FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Empowering Youth to Be the Stars of the Show
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I am here because I love teenagers.
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OUR TIME TOGETHER

Icebreaker
What is PYD?
8 Essential Elements
5 Cs and 6 Components
Think Tank
1. Name, DOB, SS# (jk, just your name and where you work)
2. Why do you love working with teens?
3. What about other youth workers inspires you?
Positive Youth Development is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people’s strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

- The Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs
Position paper written by Dr. Gisela Konopka in 1973 for the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare - 8 basic needs of youth

Moving from single problem and focusing on deficits to focusing on developmental potential

The programs and interventions are strengthened when they involve youth as equal partners, ultimately providing benefits for both for the program and the involved youth.
WANT BIG IMPACT?

8 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
SAFE
ENVIRONMENT
What is it?
Physical and psychological safety achieved through comfortable in surroundings where all participants are welcomed and all feel safe to share their ideas. No bullying, cliques or put-downs are allowed.

What can adults do?
- Be consistent.
- Screen and train.
- Engage students in planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Ask youth how to improve environment.
APPROPRIATE STRUCTURE
What is it?
Clear consistent rules, expectations and age-appropriate monitoring.

What can adults do?
- Sufficient number of adults to supervise.
- Expectations are explained and maintained.
- Provide reasons for requests and rules.
- Ask youth for input on rules.
SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS
What is it?

Paying attention to youth and their interests. Offering a listening ear, focus on strengths and provide a positive environment of reinforcement, good modeling, and constructive feedback.

What can adults do?

- Intentionally listen to youth.
- Provide opportunities for youth and adults to interact and learn from each other.
- Use name-tags to be on first-name basis.
- Encourage youth-adult partnerships.
- Model healthy, positive behaviors.
- Engage all youth in program.
What is it?

Connecting with other people and building interpersonal relationships to feel valued by leaders and other participants. An environment of encouragement, positive feedback and celebration.

What can adults do?

- Icebreakers that involve all.
- Multiple forms of recognition.
- Actively work to diversify the group.
- Use t-shirts, hats, etc to denote group membership.
- Opportunity to work together toward goal.
POSITIVE SOCIAL NORMS
What is it?

Programs create positive expectations for attitudes and behaviors expressed by group members. These are set by both peers and group leaders.

What can adults do?

- Clearly communicate expectations.
- Ground rules are created by all in the group.
- Model positive, respectful interactions.
- Promote positive norms related to healthy-decision making.
EFFICACY & MATTERING
What is it?
Opportunities to make a difference by providing support for youth autonomy, leadership roles, and encouragement to achieve meaningful change in their community and in their own lives.

What can adults do?
- Encourage youth to identify community needs and design solutions.
- Provide an environment in which youth can try new things and challenge themselves.
- Give youth the opportunity to develop an idea from start to finish.
- Develop, or refer youth to, service-learning opportunities.
- Be supportive, but allow youth to solve their own problems.
What is it?
Provide a setting for youth to build and master social, physical, relationship, problem solving, cultural and a variety of other skills to lead to success in later life.

What can adults do?

- Provide opportunities that intellectually stimulate and challenge youth.
- Allow skill practice.
- Provide opportunities for youth to teach and mentor others.
- Allow time for reflection.
- Offer different ways to learn.
SETTING INTEGRATION
What is it?

Integrating family, school and community efforts. Programming emphasizes a collaboration with all settings to maximize youth development.

What can adults do?

- Link youth to services in which they are of need - beyond your program’s “topic area”
- Engage parents through activities, newsletters, websites, etc.
- Engage community organizations in supporting programming for youth.
- Provide experiences for youth to learn more about their community through service-learning
WANT BIG IMPACT?
5 Cs & 6 CORE FEATURES
5 (or 6) Cs

- Competence
- Confidence
- Connection
- Character
- Caring
- Contribution

6 CORE FEATURES

- Relationships
- Environment
- Engagement
- Social Norms
- Skill-building Opportunities
- Routine/Structure
Group Think Tank

Four groups will brainstorm how to intentionally add each of the 8 essential elements of positive youth development into each of these four grant requirements.

- Curriculum
- Service-Learning
- Advisory Council Involvement
- Community Awareness
THANKS!

Any questions?
You can find me at kejourdan@gmail.com
Sources


