Disconnected Youth and Older Youth Programming

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What we will examine today:

- Defining "Disconnected Youth" and a look at who they are.
- Examine approaches and evidence based principles that are effective in building rapport, trust and movement toward self-sufficiency.
- Runaway, Homeless Youth Act Programs and their purpose.

What we will examine today:

Community Collaborations... Essential to a planned, thoughtful approach in reaching disconnected youth.

- Seton Youth Shelters and its Street Outreach Programs as it strives to help at-risk and disconnected youth achieve Safety, Well-being, Permanent Connections and Self-sufficiency.

Seton Youth Shelters
What is the working definition of Disconnected Youth?

- Youth, 16 to 24 years old, who are not working or in school.

- According to IRS Notice 2009-65, a disconnected youth now includes individuals who have held a job since graduating from high school or earning a GED, as long as they have worked only "occasionally".

Characteristics of Disconnected Youth

- Generally characterized as "disconnected," these youth may also lack strong social networks that provide assistance in the form of employment connections and other supports such as housing and financial assistance.

- Without attachment to work or school, disconnected youth may be vulnerable to experiencing negative outcomes as they transition to adulthood.

- Analysis finds that a greater share of female and minority youth are disconnected.

- Disconnected youth tend to have fewer years of education, and are more likely to live apart from their parents and to have children.

- Disconnected youth are also twice as likely to be poorer than their connected peers.

- Parents of disconnected youth are more likely than their counterparts to be unemployed and to have lower educational attainment.
Approaches that are Effective in Assisting Disconnected Youth

- Trauma Informed Care
- Harm Reduction
- Positive Youth Development

Building a Caring, Trusting Relationship is a key to Impacting a Disconnected Youth in a positive way.

Defining Trauma Informed Care:

- Trauma informed care is a strengths-based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.”

(consensus-based definition from Shelter for the Storm: Trauma Informed Care in Homelessness Services Settings 2010)
Defining Harm Reduction

- Harm Reduction refers to policies and practices that aim primarily to reduce adverse health, social, and economic consequences of high-risk behaviors and benefits people engaging in high-risk behaviors as well as their families and communities.

Harm Reduction Is:

- an approach based on a strong commitment to public health and human rights;
- a targeted approach that focuses on specific risks and harms;
- an evidence-based and cost-effective approach which is practical and feasible;
- an incremental approach that is facilitative rather than coercive and is grounded in the needs of the individual;
- an approach that requires practitioners to accept youth as they are and avoid being judgmental;
- an approach that requires open, honest dialogue between all stakeholders;
- an approach that recognizes the value of all persons regardless of what behaviors they exhibit; and
- an approach that acknowledges any positive change an individual makes.

Defining Youth Development

- Positive Youth Development is an intentional, pro-social 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 youths' 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.

http://www.fordsyouthinfo.gov/youthtopics/positive-youth-development
Reasons to Incorporate PYD

Youth benefit by:

- Gaining skills they will need to become successful adults.
- Creating new relationships with adults and peers, further connecting them to their community and enlarging their support network.
- Gaining a better understanding of the community and its diversity.
- Acquiring a more positive stature in the community.
- Gaining a better appreciation for adults and the multiple roles they can play.
- Beginning to see their own potential as limitless.
- Beginning to view the world, and their ability to affect it, in a positive way.
- Feeling needed and useful.
- Feeling enhanced power, autonomy, and self-esteem.

Other considerations needed to help these youth?

- Identify Community Resources well and how to access them. Also know when they change or are no longer exist.
- Department of Human Services
  - EPS, TANF, Food Stamps, Medicaid, etc.
- Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation
- Health Department
- Social Security Administration
- Free Medical Clinics
- Appropriate Shelters
- Food Pantries
- Federal Programs (such as Job Corps)
- Local employment opportunities
- Appendix Programs and know their eligibility criteria

- Seek and build Community Collaborations with specific purpose and goals for each stakeholder.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
Framework Logic Model for Ending Youth Homelessness
Federal Youth Services Bureau Programs

Basic Center Program (Youth Center Shelters for 12-17 year olds)

City of Charlottesville, VA
Charlottesville, VA
Phone: (434) 296-4118
www.ucv.org

Alternative House - Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge
Dun Loring, VA
Phone: (703) 506-9391
www.thealternativehouse.org

Mother Seton House; T/A: Seton Youth Shelters
Virginia Beach, VA
Phone: (757) 963-5795
www.setonyouthshelters.org

Federal Youth Services Bureau Programs

Maternity Group Home Program
Alternative House - Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge
Dun Loring, VA
Phone: (703) 506-9391
www.thealternativehouse.org

Transitional Living Program
Alternative House - Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge
Dun Loring, VA
Phone: (703) 506-9391
www.thealternativehouse.org

Street Outreach Program
Mother Seton House; T/A: Seton Youth Shelters
Virginia Beach, VA
Phone: (757) 963-5795
www.setonyouthshelters.org
Primary Power Point Resources

Disconnected Youth: A Look at 16- to 24-Year Olds Who Are Not Working or in School
- Kevin J. Ramirez, Social & Economic Policy
- Blythe D. Gabe, Social & Economic Policy
Congressional Research Service Publication April 13, 2010
