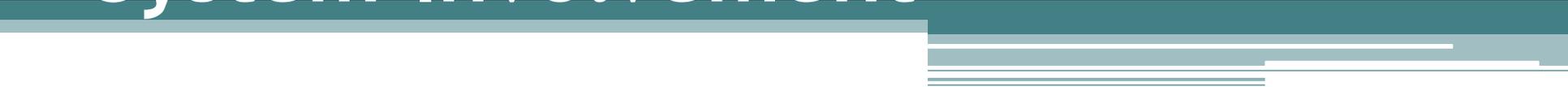


Youth Development in Action: Strategies for Engaging and Supporting Older Youth with System-Involvement



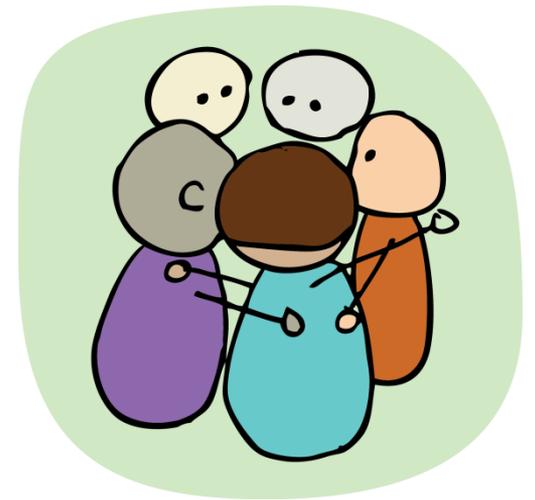
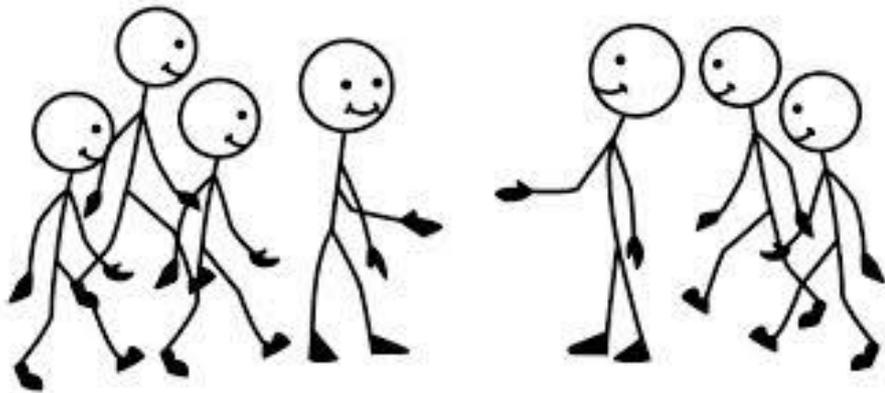
Project Everlast
Healthy Youth Nebraska Conference
September 21st, 2015

Objectives

This session will:

- Provide an introduction to essential concepts of Positive Youth Development,
- Help participants gain an appreciation for the experience of young people; and,
- Give participants at least one strategy to take with them to positively impact someone.

Mingle, Mingle, Huddle, Huddle

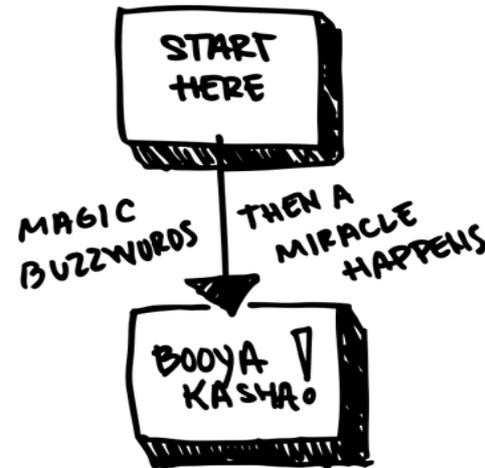


Mingle, Mingle, Huddle, Huddle

- When you were in high school/a teen, what was the most exciting thing you experienced?
- What kind of risks did you take as teenager?
- Who would like to go back to adolescence, if that were possible?

Defining Positive Youth Development

- Definitions
- 6 C's
- PYD in Action



What is PYD?

**Child and adolescent
development?**



Youth programs?

