

National YAP call notes (May 27, 2013)

Linda, Robin, Lacie, Nish

Regrets: Marla, Serena, Stoney

Next Call Monday June 10 at 2:00 EST

1) Introductions:

Linda Rose-Krasnor, Brock U, working with YMCA GTA's Youth Advisory Council
Robin Swets in Victoria, Ministry of Children and Family Development, youth engagement initiative Vancouver Island and provincial (experiential toolkit that establishes and assesses YAPs and Youth Engagement in our services and at the organizational level)

Lacie, NB, co-researcher with Youth Matters team, 2 different sites: youth in Mirimichi Youth facility (custody centre), and kids who are involved in Quantum program (John Howard)

Nish, Victoria, working with the National Youth Council of the Boys and Girls Club and coordinating across teams

2) Updates:

Lacie: Youth Centre (Mirimichi):

- Discussion forum to define YAPs, notetaking, coding the data

Emerging themes:

a) Power

- perception of exercising their own power and the correctional officers exercising power
- rules
- feeling that their (youth) power is diminished
- Youth Matters team is a leadership team there, they have a sense of power there, they make their own decisions, bend the rules
- decision-making together with adults

-Linda: is power like the more you have the less someone else has, zero-sum, or is it more like love, not about giving up in order for others to get - might be useful to conceptualize as the latter

-Robin: if you're transparent about roles, interests and passions within the partnership, it's whoever has the role has the power in the partnership. In some cases, youth clearly take the role. More healthy and functional than debates about whether youth or adults have more power. It protected the space for meaningful youth involvement in partnership

b) Relationships:

- connections between youth and correctional officers (trust, communication, openness)

c) Mutuality: reciprocal relationship, how they view each other, teamwork, learning from each other (adults and youth)

-Robin: new meaning and purpose for both, is cross-cutting

-Linda: benefits for adults - appreciation for alternate perspectives, lead to more program effectiveness

-Lacie: alternate perspectives, balance, good for them to see how their rules are perceived, how they can be excessive, learn patience, differences between correctional officers that have children and those that don't (work with kids and those that are more enforcers), learn new approaches for different youth, communication

-Robin: in MCFD, adult partners/practitioners really appreciated youth bringing a more positive strength-based approach to their work, they often feel they can't bring positive change, but to hear youth feedback some of the positive benefits from their work, they see that they are doing better than they think they are, reconnects them to the value of their work, brings new perspective into the job - workplace health piece to this

- d) Opportunity: chance for change, progress, more likely to succeed with encouragement and support
- e) Meaning and purpose: sense of significance, striving for, why change in a positive way
- f) Autonomy: feeling of responsibility, both the youth and the staff
- g) Knowledge and guidance: skills and knowledge they've learned that can help them reach a goal - cooking, etc. education, things that help them be an adult in a community

Linda: YMCA GTA

-scheduling issues for interviews with Board members, YAC, staff

-Focus groups have not been done yet

Robin: Ministry of Child and Family Development

-the toolkit was signed off and formalized, the youth engagement piece has been taken to all service delivery areas in the provinces, appointed a person to implement toolkit, identify youth in those areas to be involved

-outreach director for the prov legislature has asked to have a group facilitate a session with the cabinet and MLAs so they understand the model of youth engagement - help MLAs learn to engage with constituents, have youth speak to help them do that effectively

Nish: Findings from Shep Zeldin's international study

-Youth-adult partnerships (defined as youth-adult relationships and youth voice in decision-making) are key influences in young people lives

-preliminary results suggest that involvement in decision-making is the most important influencer, then youth-adult relationships, then safety and sense of engagement are influential as predictors of youth empowerment, efficacy and community connectedness. They are more influential than family and school.

Action: Share new emerging results from Shep's research, invite Shep to join a call

Action: Review Heather Ramey's articles re: organizational outcomes