

Dave, Stoney, Tania, Marina, Gord, Robin, Susan, Nish
Regrets: Linda, Rebecca, Marla, Bonnie, Serena, Kaeli

Next call Monday May 13 at 2:00 EST

Team updates/sharing findings

1) YMCA GTA (Stoney)

Data collection with youth, adult staff, Board members:

- Interviews, snapshot survey, common questions have been added to the focus group
- Documentation of the process of how the committee has grown and been institutionalized

Organizational impacts:

- This committee will be formally representing the YMCA GTA as part of the adult team at the National meeting
- How the youth-adult relationship has changed: adults have increased value for the committee, power for adults related to the committee, access to the youth advisory as a validation for their work or to do their own work, higher profile as it gets more directly linked to executive

Challenges:

- Keeping the advisory group aligned with other leadership initiatives in the organization and keeping it diverse and rooted in the roots of organization, how do we keep this group connected to the broad diverse youth voice in the YMCA?

Strengths:

- The strategy for building this was deliberate and thoughtful, sensitive to the stages of organizational change, process was fluid and organic, and had a vision
- As a 3rd party, the Centre worked independently with pockets of youth voice, bridge to them
- Conscious awareness of different ways to bring decision-making input (program-level, governance, etc.) some are formal and informal

2) Nutana, Saskatoon (Tania and Marina)

Team update:

- Patti has taken a new position at U of S, Bonnie busy, Tania in classes, Marina at EGADZ, Davie and Scott no longer on the team.

Data collection

- Transcribed interviews and focus groups, Tania will check transcriptions after her last final (April 25th!)
- Individual interviews with adults, focus groups with students

Preliminary findings

- Students felt that there were YAPs, adults felt there were not true YAPs – adults felt that there were a lot of things that need to change in school system
- Surprised by teacher feedback, about the history – the main reason for student engagement was because of one staff, core background of Nutana and how she got the ball rolling, then everyone started to engage more and more, important for describing history/context
- Students felt that teachers were involved in their lives, but teachers felt restricted within what they were allowed to do, needs to be more flexibility in how they teach
- Patti was the backbone, supported to keep us going, how do projects transfer, what roles Patti played, and how can we transfer?

Action: Tania/Marina: note the ways that Patti supported the team, will help transfer roles and describe youth-adult partnership in research

3) Victoria team (Gord and Robin)

Indicator toolkit update:

- Indicator resource toolkit finalized and signed off, available to Ministry of Children and Family Development, will be posted publicly after May election
- Includes champion's guide for implementation, evaluation tool to support ongoing data collection on how the guide is being used, overview of the toolkit
- Round of piloting this spring - data collected evaluated the process, resulted in some changes, reduced number of indicators, some indicators seen as duplicates
- Indicator categories: organizational readiness, youth-adult partnerships, youth leadership and decision-making, youth as evaluators, youth diversity
- Process facilitated by local youth and adult, first couple of meetings to build partnerships, common language, 3rd meeting evaluation data collection. 4th meeting asks 'So what?', then planning session
- Someone appointed in each region to lead
- Built toolkit into work of service delivery areas, people tasked to integrate, structural support in the Ministry
- Child and Youth Care Association of BC - community-based service providers, were excited by the toolkit
- PHAC is looking for a toolkit, embed links into existing resources

Data collection:

- 4th year student analyzed interviews with youth co-researchers, included common questions, just submitted the report - presented at Ministry of Child and Family Development meeting

Action: post indicator toolkit on YAP website, post analysis report on YAP website

4) Nova Scotia project (Dave)

- Difficult to describe, not following up enough in the on the ground project, what we anticipated doing and what we did were different
- In terms of quantitative data collection, did not happen and qualitative data had already been collected

- Focus on value of themes and data across all the projects, publications that help pull it up in terms of patterns
- Real world stuff that impacts what we're doing: degrees of separation, good intentions for pairing youth organization/academic, importance of strong relationships, history, structure to facilitate relationship

Other research projects and updates:

- Study re: volunteering for at-risk youth, what are the benefits?
- Study re: benefits for youth from restorative justice program

5) John Howard, Youth Centre, NB (Susan):

Data collection

- Focus group with the leadership team at the Centre - guards and youth
- Didn't need to ask questions even though we had a protocol, they took it over, despite our intentions of typing it up on the wall, but they were more interested in the process
- Focus group with the Quantum group - 4 staff and each bringing 4 youth, 3 notetakers, 2 facilitators...more like a youth forum than a research project
- Capturing notes without recordings is good, digital consent from parents (already have consent from overall project)
- Students will do open-coding from all the data, not separate groups, won't know that one group is in jail and one is not

Preliminary findings:

- Importance/strength of trust between staff and highest-risk youth, this program has specialized staff working with them. It's an interesting role that other provinces don't have.