

Community Mobilization for Youth Development

Andrew Doniger, MD, MPH, Commissioner
of Health, Monroe (NY) Co.
Newell Eaton, Dir. of Strategic Planning,
NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Key Principles

1. The goal is more than prevention.
2. The process is enduring, comprehensive, and engages youth.
3. Strategies go beyond the basics.
4. Youth development happens everywhere.
5. Vision, not just coordination, is required.

Key Principles

6. All youth are developing;
all youth have strengths;
all youth have needs;
all youth can contribute to their communities;
all youth are valued.

Risk Factors - Community

- Availability of drugs
- Availability of firearms
- Community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms and crime
- Media portrayals of violence
- Transitions and mobility
- Low neighborhood attachment & community organization
- Extreme economic deprivation

Risk Factors - Family

- Family history of the problem behavior
- Family management problems
- Family conflict
- Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior

Risk Factors - School

- Early and persistent antisocial behavior
- Academic failure beginning in elementary school
- Lack of commitment to school

Risk Factors - Individual/Peer

- Rebelliousness
- Friends who engage in the problem behavior
- Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior
- Early initiation of the problem behavior
- Constitutional factors

Protective Factors - School

- Committed to school
- Do well in school
- Intend to continue their education

Protective Factors - Parents

- High levels of supervision
- High levels of attachment

Protective Factors - Peers

- Associate with conventional peers
- Associate with peers who are approved by their parents

The Asset Framework

Integrates and synthesizes factors that:

- Protect youth against health-compromising choices

or

- Promote their health development

The Asset Framework

More assets = less risk behavior

A shift in thinking

- Youth as resources, not problems
- Common sense isn't always common practice
- A community-wide effort

A Different Approach

FROM	TO
•Problem focus	•Positive focus
•Youth as problems	•Youth as resources
•Reactive	•Proactive
•Blaming	•Claiming responsibility
•Professionals	•Everyone
•Crisis management	•Vision building
•Competition	•Cooperation
•Despair	•Hope

State-Level Partnerships

Goals:

- 1. Promote positive youth development / improve youth outcomes**
- 2. Create/strengthen community partnerships**
- 3. Increase state-level coordination of effort**

Support for Local Partnerships

- 1. DOH Act for Youth**
- 2. DOH Turning Point**
- 3. OCFS Integrated County Planning**
- 4. OCFS Advantage After School Program**
- 5. OASAS State Incentive Cooperative Agreement**
- 6. SED Closing the Gaps**