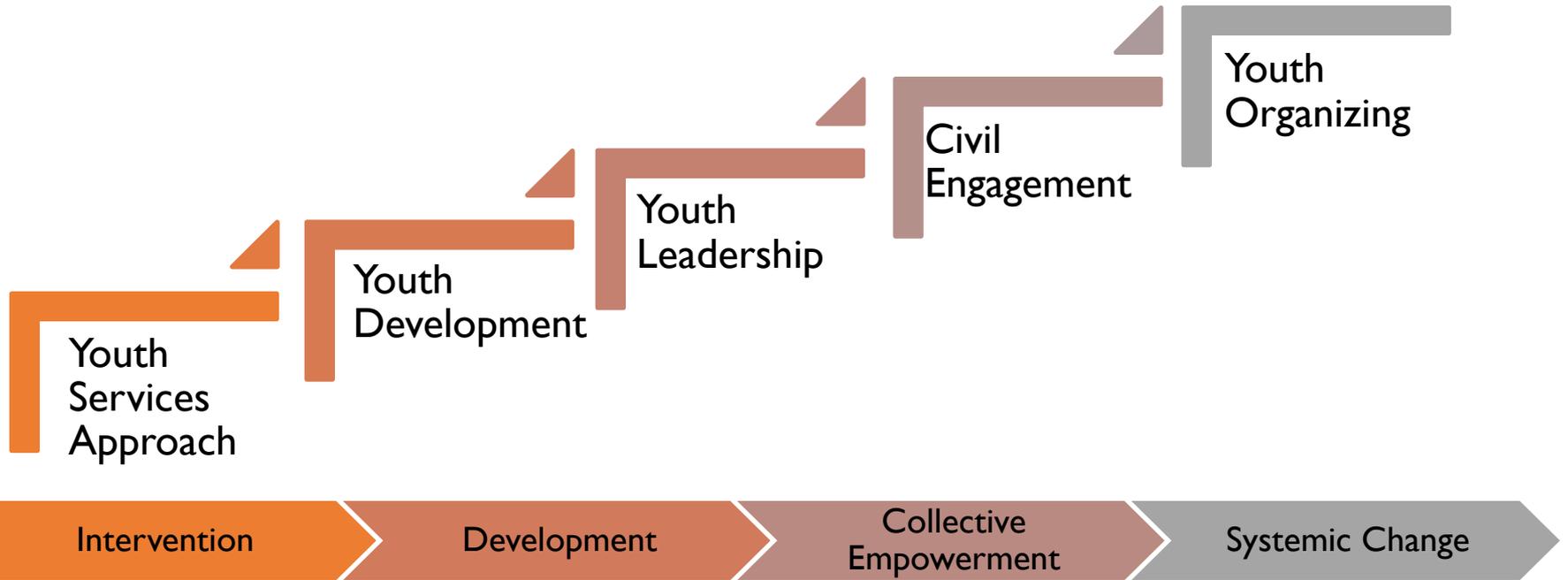


Strategies for Youth Engagement and the Role of Adult Allies

Michael Stoehr - NTACT



Youth Engagement Continuum



Core Principles for Engaging
Young People in Community Change, Forum
for Youth Investment,
http://www.forumfyi.org/files/FINALYouth_Engagement_8.15pdf.pdf

Strategies for Youth Engagement

They feel like they are being listened to

Making their own decisions

When they are being respected

Part of the conversation

Not being judged

Asked their opinions

Involved in the planning process

Spoken to in an age appropriate manner



Misconceptions Regarding Youth

General stereotypes about young people

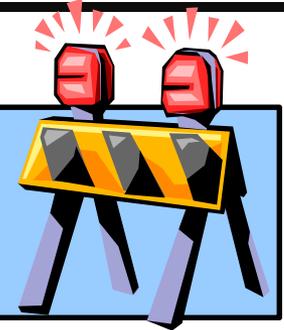
Young people lack experience and knowledge and are therefore left out of decisions that may directly affect them

