

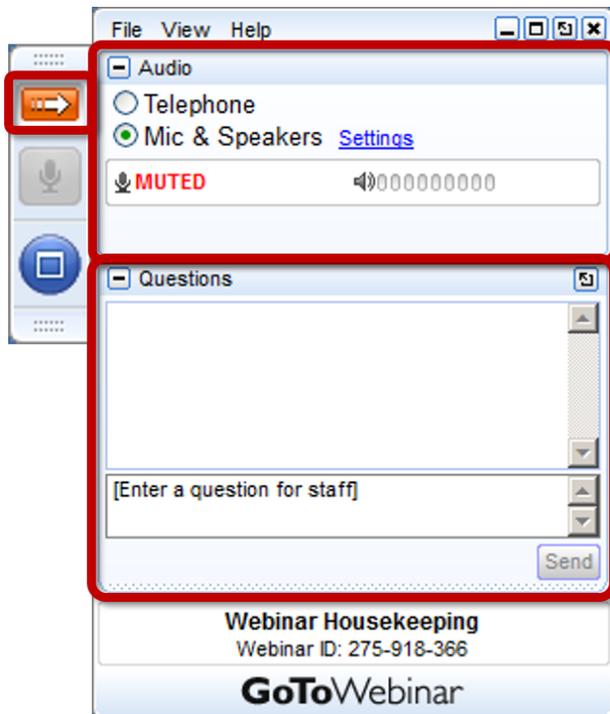


# Enhance Authentic and Meaningful Youth Engagement: Using the Y-VAL

February 20, 2019

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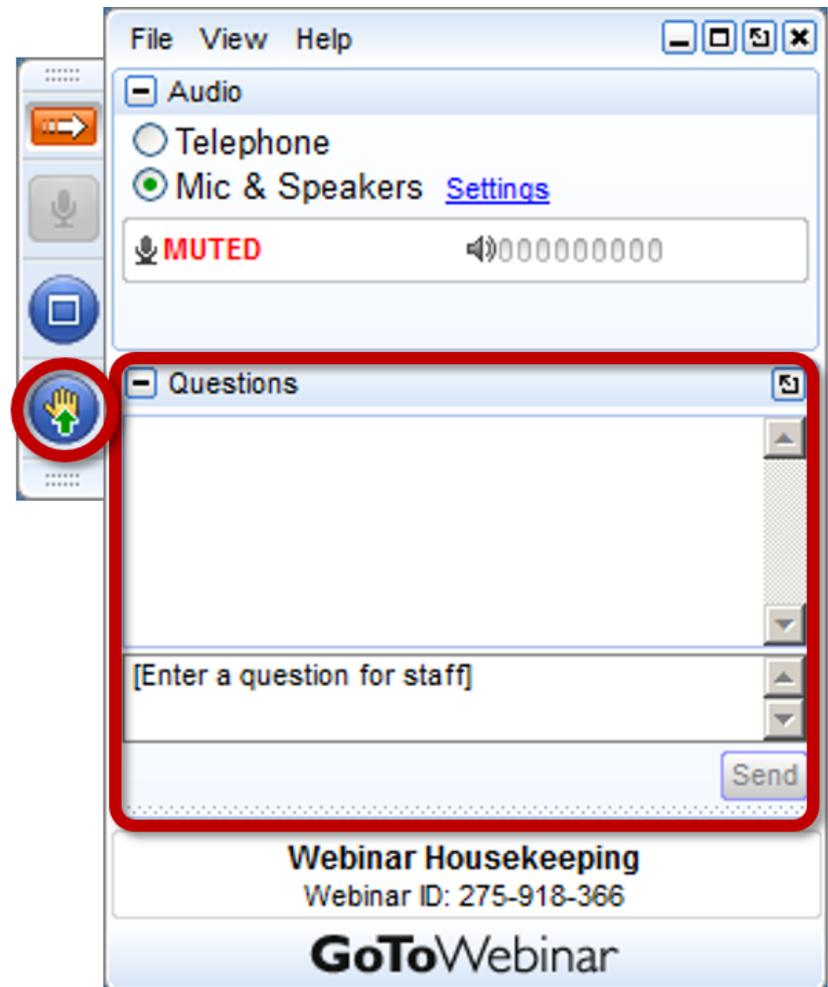
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# Questions

## Your Participation

- Please continue to submit your text questions and comments using the Questions panel
- Please raise your hand to be unmuted for verbal questions.

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# Enhance Authentic and Meaningful Youth Engagement: Using the Y-VAL

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Brie Masselli, Youth Program Director  
Alice Topaloff, Operations Coordinator



# Acknowledgements



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# Presenters



Brie Masselli, MA  
Youth Program Director,



Alice Topaloff, MS  
Operations Coordinator,





## Who We Are:

- **Youth MOVE National** is a youth-driven, chapter-membership organization dedicated to improving services and systems that serve youth, such as mental health, juvenile justice, education, and child welfare.
- **MOVE** stands for **M**otivating **O**thers through **V**oices of **E**xperience. Members share their voices of experience through advocacy and leadership activities to change the very systems they have lived through.
- There are more than 65 chapters nationwide.

