



Youth Engagement in Adolescent and Young Adult Health Care

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News You Can Use

❖ [The Adolescent Health Initiative \(AHI\)](#) has issued a Call for Breakout Sessions, Oral Presentations, and Poster Presentations for the [5th Annual Conference on Adolescent Health!](#) Please submit abstract forms to adolescenthealth@umich.edu. You may submit multiple abstract forms. **Deadline for Submission is Friday, October 6, 2017 at 5:00PM EST.**

Greetings from the Adolescent and Young Adult Health National Resource Center (AYAH Center)!

Your friends and colleagues are pleased to be sharing our bi-monthly newsletters with you. Throughout the year, we will use this newsletter to:

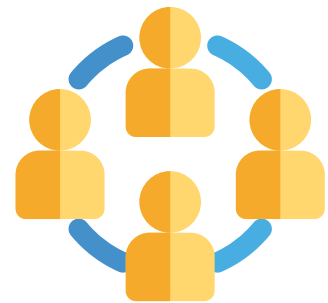
- Provide information about trending topics in adolescent and young adult health and health care
- Share our resources, including resources from the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN)
- Keep you up-to-date about upcoming events related to adolescent and young adult health and health care

To subscribe to the newsletter, email Karissa Charles at ktaylor@amchp.org. We welcome your ideas and feedback, and you are free to unsubscribe at any time.

From the Experts

A Young Adult Perspective: Meaningfully Incorporating Adolescent and Young Adult Voices in our Work

By: *Xavier A. Barraza*
Intergenerational Learning Practitioner
Innovation Swarm Collective
xavier@innovationswarm.org



The rights of Adolescent and Young Adults (AYAs) to take part in and influence processes, decisions, and activities that affect their lives were declared in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.^{1,2} In 2003, the World Youth Report stated that AYA participation across sectors leads to better decisions and outcomes.¹ How does the kind and quality of AYA participation in health systems determine the kind and quality of AYA health?

The Adolescent and Young Adult Health-National Resource Center (AYAH-NRC), through its Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network (CoIIN) project, collaborated with the intergenerational think tank, the Innovation Swarm (IS). The IS is working with the CoIIN to: reimagine strategies for forming self-organized communities of practice, explore democratic processes of evolving the relationships between youth, adults and health systems, allow for a pluralist understanding of health where all knowledge is validated and each person is a content expert in their



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News You Can Use

❖ **The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs** hosted a webinar about engaging stakeholders in Title V & MCH activities as a critical method in ensuring best practices and culturally appropriate factors are accounted for. Several state Title V agencies have utilized structured Youth Advisory Councils to help carry out several of their MCH activities. Learn more on how these councils get started, how they are led, and the impact they have created in their communities by listening to the archive of this webinar by clicking [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

❖ **The Best Practices Technical Assistance Replication Project** is part of an AMCHP strategic goal to improve maternal and child health outcomes by sharing effective and promising practices with state and territorial MCH programs. Recipients are awarded \$10,000 each to replicate a component of a current emerging, promising, or best practice in Innovation Station.

own right³, and allow for emerging new ways to break down, produce, and reproduce scientific and cultural knowledge about health.

The IS performed peer-to-peer interviews to build relationships with AYA leaders of the CoIIN. The interviews are also supporting shared learning and helping set the stage for further cross-state collaborations and formations of communities of practice.

Common themes in the interviews were:

- Creating peer-to-peer learning cultures; an AYA expressed the self-empowerment of “... learning how to better communicate my well-being and needs to myself and others ... by being part of a culture where we share in our own way how our body is feeling today.”
- Community-based capacity building programs; an AYA working in nursing said, “I see us do more trainings about language and culture, relationships between provider and patient. I don’t think it’s as impactful as we’d like it to be. There’s only so much I can understand while sitting and listening. I need to meet these patients/people.”
- Community-ownership and intellectual authority; an AYA learning about state health efforts emphasized the importance of “... us being able to identify, label and study our own communities, our ways of health and caring for our health. I hear my community called ‘low-income.’ We didn’t decide on that name.”