System limitations and/or logistical issues



System Limitations and/or Logistics

Scheduling	Often youth are not available at the same time as adults for board meetings, conference calls or other leadership activities. Due to the fact that most adults in leadership roles work during the same time that youth are at school or at work, it often takes creative scheduling to meaningfully include youth.
Transportation	Due to a youth's age and/or the way his or her disability might impair mobility, it is always important to consider the transportation needs associated with leadership activities.
Accommodations	Much like transportation, in order for a youth to participate in a leadership activity to the best of his or her ability, there may be a need to provide accommodations. The type of accommodations will depend entirely on the needs of the youth.
Liability	Federal and state laws govern how adults can engage with youth and young adults. Underage youth, after hour events, etc.



Additional Barriers to Youth Engagement

Lack of knowledge and previous experience

Low expectations

Few opportunities

Lack of stable support system

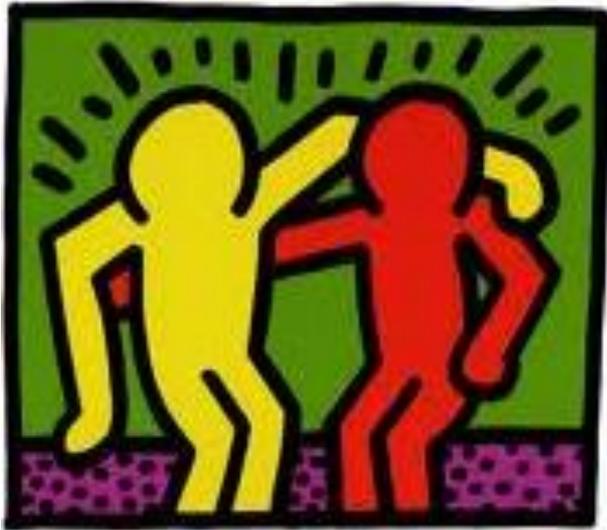
Lack of confidence

Time

Transportation

Independence \neq doing everything for yourself Interdependence is key

We all need a little help from our friends.



Important for families and adult allies to support youth as they set their life course

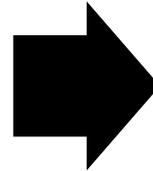


Role of the Adult Allies



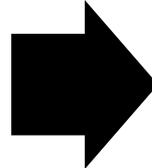
ADULT ALLIES – A CHANGE IN MINDSET

The Drivers



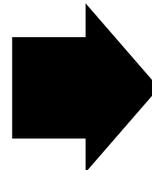
**The
Supporters**

I Teach You



*We Learn
Together*

“I will just do it.”



**“You can do it. I
am here to help!”**

How Have Youth Supported Adult Allies Growth?

Kept me honest...

I have learned...

