Advancing Youth Development Partnership

Summary

The Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Partnership offers professional development for youth workers in New York State and focuses on skills, knowledge and attributes needed to do effective youth work. Using a train-the-trainer model, teams of trainers from a variety of youth serving organizations are recruited, trained, and then supported to provide AYD training in their home counties or regions.

Issue

Youth-serving organizations need to understand how organizational structure, policies, procedures, and culture relate to successful youth work. Staff training in smaller agencies may be limited in scope. A partnership with a cooperative leadership approach from state agencies and systems can provide efficient, low-cost, and high-quality professional development for adults who work with young people.

Response

The Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Partnership is based in the Department of Human Development. It is a statewide training network for professionals working with youth from late childhood through adolescence. The partners include Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the ACT for Youth Center of Excellence in the College of Human Ecology Family Life Development Center, and the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus.

Most New York counties and New York City have active AYD training teams. Local facilitators provide training in each of the three curricula to a wide variety of youth workers in their communities. New York State youth workers, program supervisors, and others who care for and about youth are encouraged to become involved.

The program uses a “train-the-trainer” model. Interagency teams of three to six experienced youth workers from a New York county become familiar with one of the curricula and then practice facilitation skills at a Training of Facilitators (TOF). Several TOFs are offered each year for the three curricula. These are:

- Advancing Youth Development: A Curriculum for Youth Workers – requires approximately 18 hours to complete
- Youth Development Basics – a 4-hour workshop
- Strengthening Organizations Through Youth Development – one-day training

AYD training is offered in diverse locations throughout New York State including NYC. The Partnership is funded primarily through OCFS but leverages additional support from a variety of sources. Additional
components of the program include an annual facilitator conference, 2 newsletters per year, a participant e-list, and Web site www.nyayd.org. Twice a year, the partnership provides direct, skill-building workshops in one of the ten youth worker core competency areas promoted by the AYD curriculum and documented by the National Collaboration for Youth. The popular workshops are conducted by consultants and experts in the field.

Outcome

Since the partnership formally began in 1998:

Training of Facilitators (TOF)

- AYD TOF events trained 653 facilitators from over 225 agencies, institutions, and community-based organizations. These inter-agency facilitator teams are from 52 counties and New York City.

- 265 facilitators were trained in Youth Development Basics.

- 81 facilitators were trained in Strengthening Organizations Through Youth Development.

Community-Based Training

- 147 additional community-based AYD training sessions have resulted in 2,241 youth workers completing the 28- or 18-hour program.

- The AYD database documents 90 Basics workshops that have been delivered by inter-agency teams at the community level with 1,404 participants from a broad array of services and programs. Additional community training has occurred.

- 247 administrators, managers, board members, front-line workers, and youth were trained in the Strengthening Organizations workshop at the local level.

- 4-H Youth Development Educators throughout New York State complete the Advancing Youth Development training as an important part of their professional development.

15 training events / 24 days of training are planned for 2008.

Contact

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