

PREVENTING VIOLENCE THROUGH A STATEWIDE YOUTH-ADULT ISSUE NETWORK [627]

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Session Plan

Workshop Summary

This workshop will present an overview of a new statewide collaborative effort to raise awareness around youth violence as a public health issue. The New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community (the Forum,) in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Health Office of Injury Prevention, has established the Violence Prevention Network (“Network”). The Youth Violence Prevention Network comprised of key stakeholders—which include youth, policymakers, schools, state departments, and community based organizations, all of whom reflect the cultural diversity of New Mexico—emphasizes community-informed initiatives tailored to the specific needs of diverse communities throughout New Mexico.

The Network’s role is to move individuals from awareness to collective action with the intent of influencing policy and legislation, changing organizational practices, expanding network/ coalition engagement, and promoting community education.

The Network serves as a driving force in:

- Bringing stakeholders together to build public will
- Influence public policies focused on quality, capacity building, and sustainability; by
- Employing a systems-oriented approach aimed at creating healthier and safer environments.

Youth voice in the Network is assured by partnering with the NM Youth Alliance, a statewide advisory board comprised of youth representatives, one from each legislative district. By providing the skills and opportunities for young people to develop and advocate for their own policy agenda, the Youth Alliance positions youth as key contributors to the statewide agenda around Youth Violence Prevention.

Workshop Goals

Participants will be introduced to an innovative approach engaging youth in a statewide initiative to prevent youth violence.

Workshop Objectives

1. Define and illustrate the concepts of *intermediary*, *network*, *positive youth development*, and *youth engagement* as these apply to youth violence prevention.
2. Describe the process in New Mexico of designing and implementing a statewide youth-adult network addressing the issue of youth violence prevention.
3. Explore with workshop participants the potential outcomes and challenges posed by this approach.

Workshop Activities

1. 10-minute experiential exercise illustrating positive youth development
2. 20-minute PowerPoint presentation on the New Mexico Youth Violence Prevention Network
3. 15-minute facilitated group discussion of potential outcomes and challenges
4. 15-minute questions and answers/general discussion

Assessment

Participants will be asked to complete an evaluation form (attached).

Resources

<http://www.nmforumforyouth.org>

<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/unity>

References

- American Youth Policy Forum, Local intermediary organizations: Connecting the dots for children, youth and families. Last Access August 7, 2006, from <http://www.aypf.org/publications/Intermediaries.pdf>
- Church, M. et al. (2002). Participation, relationships and dynamic change. University College London.
- Community Network for Youth Development. Introduction to the Youth Development Approach. Last Access August 7, 2006, from <http://www.cnyd.org>



Preventing Violence through a Statewide Youth-Adult Issue Network

The National Conference of the Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence
September 20, 2006

Evaluation

Thank you for inviting us to be with you today. Our hope is that these gatherings provide a place and time to exchange useful information and ideas as we work together to ensure positive outcomes for all young people in New Mexico. We appreciate your help in making our workshops as useful and enjoyable as possible. Please take a few minutes to complete the following evaluation.

The Content was Very Informative Okay Could be more useful

The Format was Engaging Okay Rather Boring

The Presenters were Very Informative Okay Could be better

Were the workshop goals made clear? Yes Somewhat No

Did you gain new information or ideas? Yes Somewhat No

Is there one thing you heard today that you will try out in your own work?
 Yes Maybe No

If so, what would that be?

Comments and Recommendations:

Thank you again for your ideas and for your good work. If there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Your Friends from
The New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community
www.nmforumforyouth.org

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