Positive Youth/Human Development

1/25/2019

Today's Presenters

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Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Staff Development Supervisor, Valley Youth House

20 years experience in Adolescent & Family mental health therapy
Hobbies: Cycling, Hiking & Photography

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Pronouns: He/Him/His

Research & Evaluation Coordinator, Valley Youth House

Honored as a Top 30 LBGTQ Change maker 2018
Hobbies: Traveling, Hiking & Photography

1/25/2019

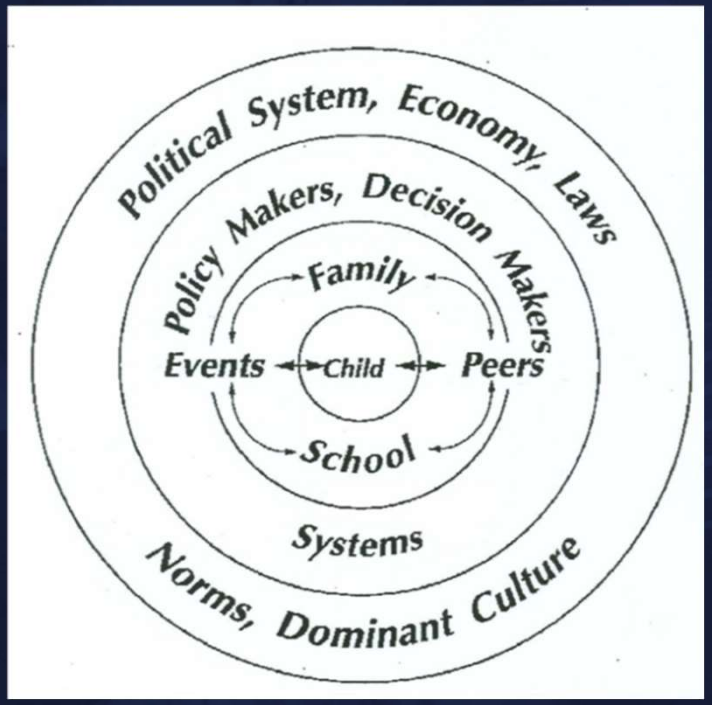
Objectives:

- Define Positive Youth/Human Development (PYHD)
- Provide a historical context and explain how it differs from traditional youth work
- Provide concrete examples of PYHD in action
- Discuss the challenges in being PYHD & ways to address them
- Understand the link between staff development and PYHD

1/25/2019

Welcome to a sea of gray.....

What makes PYHD important for our work?



We've come a long way baby.....

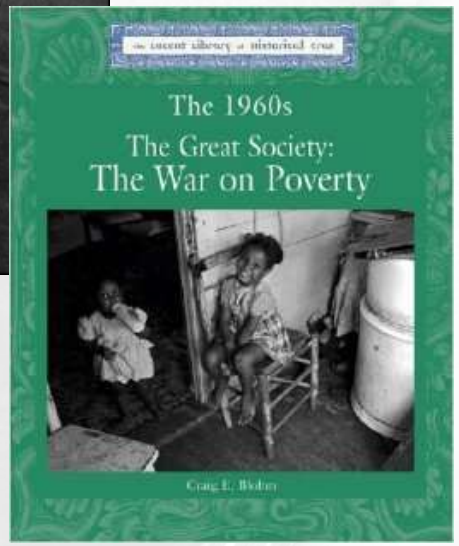
Traditional Youth Services

- Focus on problems
- Reactive
- Targeted youth
- Youth as recipients
- Programs
- Professional providers

Positive Youth Development

- Focus on positive outcomes
- Pro-active
- All Youth
- Youth as active participants
- Community Response *(systematic change)*
- Community Members

So Why the Change?

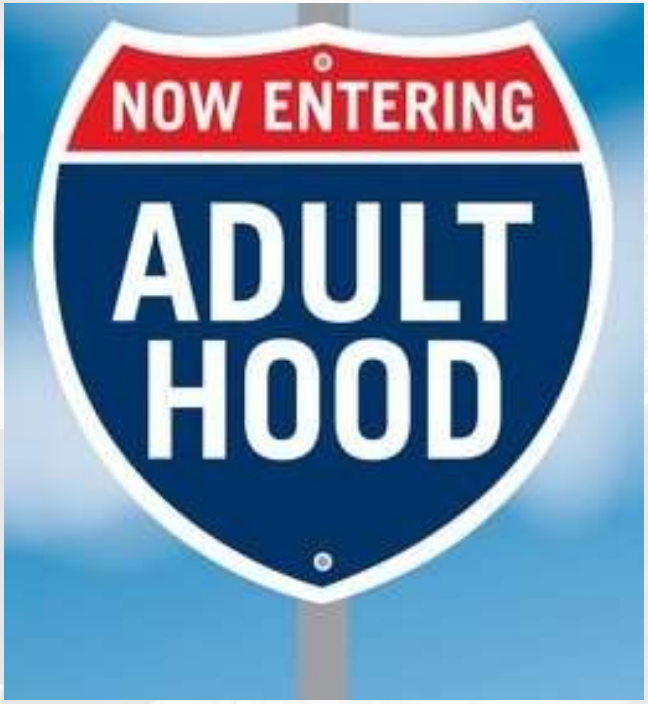


How About Prevention?