Shared with me new perspectives

Challenged me to consider innovative solutions



Adult Allies – Ideal Beliefs



Confidence in
Youth

Sharing the
Power

We all have
Unique Talents
and Strengths

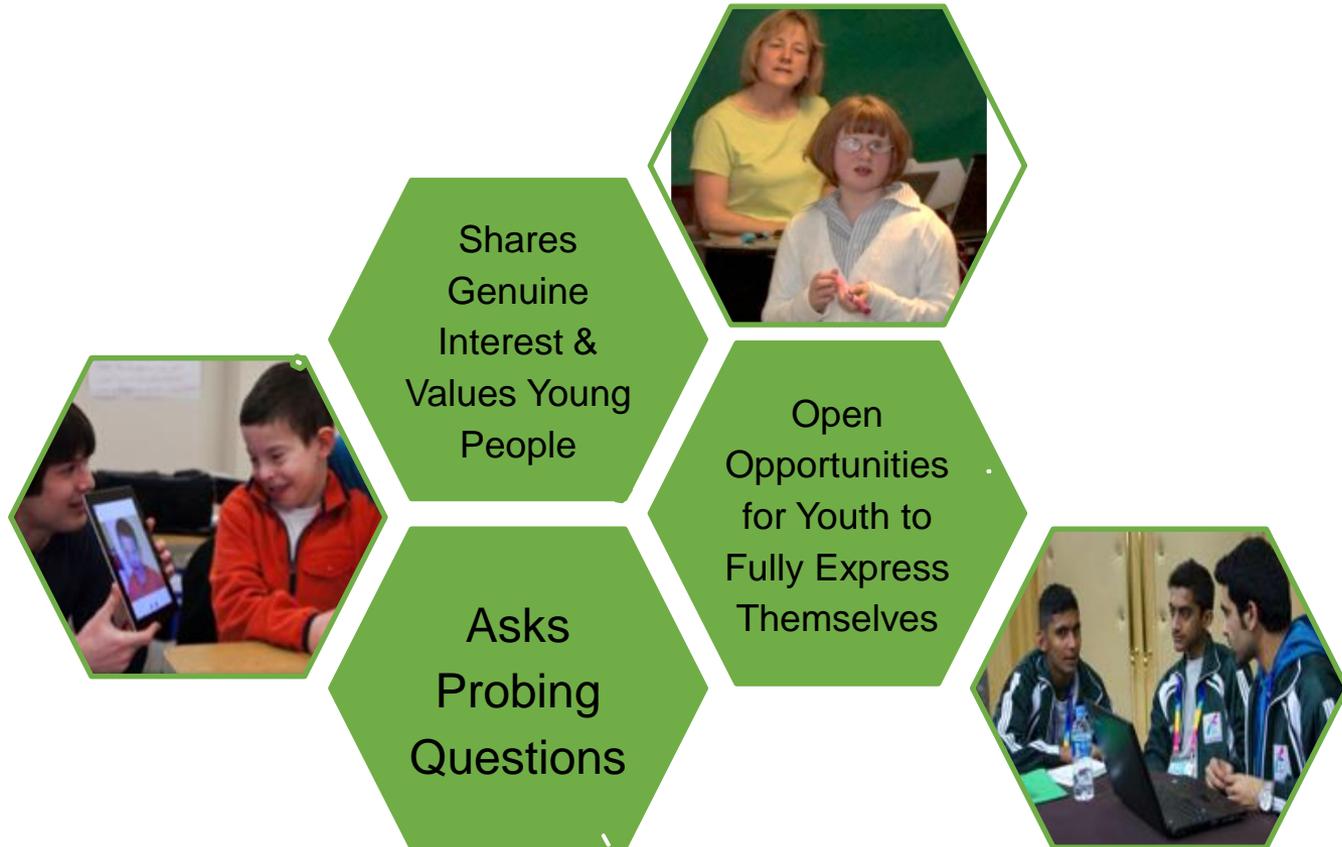
Every Opinion
Counts!

Partnerships



A young person should see an adult ally as a person who “always has their back”, but also knows when to “back off” so that the young person believes they can do anything!

Adult Allies – Ideal Characteristics



Questions Young People May Ask

They tell me I need to participate but does it make a difference?

The future starts today,
not tomorrow.
~PJP II

Are my ideas really considered?

When I speak, the meeting 'stops.' I feel that I am not taken seriously.





Key Components of a Successful Youth Engagement Program





Key Components of a Successful Youth Engagement Program

Youth-driven

Needs-based

Offers a safe, neutral atmosphere

Engages parents, peers, teachers and others in the community

Develops critical life skills, including work skills

Provides up-to-date-information on issues critical to youth

Develops social networking and language skills

Provides opportunities for civic advocacy and service projects



Key Components of a Successful Youth Engagement Program

Engages youth in design, implementation and evaluation

Offers graduated levels of challenge

Builds connections among youth across societal divides

Provides opportunities for youth to take the lead

Combines learning and social action with fun activities

Builds skills and confidence

Raises the visibility of youth in the community and recognizes their contributions

Builds social capital





Contact Information

www.transitionTA.org

Michael Stoehr

mstoehr@uncc.edu

412-596-0299



NTACT

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition

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Questions

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JUST DO IT!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP BY AND FOR YOUTH

Liz Healey

Retired Executive Director

PEAL Center – the PA PTI & F2F



Why make youth leadership a priority?

