

Strengthening Youth-Adult Partnerships and Sexual Health through School Health Advisory Councils



***Bridging the Gaps: Eliminating Disparities in Teen Pregnancy and Sexual Health
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- Sulava Gautam
 - Nothing to disclose
- Lacey Rosenbaum
 - Nothing to disclose
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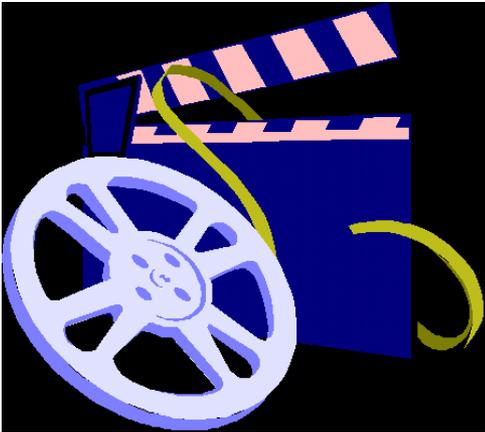
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Overview and Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to describe elements of meaningful youth-adult partnerships and strategies to help achieve them.
2. Participants will be able to identify at least three actions that school health advisory councils can take to improve sexual health policies, programs, or practices in a school environment.



Youth Culture



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Adolescent Sexual Health and Risk Behavior Data

- 47% of U.S. high school students have had sexual intercourse (YRBS, 2011).
- 34% are currently sexually active (YRBS, 2011).
- In 2010, young people aged 13-24 accounted for 21% of all new HIV infections in the United States and half of new sexually transmitted diseases (STD) (CDC, 2012).
- Approximately 368,000 U.S. teens gave birth in 2010 (Hamilton and Ventura, 2012).



Young People at Greater Risk

- LGBTQ youth are at increased risk for anxiety and depression, low self-esteem, engaging in self-injurious behaviors, suicide, substance use, and homelessness (APA, 2014).
- LGBTQ youth are also more likely to engage in sexual risk-taking behaviors (CDC, 2013).
- Among adolescent males aged 13-19 years, approximately 91% of diagnosed HIV infections in 2010 were among young men who have sex with men (YMSM) (CDC, 2012).



Youth-Adult Partnership Framework



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Why Partner with Youth?

- Organizations are more **sustainable**
- Organizations are more **effective**
- Youth have the **RIGHT** to be involved



Spectrum of Attitudes



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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.
- Recognizing the greater impact youth bring to a project.



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



Benefits of an Effective YAP

For Adults?



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For Organizations?





What is a School Health Advisory Council?

- A community-based advisory group that is managed by a local school district.
- SHACs make recommendations to local school boards on issues of health and wellness.

Coordinated School Health Framework

- SHACs are an important part of the Coordinated School Health framework.
- The CSH approach enables schools to:
 - Eliminate gaps and reduce redundancies;
 - Build partnerships;
 - Build collaboration and enhance communication; and
 - Focus efforts on helping students.



Coordinated School Health Framework



Key Functions of SHACs

1. Program Planning
2. Fiscal Planning
3. Liaison with District, State, Community and Local Agencies
4. Direct Intervention
5. Evaluation, Accountability, and Quality Control
6. Advocacy

Examples of SHAC members:

- Parents, students, medical professionals, attorneys, law enforcement officials, school personnel, faculty members from colleges or universities, and government officials;
- Members of volunteer health agencies, faith-based, civic service organizations, and professional societies; as well as
- Professionals from local businesses, news media organizations, and social service and public health agencies.

Role of SHACs in Comprehensive Sexual Health Policies and Programs



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Recommendations:

1. Encourage the School Board to amend or adopt a resolution on comprehensive sexuality education in your district.
2. Encourage the school district to amend or adopt standards for comprehensive sexuality education.
3. Review, assess, and recommend a comprehensive, evidence-based sexuality education curriculum to be taught in schools.



Recommendations:

4. Recommend teacher training requirements or professional development opportunities for educators and school staff.
5. Review all outside speakers and their materials to ensure content is medically accurate and age-appropriate.
6. Draft recommended information that can be sent to parents about comprehensive sexual health policies and programs.



Recommendations:

7. Review, assess, and recommend policies that support inclusivity and create safe spaces for LGBTQ youth.
8. Review, assess, and recommend policies on preventing bullying, electronic aggression, and sexual harassment.
9. Recommend the implementation of an in-school condom availability program.
10. Encourage the school district to strengthen existing school-based health centers (SBHCs) or linkages to community health services – such as local health centers, hospitals, or Title X clinics – for all students’ health needs including sexual and reproductive health services.



Case Study:

Austin Independent School District



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“Chalk Talk”



Final Thoughts and Questions



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Thank you!

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