**A philosophy or
approach?**

Defining Positive Youth Development

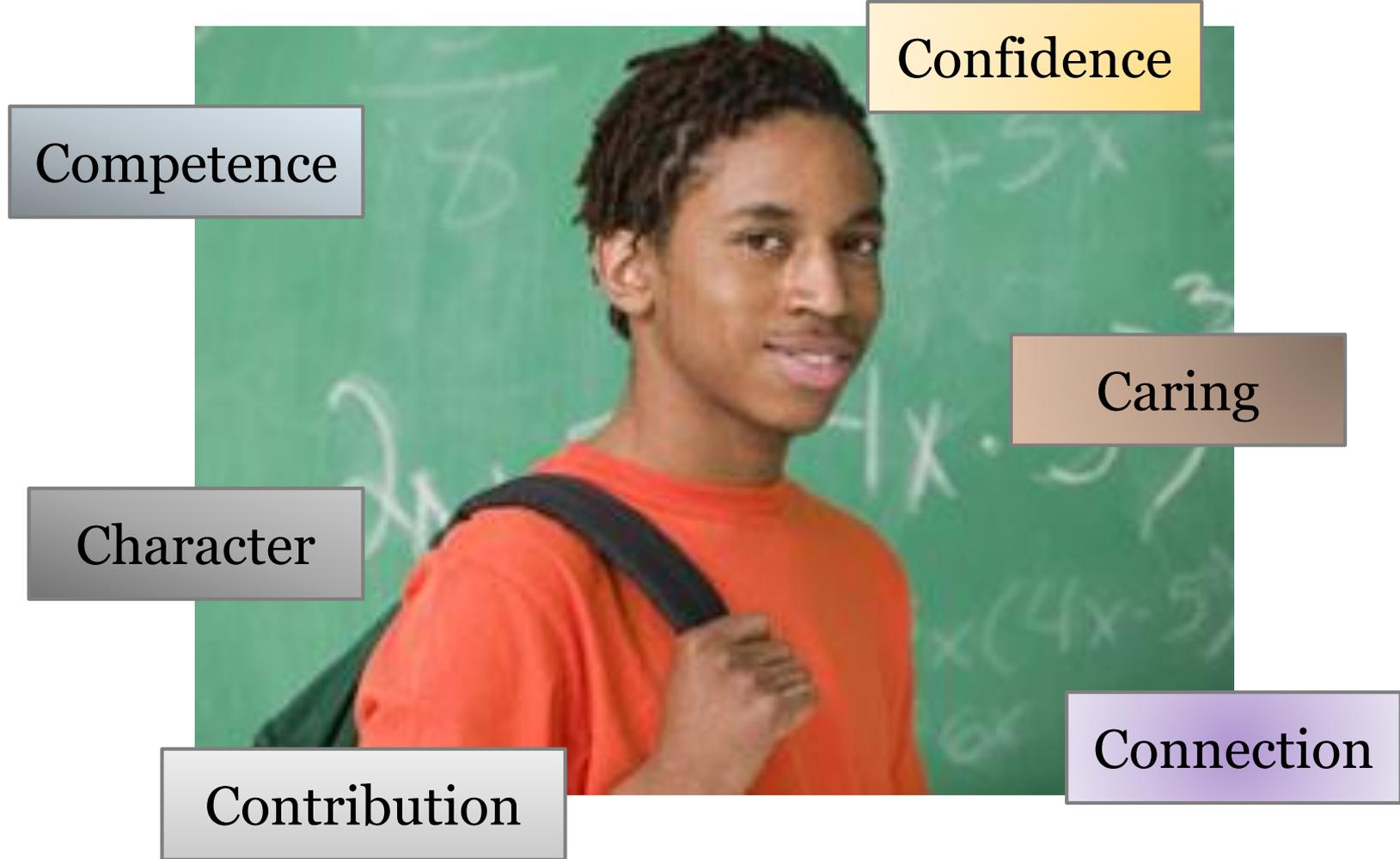
A philosophy or approach that guides communities in the way they organize programs, supports and opportunities so that young people can develop to their full potential.