An Idea was born….

idea

The 90's brought us more than Grunge, slap bracelets and The Spice Girls



So What is PYD?

No really, what is it?

Positive Youth Development is…..

"An operational and integrated mindset that creates, provides, and uses opportunity to create meaningful experiences for becoming a positive, competent and contributing adult."

(R.M. Robertson Jr., 2006)

The academic definition

"A process of human growth through which adolescents move from being taken care of to taking care of themselves and others; an approach where policy, funding, and programming are directed at providing supports to young people as they build their capacities and strengths to meet their personal and social needs; and a set of practices that adults use to provide youth with the types of relationships and experiences needed to fuel healthy development"

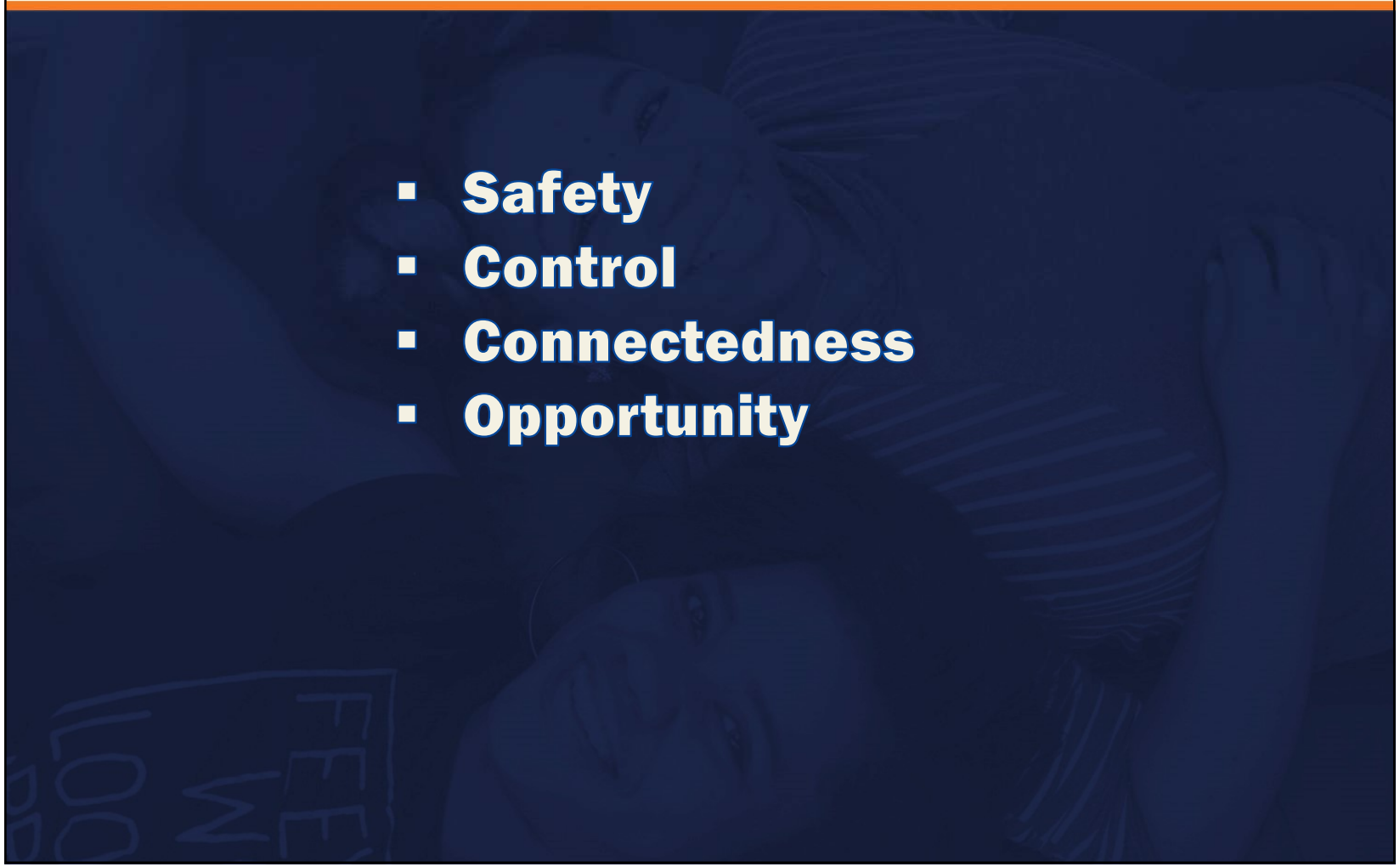
(Youth Development Strategies, Inc; 2008)

Simply Put…….

