NIIAH (National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health) is pleased to share the following archived Webinar:

Building Effective Partnerships With Youth: How Organizations Can Effectively Involve Youth

What topics will be covered?
- Methods for identifying and involving youth;
- Effective practices for youth adult partnership; and
- Techniques for measuring youth involvement/partnership

Presenter:
Julia Reticker-Flynn, Advocates for Youth

Julia serves as Advocates for Youth's *Youth Activist Network (YAN) Coordinator*. Recognized as experts in youth-adult partnerships, Advocates for Youth was established in 1980 as the Center for Population Options and champions efforts to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believes it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health. Advocates' Youth Activist Network (YAN) consists of young people from across the United States and around the globe representing the beginning of a global youth movement fighting for every young person's right to honest sexual health information and affordable sexual health services.

Link to the archived Webinar:

The following link will connect you to a recording with both audio and presentation slides. http://cals-cf.calsnet.arizona.edu/fcs/bpy/content.cfm?content=spotlightarchivebeta
In addition, the slides are available as an independent file. Please note that there is an additional wealth of information in the audio portion of the archived Webinar.

Introduction to the National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health
(Webinar sponsor)

Good morning and welcome. My name is Nancy Lever and I am the Co-Director of the Center for School Mental Health. Along with Charlotte Zia who is a Program Manager in the Division of Developmental Pediatrics and Preventive Services at the American Academy of Pediatrics, I serve as a Co-Facilitator of the National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health's (abbreviated as NIIAH) workgroup on youth engagement. I am going to spend a few minutes telling you more about this workgroup and our activities.

First of all, for those of you who may be less familiar and as a reminder to us all: the NIIAH is a collective effort to improve the health, safety and well-being of adolescent

and young adults." The NIIAH partners and affiliates, facilitated by two federal agencies, collaborate to:

- Elevate the focus on and commitment to the health, safety, positive development, and well-being of adolescents, youth adults and their families;
- Increase access to quality health and safety education and health care;
- Address the influence of social determinants;
- Improve health and safety outcomes; and to
- Eliminate disparities in order to achieve equity.

The goal of the Youth Engagement Workgroup is to actively involve youth voice and perspectives in the pursuit of the NIIAH goals. A secondary purpose is to assist NIIAH organizations in being able to understand and consider opportunities for how to respond to the new Maternal and Child Health Bureau's performance measurement that evaluates the extent to which grantees involve families and youth in project activities. The performance measure requests each funded organization to measure eight (8) elements that demonstrate aspects of family and youth participation in program and policy activities, including, for example:

- The youth's involvements in planning, implementation and evaluation activities;
- Youth participation in trainings and/or advisory groups;
- The cultural diversity of involved youth; and
- The training and mentoring opportunities for involved youth

Our workgroup consists of several representatives of NIIAH organizations who are invested in advancing youth engagement and partnership. I would like to thank our team members and to acknowledge two of our members, Amanda Abens the Project Director of Building Partnerships for Youth and Smita Varia, Technical Assistance Specialist at the Children's Safety Network National Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center for all the work they have done to help organize and make today's webinar possible. I would like to also acknowledge Trina Anglin the Director of Adolescent Health from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for her insight and vision related to this workgroup

When our workgroup came together two years ago, we wanted to first understand what was meant by youth engagement and partnership and to consider what each of our NIIAH partners were doing already. Our group put together survey questions about youth engagement that was included in a larger survey of the NIIAH organizations and turned to the literature to review definitions, best practice, and research on the topic. While we have some excellent examples of NIIAH organizations having successful youth partnerships, we also had many organizations who are not engaging youth in any way and were interested in learning the basics about how to best do this outreach and collaboration. Our workgroup has developed a resource document on effective youth partnership and also has a summary document about the youth engagement work

within our NIIAH organizations. These materials and more information about the Maternal and Child Health Bureaus' performance measure will be shared with participants of this webinar in the next few weeks.

The knowledge and resources from Advocates for Youth have been very helpful to our group as we have been moving our understanding and resources forward. As a team we decided that Advocates for Youth would be the perfect organization to provide some foundation for NIIAH partners about how to effectively engage youth within our webinar on the topic.

We are very pleased to have Advocates for Youth represented today and I will now turn things over to Smita who will introduce our speaker.

Building Effective Partnerships with Youth:
How Organizations Can Involve Youth

The National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health by the Year 2020

