

YOUTH-TURN: TURNING ADVERSITY INTO ACTION

Sandy E. Spavone, Executive Director ^a

^a National Organizations for Youth Safety, Gainesville, VA

Session Overview

Abstract

Working together is a very important part of working smarter; not harder. To create safe and healthy environments for our youth, uniting our efforts is key to continued success. National Organizations for Youth Safety will describe the effective collaborative efforts and programs developed by national organizations and their youth leaders.

Summary

National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) brings together organizations that focus on youth safety and health to work jointly on common efforts. In every collaborative effort, each party brings to the cause different sets of expertise, experience, excitement, and external outreach potential. This workshop will highlight some of the successful collaborative efforts of the NOYS and how these collaborations have led to greater successful outcomes that would not have been possible without networking through the NOYS membership. Attendees will learn about the work being done by the NOYS member organizations and discover where the needs are and how the paths to collaborative success can be found in any environment.

Unfortunately, we all face tragic events and adversity in our communities. It is how we react and use these tragic events turn adversity into action that can impact our communities and prevent repeat occurrences. NOYS has recently launched a web-based program – YOUTH-Turn – to help young people turn adversity into action. This highly interactive presentation will equip attendees with tools necessary to address adversity in their communities and empower youth to make the difference. In addition, a recently updated project planner and organizer that assists youth in planning and implementing their projects will be reviewed.

What was done? Program tools have been developed to assist youth and their advisers in creating projects to address youth safety and health.

Why was it done? The youth felt that they and their peers along with their adult leaders needed a tool that could be universally used to plan and implement youth led projects and programs.

Who did it? NOYS youth and adult leaders

Who/what was supposed to benefit? Youth who are seeking to make a difference in their community

What were the anticipated results? Increased effective planning and implementation of projects by youth across the country

What will happen next? Trainings are being implemented at national conferences and local meetings