

The Power of Youth-Led Efforts to Change Behaviors

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Project Director Consortia

Project Director – May Sagbakken, Albuquerque, NM

Project Director – Lori Uttech, Beaver Dam, WI

TAS – Jennifer Kitson



Safe Schools
Healthy Students

Learning Objectives

- Recognize research implications for positive youth development and youth involvement in reaching positive outcomes
- Identify effective steps to meaningfully engage and involve youth in program planning, implementation and evaluation
- Consider challenges and unexpected benefits of involving youth in behavior change
- Consider steps to involve your community's youth as agents of change

Youth Participation in Behavior Change – What the Research Indicates

- Positive youth development of all young people –
 - youth recognized as assets
 - youth engaged in program development, design, implementation and service delivery
 - Youth contribute as active agents of change
 - Major elements
 - Opportunities
 - Competencies
 - Connections
 - Supports
 - Contributions

Youth Participation in Behavior Change – What the Research Indicates

- Youth involvement in this work benefits...
 - youth
 - adults
 - organizations
 - communities

May Sagbakken, Project Director Albuquerque, NM

Youth actively involved and engaged in -

- Design and development
- Decision-making
- Process
- Behavior change
- Illustrated with Albuquerque video flashmob – Stop Bullying Now

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q75wVSdeN8w>

- And more...

Lori Uttech, Project Director Beaver Dam, WI

Youth actively involved and engaged in -

- design and development
 - decision-making
 - process
 - behavior change
-
- Illustrated with high school student developed TV media video clip
 - And more...

How To...

- **What lead you to engage youth?**
- **What strategies were used to recruit and engage?**
- **What key steps were necessary?**
- **How did you track and gage indicators of success?**

Learnings...

- **What barriers and challenges were experienced?**
- **What unexpected opportunities were identified?**
- **What were your Ah-Ha's?**
- **What would you have done differently?**
- **How will the youth engagement in behavior change be sustained/expanded?**
- **Tips for others**

Q&A



Involving your community's youth as agents of change

Discuss at tables -

- How might each of you involve youth in behavior change?
- What actions are necessary to begin the process?
- What first steps will you take?

Resources

2008 National Resource Center for Youth Services –

Positive Youth Development Toolkit: Engaging Youth in Program Development, Design, Implementation, and Service Delivery

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/>

Being Y-AP Savvy: A Primer on Youth-Adult Partnerships, June, 2010, ACT for Youth Center of Excellence at Cornell University

<http://www.actforyouth.net/documents/YAP-Savvy.pdf>

Creating Community Change: Challenges and Tensions in Community Youth Research, 2002, María A. Fernández

[http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/docs/final MF IssueBrief CreateCommChange_1002.pdf](http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/docs/final_MF_IssueBrief_CreateCommChange_1002.pdf)

Making it Work: A Guide to Successful Youth-Adult Partnerships, 2002, produced through a joint partnership between the Texas Network of Youth Services and the Prevention and Early Intervention/Community Youth Development, Division of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

<http://www.tnoys.org/resources/Youth%20Adult%20Partnerships%20Guide.pdf>

Resources

National Center for Youth Development

<http://www.nrcyd.ou.edu/youth-engagement/youthadult-partnerships>

The Building Partnerships for Youth Program Assessment Tool, by the National 4-H Council and the University of Arizona to help program administrators and personnel assess their program's current capacity to address 21 elements of youth development and thus make informed decisions regarding future program directions.

<http://cals-cf.calsnet.arizona.edu/fcs/bpy/assessmentTool.cfm>

Youth Development and Youth Leadership, National Standards and Quality Indicators, National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition

<http://www.nasetalliance.org/youthdev/index.htm>

Contact information

May Sagbakken, Program Manager – Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative

www.abqsafeschools.org

(office) 505-855-9798

sagbakken@aps.edu

Lori Uttech, Project Director - Dodge County Connections, Safe Schools / Healthy Students Initiative

(office) 920-885-7300 Ext 1151

UttechL@beaverdam.k12.wi.us