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Webinar Housekeeping
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Note: Today’s presentation is being recorded and the link will be sent to you when it is available.
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

- 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 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
References


Strategies for Youth Engagement and the Role of Adult Allies

Michael Stoehr - NTACT
Youth Engagement Continuum

Youth Services Approach

Youth Development

Youth Leadership

Civil Engagement

Youth Organizing

Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change, Forum for Youth Investment,
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Limitations and/or Logistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheduling</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accommodations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liability</strong></td>
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<td>Federal and state laws govern how adults can engage with youth and young adults. Underage youth, after hour events, etc.</td>
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## Additional Barriers to Youth Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lack of knowledge and previous experience</th>
<th>Low expectations</th>
<th>Few opportunities</th>
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<td>Lack of stable support system</td>
<td>Lack of confidence</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
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Additional Barriers to Youth Engagement
Independence ≠ 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**

*I Teach You*

“I will just do it.”

The **Supporters**

*We Learn Together*

“You can do it. I am here to help!”

*The RAISE*
How Have Youth Supported Adult Allies Growth?

Kept me honest...

Shared with me new perspectives

I have learned...

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

- Asks Probing Questions
- Shares Genuine Interest & Values Young People
- Open Opportunities for Youth to Fully Express Themselves
Questions Young People May Ask

Are my ideas really considered?

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

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

The future starts today, not tomorrow.

~PJP II
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
Questions
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 1: Ensure that youth, including … are aware of and have access to information and training, and active participants in the educational process.
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
Questions
Contact Us!

Josie Badger, josiebadger@hotmail.com

Michael Stoehr, mstoehr@uncc.edu

Liz Healey, healey.liz@gmail.com
Thank You
for joining us for this Webinar!

Please complete our survey

For more information, please contact us at:
raisecenter.org