Creating Effective Youth Advisory Councils in MCH Programs

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Link to archived recording (Adobe Connect):
http://amchp.adobeconnect.com/pk5p860u2muh/
What to Expect

• What we will cover (or try to with time permitting)

• What we won’t be able to cover (at least not on this call)

• Questions? You got ‘em, we want ‘em
Why we’re here

Keywords: Youth Advisory Council, Young Leaders, Youth Advisors

• How do we better engage with young people to advance our Title V priorities?
• Youth Engagement ranges along a continuum
• YACs → learn how to organize and mobilize
Objectives

• Describe how YAC got here… found their own identity
• Demonstrate the steps to create a participatory process (youth-adult)
• Present what makes YAC engaging and effective
R.I. DoH Youth Advisory Council

Collaboration with the Office of Special Needs

• Comprised of youth and young adults who have demonstrated leadership through their involvement with Dare to Dream or other statewide youth initiatives

• Have an interest in helping their peers who want to improve their school and communities
Why YAC?

Consider the benefits of this level of engagement

• Enhance efforts to meet the unique needs of your populations
  • Raise awareness of important health issues across the lifecourse
  • Provide expertise in adolescent and young adult health care and service delivery
  • Build leadership and grow professional skillsets among youth → they are the future workforce after all!

• How other YACs came to be

Getting started...
Appropriate Infrastructure

How far and how deep?

• Buy-in is crucial
• Remember the continuum!
  • Start small—focus on one topic area or community
  • Consider building upon existing efforts or models
  • Expand to include multiple foci
  • Working up to maximum investment → what could that look like?
• What level do you want to pursue?
Making it official

YAC Bylaws

• A flexible deadline to ensure participation
• From Ideas to bylaws’ chapters
• Serves a quality measure
• Leave a legacy

PR DOH Administrative order #359

• Internal Law of the agency
• Research, Review and Re-Write
• Own it like the Constitution

http://tiny.cc/PRYAC_Bylaws

http://tiny.cc/PYD_AO359
Tomorrow’s Leaders Today

How do we recruit a diverse and thoughtful group of youth?

• Move beyond just the “usual suspects”
  • Multiple talents and skills
  • Unique experiences
• Strategies led by state health department agencies/divisions
• Latching on to what others are already doing
  • Leveraging partnerships / networks to access these youth
1- Youth – adult Stakeholders Brainstorming

- 34% were youth
- Criteria for selection was discuss
- Committees were created

2- Committee of recruitment implement the process

- 50% were youth
- Enrollment requested specifications were agreed on
- Procedure to evaluate the youth was develop

3- Developing and using a rubric for YAC recruitment

- Methods to evaluate youth were developed
- Two exercises were done to select the advisors

Building the YAC from the PRDOH Point of View
As YAC described:
✓ Open Minded
✓ Entrepreneur
✓ Leader

- Ensure the participatory process
- Recognize their characteristics
- Remember the agreements
Organizing and Coordinating YAC activities

We’ve got them on board, now what?

• Mission and vision
• Roles of members (youth AND adults too)
  • Clearly defined
  • Feasible, realistic, and aligned with mission
  • Mutual
• Coordination
  • How do other YACs meet, decide priorities, complete activities, and communicate?
Finding YAC identity

- Getting to know where YAC belong
- Design a Mission and Vision
- Putting a face to the name
- Creating a brand
- Making it official
- Amazing leads to be effective
Amazing leads to be effective

Evaluate everything

Change the timeline, not the Goal

Quality vs Quantity

From 25 to 18 and at least 8 to 10

All for one and one for all
Harnessing the Impact

The added value that these young people bring to our work

- Among specific MCH programs and initiatives
- In other public health related efforts
- Among the youth and young adults themselves

Jocelyn Hernandez, Katherine Harvey, and Samuel Ramos

Youth Advisors-
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
How is our effectiveness shown?

- Federal Agencies
- PRDOH
- MCAH
- Community

ZIKA Awareness Activity, Cleaning at the Natural Reserve of Tortuguero, Connection with communities and schools

Biosecurity, Centers for Sexual Assault, Health Promotion, HIV Prevention, Communications Office

Review of Title V Adolescent Domain, Being part of the Family Inclusion Committee, Review of campaigns and Annual Visit Initiatives

HRSA, SAMHSA, AMCHP, AAP

Senate, Municipalities, DOE
Applying these experiences to MCH in your state

Consider the Title V Block Grant as a starting point

• Opportunity to strengthen family and consumer partnership
• Advance specific performance measures and priority areas
  • Not only limited to adolescent health domain
You can do it!!

- Focus on the goals
- Ensure a Participatory Process
- Establish the governance

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Ready to Continue the Conversation?

Join the Youth Engagement Community of Practice!

• Focused on improving the capacity of MCH professionals and advocates to increase youth engagement in Title V programming
• Share knowledge and resources
• Convene learning sessions
• Identify range of promising and best practices on engagement
• Problem solve and offer innovative solutions

Interested? Click here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/yecop2017
Closing Remarks and Reminders

We appreciate you being here today!

- Session recording will be made available → please share with colleagues and friends that could not make the live call
- Evaluation
  - Did you learn a lot? Felt something was missing? Want more detail on a specific area we covered? Tell us!
    - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mchyouthadvisorycouncils](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mchyouthadvisorycouncils)
- Have additional questions or want to connect with someone you heard on this call?
  - Contact Iliana White at iwhite@amchp.org
Thank you!

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