



SNIPPET

Professional Development for Youth Center Staff

Youth Council: Riverside County Council for Youth Development

Element: Comprehensive Approach

Function: Coordinating Youth Services

Subject: Staff Development

The Challenge: With limited resources for professional development and the goal to provide the highest quality services to youth, the Riverside County Council for Youth Development (CYD) was faced with the challenge of providing professional development opportunities for Youth Center staff.

The Practice and Evidence: The Riverside County Council for Youth Development realized it was important to get creative! They began by educating the Youth Center staff on youth development and the principles for operating effective youth programs. The Youth Opportunities Consortium, comprised of Youth Center Staff and Partners, was established, and monthly roundtable meetings were implemented to continue building capacity. Roundtable meetings offer an opportunity to discuss federal regulations, local policies, and critical issues as well as share best practices on a variety of topics.

Program staff has increased their professional skills and ability to provide quality program services resulting in high performance outcomes. Establishing the Consortium has fostered strong relationships and partnering among Youth Opportunity Centers. Best practices have been implemented across the system and can be evidenced by more than one center having the same partner(s) providing a service. For example, the Riverside YMCA provides the leadership development component in three of the Youth Centers.

The Details: Four LWIA staff members serve as program liaisons between the Youth Center(s) to which they are assigned and the CYD. Each liaison has a mandate to participate, get involved, and understand the community in which their Youth Center is located. Program Liaisons provide on-going technical assistance and specialized training to the Youth Center they serve, resulting in increased professional skills for program staff.

What's Next for this YCidea? The CYD will implement processes to receive feedback from Youth Center Managers and Staff on their needs for training and technical assistance. The Consortium will meet on a quarterly basis to plan for system improvements and share best practices.

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Where to Go for More Information

Riverside County Council for Youth Development

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