- 2014 OSEP made youth self-advocacy and self-determination a priority for PTI
- It makes a huge difference in the lives of youth!

Going all in »



Youth Leadership Development — parallel focus to parent leadership activities

- Awareness
- Information
- Engagement



Awareness

PEAL GOAL I: Ensure that youth, including ... are aware of and have access to information and training, and active participants in the educational process.



Information

PEAL GOAL 2: Provide information and training that assists youth, including....to be effective self-advocates in transition.



Engagement

PEAL GOAL 3: IMPROVING SYSTEMS/YOUTH. Youth, including will inform the process of improving service delivery to better serve youth with disabilities.

Very ambitious! Recommendations from Carmen Sanchez

RIGHTSIZING

- Elevate the person developing youth work from Coordinator to Director
- Pare down activities – be realistic given available resources
- Cut reporting data points to small number of key indicators



Who should do this work?

Lead by near-peer mentors

Josie Badger, *Director of Youth Leadership formerly*





Who should do this work? *more*

Katie Smith, *Youth Leadership Assistant*





Project Revisions

Focus on Youth Leadership

Objective: Increase and improve the self-awareness, self-acceptance, self-advocacy, and self-determination of young adults and youth with disabilities in order to improve their adult life outcomes.

Reduced data collection points

INPUT

- Number of **youth attending** face to face presentations, workshops, and trainings
- Number of different **informative resources or materials shared** with youth (includes handouts, flyers, toolkits, PowerPoints, Facebook informative articles, and informative emails)
- Number of different **opportunities or events** shared with youth (includes handouts, flyers, Facebook events, and emails)

IMPACT

- Number of **youth who have led presentations or trainings** or have **helped to create new materials** with the PEAL Center that demonstrates a progression in self-advocacy and leadership (includes face-to-face, videos, webinars, and all materials for dissemination)



Reduced data collections points

INPUT

- Number of new informational documents, PowerPoints, worksheets, or handouts created or collaborated on by the youth leadership team

IMPACT

- Number of youth involved in networking opportunities

Opportunistic funding youth leadership events

- HRSA State Improvement Grant – partner with AAP in initiative
- PA Department of Health – transition mini-grants
- By invitation PA Department of Health – targeted grants for youth leadership activities

Youth Leadership Development Institutes

TWO DAY ACTIVITY

- Curriculum designed by Youth Leadership staff
- Invited known youth to plan and participate in presentation
- Usually at a hotel with overnight stay – parent or other responsible adult accompanies youth
- BUT Separate parent sessions by parent advisor staff
- Culminating activity – video youth speak outs

NEXT ROUND

- Recruit youth to plan and co-present the next institute

Follow-up Opportunities

- Whitepapers developed by youth for policy makers and state disability program administrators
- Opportunities to meet with state program administrators to present whitepaper concepts
- Opportunities to present at conferences
 - PA State Transition Conference
 - Family Voices Leadership Conference via video
 - SIG Conference

Summary

- Trusted Near-Peer Mentors to lead this work
 - I got out of the way
 - Found additional resources to support these activities
- Actively planned with youth the accommodations they would need to participate
- Provided a ladder of opportunities to assume leadership roles
- Created an environment where the participation a very diverse group of youth was valued
- Youth were heard by people with the authority to make changes

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Questions

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Contact Us!

Josie Badger, josiebadger@hotmail.com

Michael Stoehr, mstoehr@uncc.edu

Liz Healey, healey.liz@gmail.com



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for joining us for this Webinar!

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