Insights from these AYAs reflect a “communitarian” and humanistic approach to health care⁴, an approach deliberated by the U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau as early as the 1970’s⁵ and recently invested in by the Public Health Center for National Innovations in Tacoma, WA, for a hyper-local participatory budgeting process by community.⁶

The evidence presented by leading international agencies have made clear young people’s right to participation and the negative consequences of failing to include them. It’s noted how communities will face their own unique journeys in developing systems and cultures of participation, and how that development “represents a profound challenge to most traditional attitudes toward young people ... and a radical change in youth-adult relationships in all spheres of life ...”.¹ The relationships, cultures and knowledge co-constructed in projects like CoIIN are what shape the project’s legacy.





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Save the Date

❖ [2017 National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence](#)

Sept. 26-28, 2017. San Francisco, CA.

Connect with the nation's leading medical, public health, and family violence experts from across the U.S. with increased international participation to advance the health care system's response to domestic violence.

Workshops, scientific posters, and plenary sessions highlight the latest research and most innovative clinical responses to domestic violence, with a focus on the work being done by health care and public health professionals

❖ [The International Association for Adolescent Health](#)

October 27-29, 2017. New Delhi, India.

India has the world's largest population of adolescents and will provide the perfect backdrop to the 11th World Congress. The Congress will combine clinical and public health perspectives, and present new approaches and best practices that can contribute to accelerated action for adolescent health and rights, both globally and with specific reference to India and the sub-region.

Addressing the complex problem of serving the social and legal responsibilities of AYA's right to health challenges the capacity of current health systems. How might intergenerational communities of practice continue to increase capacity and shared learning by considering how certain things are happening or might happen, such as: whose culture is a topic of programming or is a focus of research?

- How youth and adults can prepare themselves mentally and emotionally for a democratic and self-organized way of learning and engagement
- How to co-create spaces where multiple ways of knowing and doing can coexist?
- How to practice iterative processes for sharing, evaluating and defining values, power, authority, and language?
- How to support capacity building of AYAs to create their own knowledge cultures and systems around health?
- How to acknowledge the "intellectual authority" of AYA communities whose culture is a topic of programming or is a focus of research?

Resources:

¹ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/worldyouthreport.pdf>

² <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>

³ http://www.globalagenda.org/publications&style_id=0

⁴ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58179867579fb3b841354581/t/595b874de110eba00f7454ed/1499170762951/Fostering+Agency+to+Improve+Health.pdf>

⁵ <http://mchlibrary.jhmi.edu/downloads/file-34-1>

⁶ http://phnci.org/uploads/resource-files/PHNCI-Innovation-Grant-Program-Project-Overviews_FINAL.pdf

⁷ <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1043659606295567>

CoIIN Corner

Check out how some of the AYAH-CoIIN state teams are engaging AYA in the work they are doing to increase the rates of the Adolescent Well Visit in their state:



Maryland: Maryland recently added a second youth representative to its team, and will brainstorm ways to engage youth via the CoIIN that could serve as a model or starting point for others to use at the state or local level.



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Save the Date

❖ [SAHM 2018 Annual Meeting: Global Adolescent Health Equity](#)

March 14-17, 2018. Seattle, WA, USA.

Diverse multidisciplinary adolescent health professionals from throughout the world will assemble to share, discuss, critique, and generate strategies that ensure that all young people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to achieve healthy, productive, and meaningful lives.

❖ [5th Annual Conference on Adolescent Health](#)

April 23-24, 2018. Ypsilanti, MI, USA.

Save the date for our 5th Annual Conference on Adolescent Health, April 23-24, 2018! We are excited to bring a multi-disciplinary audience of adolescent health professionals for two days of research, breakout and plenary sessions, poster presentations, and networking events!