# Overview

- The value of youth-driven care
- The value of young adult participation in advising and decision-making at the organizational level
- The need for assessing best practices for youth engagement
- Overview of the contents of the Youth and Young Adult Voice at the Agency Level (Y-VAL)
- The process for implementation of Y-VAL assessment and TA

# Youth Voice

Research shows patients and their families who actively engage for with their health care teams have better outcomes, often choose less expensive options when participating in shared decision- making, and express greater satisfaction with their health care experience. Center for Advancing Health Report: *Here to Stay- What Health Care Leaders About Engagement:*

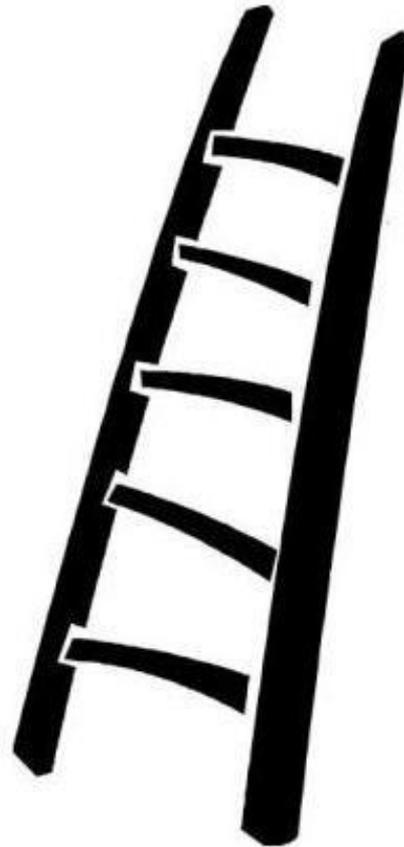
- *Engagement is active*
- *The health care system doesn't make engagement easy*
- *Everyone benefits from engagement*
- *Engagement is demanding and many are unprepared*
- *Partnerships are required*

# Youth Driven Care

Youth Driven that young people have the right to be **empowered, educated,** and given a decision-making role in the care of their own lives as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in the community, state and nation. This includes giving young people a **sustainable voice** and then **listening to that voice**. Youth guided organizations create safe environments that enable young people to gain self **sustainability** in accordance with the cultures and beliefs with which they identify. Further, a youth guided approach recognizes that there is a continuum of **power** that should be shared with young people based on their understanding and maturity in a **strength based change process**. Youth-guided organizations recognize that this process should be **fun** and **worthwhile**.

# Meaningful Participation

## Ladder of Youth Voice



8. Youth/Adult Equity
7. Completely Youth-Driven
6. Youth/Adult Equality
5. Youth Consulted
4. Youth Informed
3. Tokenism
2. Decoration
1. Manipulation

# Benefits of Authentic Youth Engagement

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Contribute to the designing and implementation of new polies

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Changes institutional culture and practice

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Builds awareness & common understanding

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Builds sense of community

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Builds self efficacy

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Improves individual and organizational outcomes

# What is the Y-VAL?

- Provides a framework of key indicators of meaningful and successful Y/YA voice in program design at the agency level.
- Assessing allows for a collective and reflective process to better understanding where the agency with Y/YA Voice
  - Promotes a shared vision for success
  - Identifies strengths and needs
  - Supports with moving towards sustainable engagement
- Help young people advocate for meaningful participation and support
- Aids in assessing impact of technical assistance



# Developing the Y-VAL

- Partnership with Portland State University
- Review of existing assessment tools that looked at youth voice in organizational programming
- Input, review and edits from Youth MOVE National's Youth Best Practice Committee
- National validation study

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# Y-VAL Themes

Overall Vision and  
Commitment

Collaborative  
Approach

Empowered  
Representatives

Commitment to  
Facilitation and  
Support

Workforce  
Development

Participation in  
Developing  
Programs &  
Policies

Participation in  
Evaluation

Leading Initiatives  
and Projects



# Responses

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
<b>LEAST DEVELOPED</b> none of the aspects in place/not true for our agency		<b>MIDWAY</b>		<b>FULLY DEVELOPED</b> all aspects consistently in place/completely true for our agency	Does not apply, or I do not know about this

# Overall vision and commitment

## Formal Policy

- The agency has a formal policy that describes why and how it involves young people in advising and decision making.
- This policy
  - describes the types of decision making and advising that Y/YA will participate in
  - describes the levels in which the Y/YA will have decision-making power they will have (for example, if Y/YA will have equal say in what it decided).
- Young people collaborated in developing this policy and it is periodically updated to reflect new circumstances.
- The policy is written in language that young people find easy to understand.



# Domain I: Overall Vision and Commitment

## Poll: Formal Policy

The agency has a formal policy that describes why and how it involves young people in advising and decision making.

