



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

Perspective Quiz

Based on your own perspective, how important are the following statements/strategies when working with youth, either one or one, or as a group. One (1) being the LEAST important, Five (5) being the MOST important.

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1. Showing a Friendly Face 😊					
2. Being Patient					
3. Building and earning trust with a youth					
4. Explaining things in a way that a young person understands.					
5. Respecting Privacy					
6. Transparency (informing youth of all details of a decision and next steps)					
7. Talking about topics that are not directly involved with a treatment plan or compliance.					
8. Listening with no judgment					
9. Sharing your own perspective in a respectful way.					
10. Sharing decision making power with youth.					



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

Youth Driven Handout

Youth Driven means that, “Young people have the right to be empowered, educated, and given a decision making role in the care of their own lives as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in communities, state and nation”.

Circle each statement that is Youth Driven.

1. Youth are engaged in the idea that change is possible in her/his life.
2. Adults use young people’s ideas and voices for their own gain.
3. The youth describes his or her vision for the future.
4. The youth sets goals for formal treatment plan with input from their team.
5. Community partners listen to youth to make changes based on what the youth say.
6. Young people have no role in decision making groups.
7. Young people have a safe place to go and be heard throughout the community.
8. Youth are engaged in the idea that change is possible in the systems that serve him/her.
9. A caring and loving adult helps make decisions without the youth’s knowledge.
10. Youth have the knowledge and ability to educate the community on important youth issues.
11. Young people are given limited voice and choice about what they can say and how they can communicate.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

“First Step to Building Trust” Handout

“Hello, my name is _____. It’s nice to meet you. I work for _____, as a _____.”

I want you to know that you can tell me anything you want to. Anything about school, work, family, friends, boy/girlfriend, and I do not have to tell anyone what you tell me.

However, there are a few things I need to tell someone about if you mention it.

Those are:

1. If you tell me you’re going to hurt yourself, (thoughts of suicide or self-harm)
2. If you are hurting someone else, or if you plan to hurt someone else.
3. Or if you tell me you know of a child or adult being abused.....

...then I have to report it to make sure everyone is safe. My preference is not to tell on you, but tell with you. Do you understand what I just said? Do you have any questions about what I just said?

It is New Mexico Law that anyone 18 years and older has a legal responsibility to report child/adult abuse. My intention is for you and others to be safe. If you tell me any of those things we talked about, I have to”:

1. Tell my supervisor
2. Report this by phone to the Statewide Central Intake hotline
#SAFE- 1-855-333-7233
3. _____
4. _____



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

Listening Effectively

“Text Talk”

What are some ways that young people communicate?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are some ways that you communicate?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

It is not uncommon for people to dis-engage with services and/or relationships. When a young person has not made contact and you want to reconnect send out a message. What is your Opening Line?

Remember that when listening non-judgmentally, our intention is to keep a conversation going, asking questions and validating responses is an effective way to engage young people.

Note: if you are in a professional role, and are not allowed by your employer to text youth, or communicate electronically, then you would comply with your employer's policy/procedures.

Keep in mind that you can utilize this information for your personal life separate from your professional role.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

“How you can keep youth engaged” Handout

*When engaging young people, you will need to be consistent, have stable communication and treat youth with compassion and dignity. **Find ways to engage youth by utilizing your own strengths and skills.** This will help ensure youth have a positive/supportive environment.*

Instructions: Answer the following questions to help you identify Your Own strengths.

1. When do you feel most confident?

2. What are your intentions for making your community a better place? Either in your role professionally or personally.

3. Name a time in your life when you were young, that an adult helped you through a difficult time.

4. How many hours a week could you have to have a casual conversation with a friend?

5. Name a time when you had to make a difficult decision with someone as equal partners. (Either when you were young or as an adult) What was easy and what was difficult about make a decision together?

Tips on Youth Engagement

The Dos and Don'ts when having youth at the table....

Do:

- Smile :) to create a friendly environment
- Greet youth with a friendly "Hello"
- Provide refreshments
- Provide materials before the meeting
- Match up youth with a mentor who has the time and willingness to teach and support the youth before, after, and in between meetings
- Remind youth of meeting dates. If meeting dates or times change, verbally inform youth immediately. Youth may not have the ability to check emails throughout the day to receive email cancellations
- Create and know the role of a youth member
- Be okay if the role of the youth changes over time. Include youth in that discussion
- Be aware of body language and voice tone
- Assist the youth in planning for how he/she will get to the meeting and get home afterwards
- Provide a Certificate of Community Service; youth can use this to build a resume or for school purposes
- Be aware of cultural differences and language. If a youth speaks a language other than English, find interpretation assistance. Otherwise, the youth's ability to participate is limited and/or non-existent
- Host meetings in youth friendly locations, such as libraries, schools, and nonprofit organization that provide support to youth and families
- Encourage youth to bring someone who they trust as an additional support

Don't:

- Request for the youth to disclose personal information; allow the young person to share only what they are comfortable sharing
- Dismiss comments a youth makes, even if you don't agree with the comments
- Discourage the youth to speak during meetings
- Use acronyms or jargon, either written or verbal. Explain what it means if you do use acronyms or jargon
- Talk over or interrupt when a youth speaks; give youth time to form their thoughts and be okay with silence
- Assume youth have nothing to say; ask youth for their opinions
- Share the young person's story outside of the meeting
- Joke about sensitive topics
- Keep youth past the ending time of the meeting
- Offer support to a youth if you are not able to follow through with your offer

Visit www.NMCOE.org for more information