Quick Links

- ❖ [AMCHP](#)
- ❖ [NAHIC](#)
- ❖ [NIPN](#)
- ❖ [SAHRC](#)



Minnesota: Minnesota is engaging statewide partners and young people to promote preventive health visits through a marketing campaign, and improve well visit quality, equity, and experience for adolescents and young adults (AYA). With a strong focus on authentic engagement, the team recruited 10 YAs, ages 18-23, to offer their insight, voice, experiences, and guidance on this project. This group will meet for a retreat in August to connect, share and plan strategies for their ongoing work with the broader state team. Minnesota is also recruiting a diverse group of young people from both urban and rural areas to participate in a marketing project aimed at increasing awareness and utilization of preventive health care for AYA. The young people will be a part of the brainstorming, storytelling, and final product development



New Hampshire: For the New Hampshire team, engaging youth in our project work is new territory. As part of the AYAH CoIIN effort, we have successfully recruited four youth members to participate in our state team project. We have two high school students and two college students, all of whom are interested in or currently pursuing education in the health care field. Some activities that the youth will assist with include reviewing and selecting a clinic “youth friendliness” assessment, completing the assessment with the clinics, reviewing School Administrative Unit policy on annual adolescent well visits, and providing perspective on project work at quarterly state team meetings. We will continue to work with the youth to identify activities that they would like to work on.



New Jersey: New Jersey Department of Health is committed to actively engaging adolescents and young adults (AYA) in our programs and initiatives. Through the AYAH CoIIN, NJDOH has taken several steps to build a strong foundation for meaningful youth engagement and contributions, with the goal of AYAs helping shape how NJDOH programs engage and serve their peers. Since the start of the AYAH-CoIIN, NJDOH has hired our AYAH-CoIIN youth representative, Isabella Gonzalez, to work collaboratively with youth and adults to build a statewide Youth Advisory Board, held a two-day training on Youth Engagement and Partnering, and recruited over 10 youth to participate on the YAB which will focus on the adolescent well visit from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2018.



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Washington: Washington CoIIN II Cohort parents, providers, partner leaders are energetically promoting AYA engagement as catalysts for change. Young people are often the first promoters of social reconciliation — despite the stereotype of the clash of generations. Thus, our Washington CoIIN youth engagement entails active co-facilitation in an intergenerational collaborative network called the "Innovation Swarm," a project that promises to integrate AYA perspective into health care policy and practice through a database to share and exchange ideas!

Selected Resources from the AYAH Center



Check out the AYAH Center's Youth Engagement Resources!

- [Web-based Toolkit: Youth-Centered Care](#) (NAHIC) offers resources and examples related to the eight global standards developed by the World Health Organization to assure receipt of quality youth-centered care.
- [Compendium of State and Local Strategies](#) (NAHIC) provides promising practices from "top performing" states related to improving access to health insurance and quality preventive visits among adolescents and young adults through innovative efforts such as creating partnerships, reaching special populations, using social media, engaging youth and more!
- [Youth Engagement Webpage](#) (SAHRC) provides guidance and tools on engaging youth in state level program and policy development, including Title V needs assessments.
- [Know Your Health Toolkit](#) (New Mexico AYAH CoIIN) was developed in partnership with youth. This resource is intended for health care providers and staff to utilize in promoting and empowering adolescent and young adult health. The goal of this resource is to increase: 1) youth-friendly environments/services; 2) preventive health services; and 3) youth health literacy. The final toolkit will be released shortly. This is a PowerPoint presentation on the toolkit given by New Mexico's Adolescent Health Coordinator, Tessa Medina-Lucero, MPH.

From the MCH Community



State Tools

[The Value of Youth Advisors](#): *Promoting Promising Practices to Help Youth and Young Adults Reach their Full Potential*, a resource put out by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, discusses implementation of an innovative practice, the Youth Advisor Model.

[Colorado's Guide to Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships](#) is a resource for any organization seeking to develop and maintain a successful youth-adult partnership.