Creating and Acting Together:
Building Effective Partnerships with Youth

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Learning Objectives

1. To identify benefits, barriers, and effective strategies for youth-adult partnerships in programmatic efforts

2. To recognize one's own values and perceptions regarding youth-adult partnerships

3. To assist participants in gaining additional skills for integrating youth-adult partnerships in their daily efforts

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Overview

- YAP Framework

- Spectrum of Attitudes towards Youth

- YAP Definitions

- Effective Elements of YAP

- Benefits of Effective Youth-Adult Partnership

- Barriers and Strategies

- Ways to Incorporate YAP into your Work

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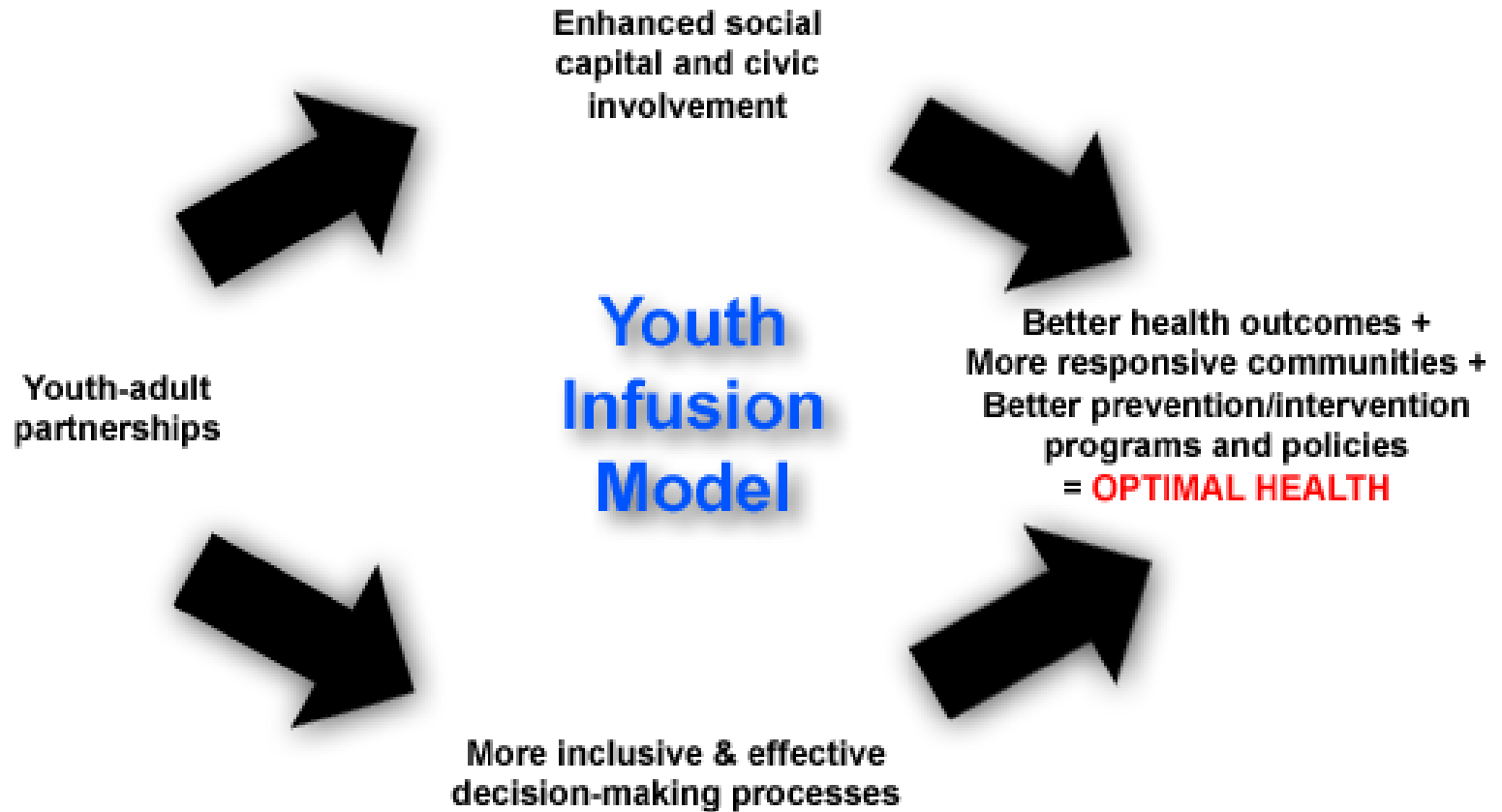
Youth Adult Partnership Framework

Why Partner with Youth?

- Organizations are more **sustainable**

- Organizations are more **effective**

- Youth have the **RIGHT** to be involved

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Spectrum of Attitudes

Spectrum of Attitudes: Youth as Objects

- Adults know what is best for young people and control situations in which they allow them to be involved

Spectrum of Attitudes: Youth as Recipients

- Adults allow young people to take part in decision-making because they think the experience will be "good for them"

Spectrum of Attitudes: Youth as Partners

- Adults respect young people as having something significant to offer now, recognizing the greater impact youth bring to a project. Youth are encouraged to become involved.

Youth-Adult Partnership Definition

- Integrates youth's realistic perspective with professional adult's experiences

- Offers each party the opportunity to suggest and make decisions

- Recognizes and values the contribution of each

- Allows youth and adults to work in full partnership envisioning, developing, implementing, and evaluating programs

What a YAP is NOT!

- They are not ways to hide the fact that programs are designed, developed and run by adults

- Tokenism is not partnership
  - Having youth around with no clear role
  - Assigning youth tasks that adults do not want to do
  - Having youth make appearances without training
  - Having one youth on a board or council

Effective Elements (Part 1)

- Clear, established goals

- Shared decision-making power

- Commitment from highest level of organization

- Clear roles and responsibilities

- Selectivity/recruitment

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Effective Elements (Part 2)

- Provide training
- Awareness of different communication styles
- Participation is valued
- Include room for growth
- Remember youth have other interests

Example:
The Urban Retreat

Benefits of an Effective YAP

For Adults?

Benefits of an Effective YAP

For Youth?

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Benefits of an Effective YAP

For Organizations?

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Barriers & Strategies

Barriers

- Attitudes/Assumptions

- Logistical
  - Time
  - Transportation
  - Food
  - Equipment/Support
  - Procedures & Policies
  - Training

Questions?

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Advocates for Youth's website features resources and publications tailored to youth-serving adults, parents and advocates on topics and issues within the realm of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health.

www.advocatesforyouth.org

youth resource.org

YouthResource is a Web site created by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) young people. YouthResource takes a holistic approach to sexual health and exploring issues of concern to GLBTQ youth.

www.youthresource.org

My Sistahs

MySistahs is a Web site created by and for young women of color to provide information and offer support on sexual and reproductive health issues through education and advocacy.

www.mysistahs.org

amplify
www.amplifyyourvoice.org

Amplify, a project of Advocates for Youth, is an online community dedicated to sexual health, reproductive justice, and youth-led grassroots movement building.

www.amplifyyourvoice.org