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
<b>LEAST DEVELOPED</b> none of the aspects in place/not true for our agency		<b>MIDWAY</b>		<b>FULLY DEVELOPED</b>	Does not apply, or I do not know about this

# Collaborative approach

## **Youth- and young adult friendly meetings**

- The agency has worked with young people to establish good meeting practices that encourage young people to engage in meeting activities.
- Good meeting practices include providing meeting materials in advance, keeping meetings short and efficient, beginning with ice-breakers or sharing time, explaining acronyms and jargon, and providing food and taking regular breaks.
- Meetings are scheduled at times and locations that Y/YA can attend.

# Empowered representatives

## **Appropriate Representation**

- The young people who are a part of the agency's decision making have received or are receiving services, or they have similar lived experience to the young people that the agency serves.

# Commitment to facilitation and support of Y/YA participation

## Dedicated Staff Time

- The agency employs someone to help support Y/YA to participate in advising and decision making.
- This person is either a Y/YA with lived experience or someone with relevant expertise that is selected by Y/YA.
- If the agency does not have a staff member who does this, then the agency contracts with a Y/YA-run organization to support Y/YA participation.
- Y/YA have significant input in selecting the person for this role and may prioritize demonstrated skills in supporting Y/YA participation over lived experience.



# Domain 4: Commitment to facilitation and support of Y/YA participation

## Poll: Dedicated Staff Time

The agency employs someone to help support Y/YA to participate in advising and decision making.

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
<b>LEAST DEVELOPED</b> none of the aspects in place/not true for our agency		<b>MIDWAY</b>		<b>FULLY DEVELOPED</b> all aspects consistently in place/completely true for our agency	Does not apply, or I do not know about this

# Workforce development

## Staff Training

- Staff orientation and training clearly communicate the agency's respect for young people's perspectives and commitment to empowering Y/YA participation in decision making.
- Staff orientation and training describe the agency's policies around facilitating and supporting Y/YA voice.
- Y/YA are involved in developing and delivering this aspect of the staff orientation and training.
- All staff are provided professional development focused on support for Y/YA voice, collaboration with young people, Y/YA empowerment, and positive Y/YA development approaches.



# Domain 5: Workforce Development

## Poll: Staff Training

Staff orientation and training clearly communicate the agency's respect for young people's perspectives and commitment to empowering Y/YA participation in decision making.

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
<b>LEAST DEVELOPED</b> none of the aspects in place/not true for our agency		<b>MIDWAY</b>		<b>FULLY DEVELOPED</b> all aspects consistently in place/completely true for our agency	Does not apply, or I do not know about this

# Participation in developing programming/program policies

## Respect of youth and young adult culture

- Young people have significant input in efforts to ensure that agency climate, environment and policies reflect Y/YA culture and preferences.
- These efforts may include Y/YA involvement in:
  - social media and communications policy and management,
  - aspects of the physical environment (Y/YA-friendly décor, etc.),
  - policies around Y/YA privacy and confidentiality, and
- Developing opportunities for Y/YA community engagement and informal peer support.



# Participation in evaluation

## Feedback on services

- The agency regularly gathers confidential feedback from young people receiving services to ensure that programming is meeting their needs.
- Young people do not experience negative consequences as a result of giving honest feedback.

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# Leading initiatives and projects

## **Control of funds**

- Y/YA leaders control or co-control funds they raise or co-raise.
- There is transparency about how these funds are distributed and used (e.g., Y/YA understand that the costs of hosting a fundraising event may be deducted from the amount of funds raised).



# Domain 8: Leading Initiatives and Projects

## Poll: Control of funds

Y/YA leaders control or co-control funds they raise or co-raise.

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
<b>LEAST DEVELOPED</b> none of the aspects in place/not true for our agency		<b>MIDWAY</b> all aspects consistently in place/completely true for our agency		<b>FULLY DEVELOPED</b>	Does not apply, or I do not know about this

# Implementing the Y-VAL in your agency

- At least 15 people will need to take the survey (youth/young adult and adult participants)
- A point person at the agency will be sent a survey link, and asked to share the link with relevant people in the agency
- YMN will help sending reminders, track participation, etc.
- YMN will generate an agency-specific report including:
  - Y-VAL scores
  - Areas of growth
  - Resources and Technical Assistance in those areas

*Interested in taking the tool? Contact Josie Badger [badger@raisecenter.org](mailto:badger@raisecenter.org)*

*Interested in learning more about the tool? Contact YMN [info@youthmovenational.org](mailto:info@youthmovenational.org)*

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# Questions





# Stay connected & for more information

<http://www.youthmovenational.org/yval/>

[bmasselli@youthmovenational.org](mailto:bmasselli@youthmovenational.org)

[atopaloff@youthmovenational.org](mailto:atopaloff@youthmovenational.org)



**Thank You**  
for joining us for this Webinar!

**Please complete our survey**

For more information, please contact us at:

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