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[Standards for Youth Engagement](#) were developed after extensive analysis of survey responses of more than 200 Colorado young people, ages 12-20. The survey sought out the experiences and opportunities that young people identify as critical to their personal investment in youth serving organizations. In addition to the survey findings, these standards were informed by best and promising practices for engaging youth.

[Youth Engagement Matters Online: A self-study](#) is an online course put on by the University of Minnesota's Extension Center for Youth Development based on the Rings of Engagement, which shows the range of youth engagement and youth-adult partnerships.

[New Mexico Youth Engagement Training](#) is a resource which includes tools for teams to use when training their staff on youth engagement

[Youth Participatory Action Research Curriculum](#): YPAR shows how organizations serving youth can authentically engage youth in policies and programs that impact their lives. This curriculum was developed in partnership between the Oregon Health Authority and the Institute for Community Research as a tool to support youth-adult partnerships and help youth-serving organizations integrate youth voice into their work.

National tools

[No Kid Hungry Youth Engagement Toolkit](#) – Provides an understanding of “what works” in engaging youth, with tools that can be used to broaden the base and immediately engage youth support in the fight to end childhood hunger.

[Act for Youth Center of Excellence, Youth Engagement Toolkit](#) – A collection of tools and resources for youth engagement, including: Youth in Decision Making, Strengthening Communities through Youth Participation, Youth as Evaluators, and Washington Your Voice Handbook

[Youth-Led Health Center Assessment Tool](#) – This brief assessment encourages youth to evaluate health centers by reflecting on their environment and services.

[Youth Engagement Resources](#) – A resource by Youthprise with guidance for organizations to create their own youth advisory groups.

[Creating and Sustaining a Thriving Youth Advisory Council](#) – A collection of youth experiences and recommendations compiled by the University of Michigan's Adolescent Health Initiative.

[Youth Advisory Structures: Suggestions for Agency Practice](#) – An informational guidebook to help organizations create their own youth advisory groups.

[Barriers to Wellness: Voices and Views from Young People in Five Cities](#): To better understand the obstacles to well-being experienced by young people of color, the Center for Promise implemented a youth-led (youth participatory research) health and wellness assessment in five cities: Boston, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, and St. Paul. This report provides an overview of this process and the findings.

[Trying Hard: An Investigation of Youth Engagement and Voice in Community Programs](#) is a qualitative study of eight San Francisco Bay Area organizations on practices that fostered youth decision-making. Evidence gathered suggested that adults' youth development knowledge, their willingness to share power with youth, and sufficient resources are key to fostering youth engagement and voice.



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[**Youth Engagement Series**](#) is a webinar series developed by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America in partnership with the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy that provides insights and information on how to effectively engage youth in prevention. Hear from youth who are currently involved in coalition work and from adult members who successfully integrated youth into the fabric of their coalitions. Includes factsheets on engaging Latino/Hispanic and Native/Tribal youth.

[**Linking Youth Engagement to Clinical Outcomes**](#) – A report compiled by the Ontario Centre for Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health that looks at the research demonstrating that youth engagement can lead to improved clinical outcomes.

[**Youth Adult Partnership Rubric**](#) is a tool from Michigan State University and Neutral Zone for professional development and program evaluation in youth settings.

[**Youth-Adult Partnership Tools for Creating Quality**](#) – A collection of tools for continuous improvement in youth-adult partnerships from the University of Wisconsin Extension.

[**How Participatory Action Research Can Promote Social Change and Help Youth Development**](#) – A report by Harvard University

[**Youth Adult Engagement Readiness Assessment**](#) – A self-assessment tool for organizations to help them determine the extent to which they already engage youth in their programs, their strengths in engaging the youth, and their challenges in engaging youth more.

As promised in our previous issue (June/July 2017)—Social Determinants of Health in Adolescent and Young Adult Health Care, we are sharing the link to Drs. Brindis and Tebb’s research article, below:

[**Addressing Social Determinants of Health Among Adolescents and Young Adults: Strategies from the Field**](#)

Upcoming Newsletter Issue



Stay tuned for the October/November issue: ***Family Engagement!***

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