

Understanding Contexts of Youth-Adult Partnerships: Call notes (Nov. 7, 2012)

Actions

- Please send updated research questions to Nish (e.g. interview/focus group guides, etc.)
- Cull through existing outcomes questions and will circulate some options
- Review questions to see which ones are most useful for analysis across all sites
- Nish will send message via e-mail re: face-to-face meeting

****Next call:** Monday Nov. 19 at 11:00 BC, 1:00 SK, 2:00 ON, 3:00 NS/NB, 3:30 NL

1) Intros: Patti, Scott, Achan, Mark, Robin, Davie, Kim, Kaeli, Tania, Zhen, Stoney, Linda, Rebecca, Marla, Gord, Bonnie, Isabelle **Regrets:** Jan, Susan R.

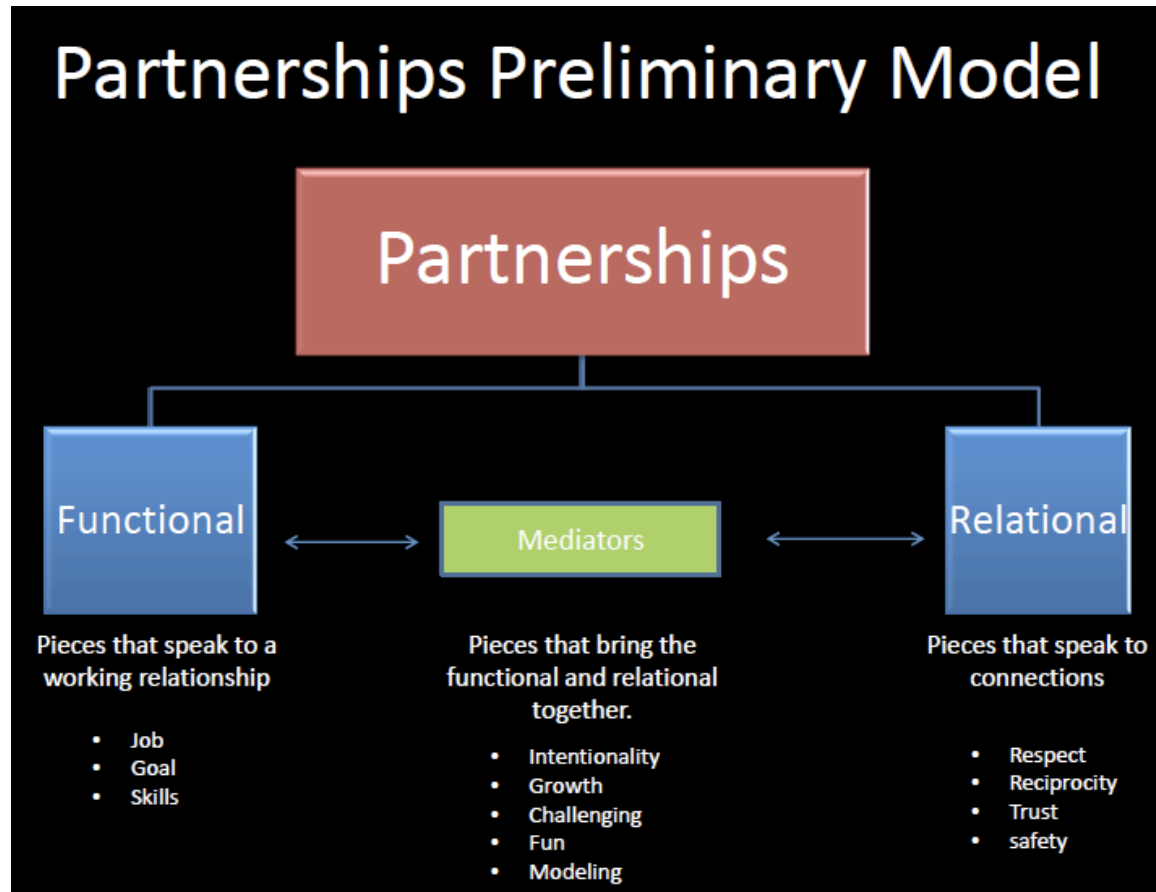
2) Common framework to connect our projects: Rebecca, Marla, Mark (City of Kitchener & WLU team)

- Research focus: looked at the Youth-Adult partnership within our own team and reflected on experiences we've had with other City staff
- Methods: 1) journaled throughout the process, after each meeting, 2) focus groups within our team, youth facilitated it themselves, 3) Mark and Rebecca did a mini-focus group and Marla was interviewed
- Are there questions that might be suitable for your project that we could use in common in most or all of the sites?

