Understanding Contexts of Youth-Adult Partnerships: Call notes (Nov. 19, 2012)

Actions:
-Rebecca will send out a coding book in Excel near end of Nov.
-Rebecca will send subset of key questions near end of Nov.
-Nish will send outcomes questions
Next call: Wed. Dec 5 at 3:00 EST (12:00 BC, 2:00 SK, 4:00 NB/NS, 4:30 NL)

1) Introductions: Tania, Patti, Scott (Saskatoon Youth Launch), Stoney, Zhen (Toronto), Linda (St. Catherines), Isabelle (now in Ottawa!), Marla (Kitchener), Rebecca (Kitchener), Nish, Gord (Victoria)   **Regrets:** Sandra, Robin

2) Preliminary partnership model:
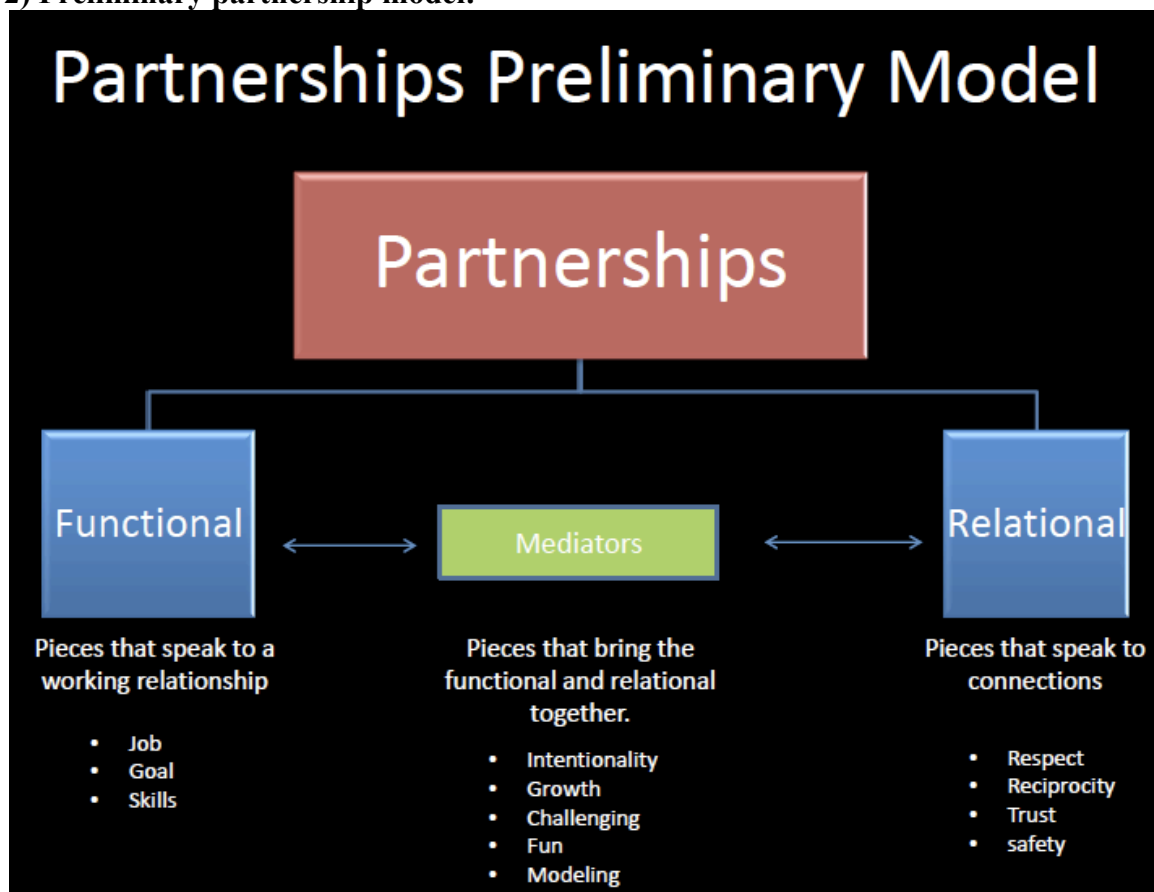
-how is partnership different from other working relationships? not just friendships (relationships), but also goals (function)
-includes personal relationships – learning about each other outside of the partnership too
-in a partnership, it can't be purely functional, or purely relational, if it falls too much to either side, it doesn't work
-mediators help to keep it from going too far to one side or the other: balance what the work is and the relationship (e.g. growth, skills, new understanding of each other, stereotypes and assumptions, modeling skills, power sharing and balance, barriers and challenges – always pushing to grow and push things forward)

Where do Outcomes fit in this framework?
-as it stands, outcomes strung through all of it: skill recognition falls into relational and functional elements; outcomes are in the mediators too, focus on gaining something keeps it balanced
-all these elements feed into outcomes – include an outcomes box beneath
-another way to look at it is that both adults and youth are focused on the outcomes of the project and partnerships are an outcome and mediator to the overall project outcomes (conceptualize project outcomes above the partnership). E.g. YMCA GTA team coming from the belief that partnership is an effective way of reaching the outcomes we want to reach - setting up the partnership is not the end goal
-are the project outcomes better because of the balance between functional-relational elements and that it's a partnership?
-in a functional model, you'd have 100% function, in a relational model, you'd have 100% relationship – what's the percentage of relationship and functional? What is the emphasis…like a balancing scale, balanced on mediators
-balance shifts at different times, with different individuals, so many different factors so you adapt and adjust to move it forward
-Saskatoon: good fit, could add tasks bullet to the functional component
-youth program outcomes: what does a project look like with a partnership model compared to other projects – would be neat to look at this at some point

Where does Context fit in?
-could be a mediator, could shift positioning to one side or other
-each group write up a context piece, each team may have some shared/different bullets
-Kitchener context: functional, mediator, relational to speak directly how the Kitchener group fit into these pieces
-how did Kitchener group do in this model, what would the standard be?
-we could create a standard based on all the teams – but then we would have to place some value on some of the bullets (e.g. respect is paramount, and if you don't have that, your partnership is not as strong). Frequency of factors (e.g. intentionality came out really often in Kitchener team), but are we going to equate frequency with importance?
-Instead, this is a way to characterize partnerships in general
-would be interesting to see if there are common or not common factors in the teams
-Isabelle: include the structural things that enable relational factors; you could just have a functional relationship because the structure does not facilitate relationships
-structural mediators and barriers: e.g. time constraints, independent work structure, individual achievement is rewarded and partnerships are not
-for YMCA project, it does resonate – time spent developing terms of references, building skills, and taking the time to have dinner together…could use the model through the history of the YAC, look at documentation and minutes we've been taking since the start – group is very conscious of being the first and of its history
-in Saskatoon, we have 2 projects going on at the same time: our own study of our YAP and external data we've collected from students and teachers and this model would fit with both.

Common questions
-Kitchener team interview guide available in Nov. 7 call notes or
(http://www.studentscommission.ca/yap/proj_03_e.php#rqi)
-with BGC teams, we're taking key subsets or replacing/combining with team's questions
-may add a lot of questions to the teams' existing questions
-Heartwood data has already been collected, could look back at existing raw data
-Saskatoon: we asked very similar questions to students and teachers and used similar questions for our internal team
-Victoria: 3 or 4 similar questions, build questions based on answers
-could add to this framework together
-seems to be agreement with the teams on this call to try to look at similar questions and/or analysis framework

3) Face-to-face meeting: 1.5 days, central corridor in/near Toronto, please post on Doodle re general availability and post specific preferences in comments section
-so far, seems to be a general preference for sometime in Feb or early March