- Focus on building positive outcomes
- Youth voice and engagement
- Long-term involvement/Developmentally appropriate
- Universal/Inclusive
- Community-based/Collaborative

Defining Positive Youth Development

- Occurs within social systems
- Promotion of Agency
 - Youth are participants, not just recipients.
- Can be disrupted by social toxicity

6 Cs



Positive Youth Development in Action



Promoting Better Outcomes

- Paradigm Shift
- Service-Opportunities-Supports
- Features of a Strength-Based Approach
- Sparks

Paradigm Shift

Traditional Youth Services

- Fixing Problems
- Reactive
- Troubled Youth
- Youth as Recipients
- Programs
- Professional Work

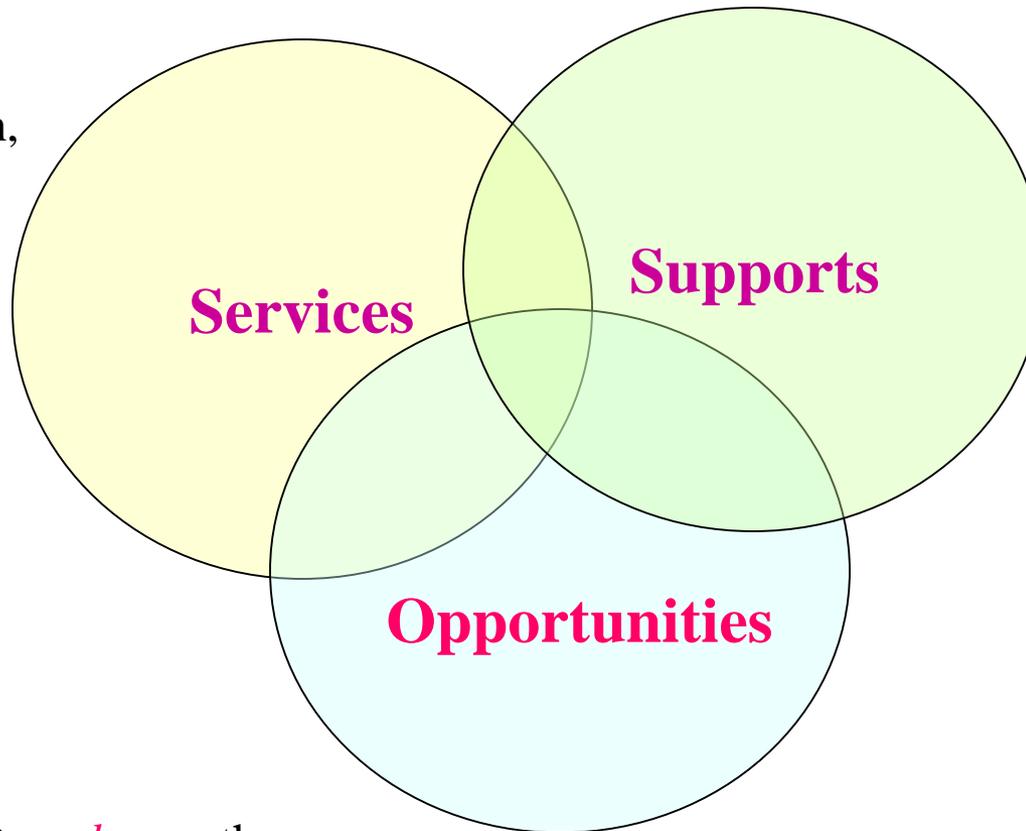
Positive Youth Development

- Building on strengths
- Pro-active
- All youth
- Youth as Participants/Resources
- Relationships
- Everyone's Work

Adapted from Search Institute. 2001.
Old Attitudes/New Attitudes. Speaking of Developmental Assets.

Services-Opportunities-Supports

- Provided *to or for* youth
- Intended to enhance health, safety, performance, and other forms of essential well being and physiological functioning



- Conducted *with* youth
- Relationships and resources to support emotional wellbeing; structure and guidance; access to info and resources

- Done *by* youth
- Meaningful opportunities to practice and expand on what youth know and learn – either through work, service, or advanced learning

Features of a Strength-Based Approach

- People are active participants in the helping process (empowerment)
- All people have strengths, often untapped or unrecognized
- Strengths foster motivation for growth
- Strengths are internal and environmental

Source: Saleebey, Dennis. 1992. The Strengths Perspective in Social Work Practice. Longman: White Plains, NY

Sparks



"A spark is something that gives your life meaning and purpose. It's an interest, a passion, or a gift."

Dr. Peter Benson, Search Institute
<http://www.search-institute.org/sparks>

Questions?



Stay Connected

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thank
you!