Interview guide (http://www.studentscommission.ca/yap/proj_03_e.php#rqi)

1. What is a partnership to you, drawing on your experience?
2. What are things that are essential for an ideal partnership?
 - What does the ideal partnership look like? Feel like?
3. How closely did this come to the ideal partnership? Where can improvements be made?
4. How might it compare with other jobs you've had that weren't partnerships?
5. What were the most rewarding parts of the partnership?
6. What were the most challenging parts of the partnership?
 - How did you deal with the challenging parts of the partnership?
7. What are some things that get in the way of forging really good partnerships?
8. How do you balance the role of being a supervisor with working in a more equal and participatory way? How do you balance working with your supervisor in a participatory way?
9. How have the relationships evolved overtime?
10. What did you get out of the partnership?
 - What did you learn?
11. If you had to give advice to young people or adults starting into a partnership what advice would you give them?
 - What advice would you give to young people entering a partnership?
 - What advice would you give to adults entering a partnership?
12. Was there something else that you wanted to say that you didn't have the chance to say?

Partnerships model (Rebecca)



- 2 components of a partnership: 1) Serves a function: goal and 2) Relational component: respect, reciprocity, trust, safety
- true partnership can't exist with just one without the other
- Mediators bring the functional and relational together: e.g. growth (outcomes), challenging, fun (qualities), modeling
- Mediators are things that you see coming together in YAPs - glue that keeps it from going too far to either side (too functional or too relational)

3) Discussion: common questions & common data analysis process

-Snapshot survey online could be one tool that is common across teams: Kitchener and YMCA GTA have used it already

-Saskatoon and Boys and Girls Club Provincial Youth Council teams: overlap/parallel or can use these questions

-Heartwood team (Isabelle): like the idea of cross-Canada sharing processes, but ours is more complete, that group has ended, Isabelle is now in Ottawa

Analysis across sites: can't share transcripts, but could do the analysis in the team, or could do analysis in parallel, or modification through ethics to share transcripts as needed

Context: Integration of YAP project in continuum of engagement

- Kim (YMCA GTA team) - no end point, the research will wrap up, but YAC continues
- Robin (MCFD, Victoria team): also on a continuum
- Isabelle (Heartwood team): this project is part of a longer ongoing project but the chunk for this research project has ended
- Link between the research and the continuum, which is part of the context (i.e. integration of research into the context)

Outcomes at 3 levels:

- 3 different levels of outcomes: 1) individual level, 2) social (relationships) level, and 3) system (e.g. school, YMCA, MCFD)
- How is the organization transformed by the partnership? How do relationships change the sustainability of the partnership/project within the organization/community?

YMCA project: the young people involved are interested in measuring the outcomes and impacts of the project, looking not just at what's working individually between young people and the adults working with them, but how does this Youth Advisory Committee look like re: relationship with Board and organization. What progress has this YAC made? It's more systemic and outcomes focused

- Reflection questions re: individual changes and systemic/organizational outcomes captures changes in perception of staff, changes in relationships and structural changes
- The relationship that youth have with the organization, how those relationships extend to relationships with the CEO, etc. and in turn deepens the relationship that the Y as an organization has with other young people

Saskatoon team: what are partnerships? Are they the same thing as relationships? Can teachers and students truly partner (given the power dynamic)?

- context matters for us, dynamics between teachers/students, power hierarchy

Victoria team: data collection shortly, 3rd attempt over 15 years of initiating engagement in the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD)

- question re: systemic and structural factors is important, difficulty formulating these questions, are getting some of it in the data from the pilot of the indicators resource kit
- needs to be incorporated into strategic plan, what are the mechanisms re: coordination of youth engagement within organizations? Sustainability piece is needed

Heartwood NS team (Isabelle): project focused on Dept of Community Services, but now we are presenting to other offices, and province-wide, interest at the provincial level in youth engagement, this is used as a success story/case study and ripple through the system