"An approach to working with young people that focuses on psychological, emotional and social development rather than problems or deficits"

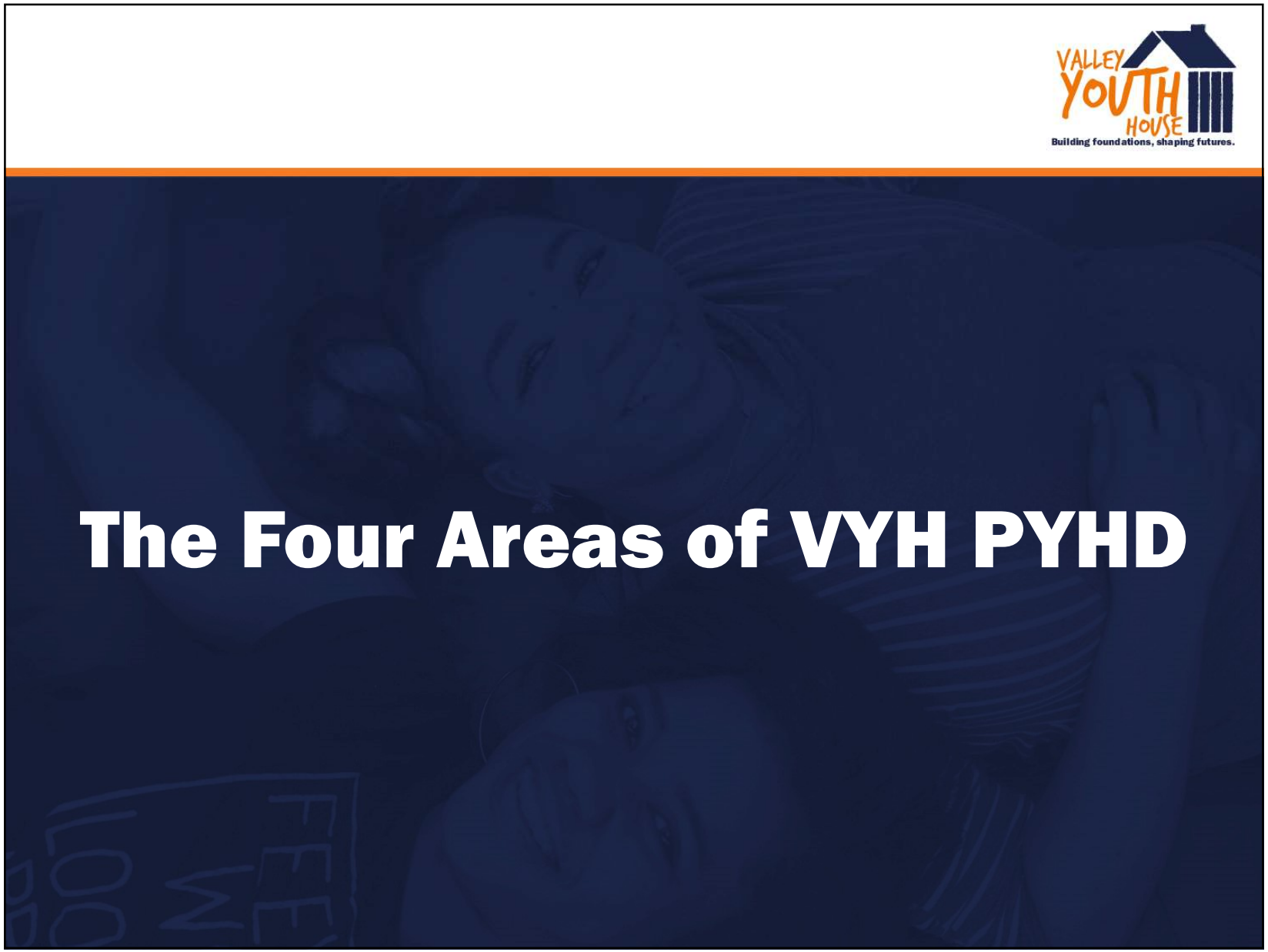
(J.T. Fest, 2009)

The Four Basic Areas of PYHD



The Five Characteristics of Positive Youth/Human Development

- **Caring**
- **Competence**
- **Confidence**
- **Connection**
- **Character**
  - **These then Lead to a sixth characteristic:**
- **Contributions to self**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The Four Areas of VYH PYHD

SAFETY

I am SAFE in the world

"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or president of the university." — Albert Einstein

CONTROL

I am a RESOURCE

"All sentient beings should have at least one right—the right not to be treated as property." — Gary L. Francione

CONNECTEDNESS

RELATIONSHIPS Matter

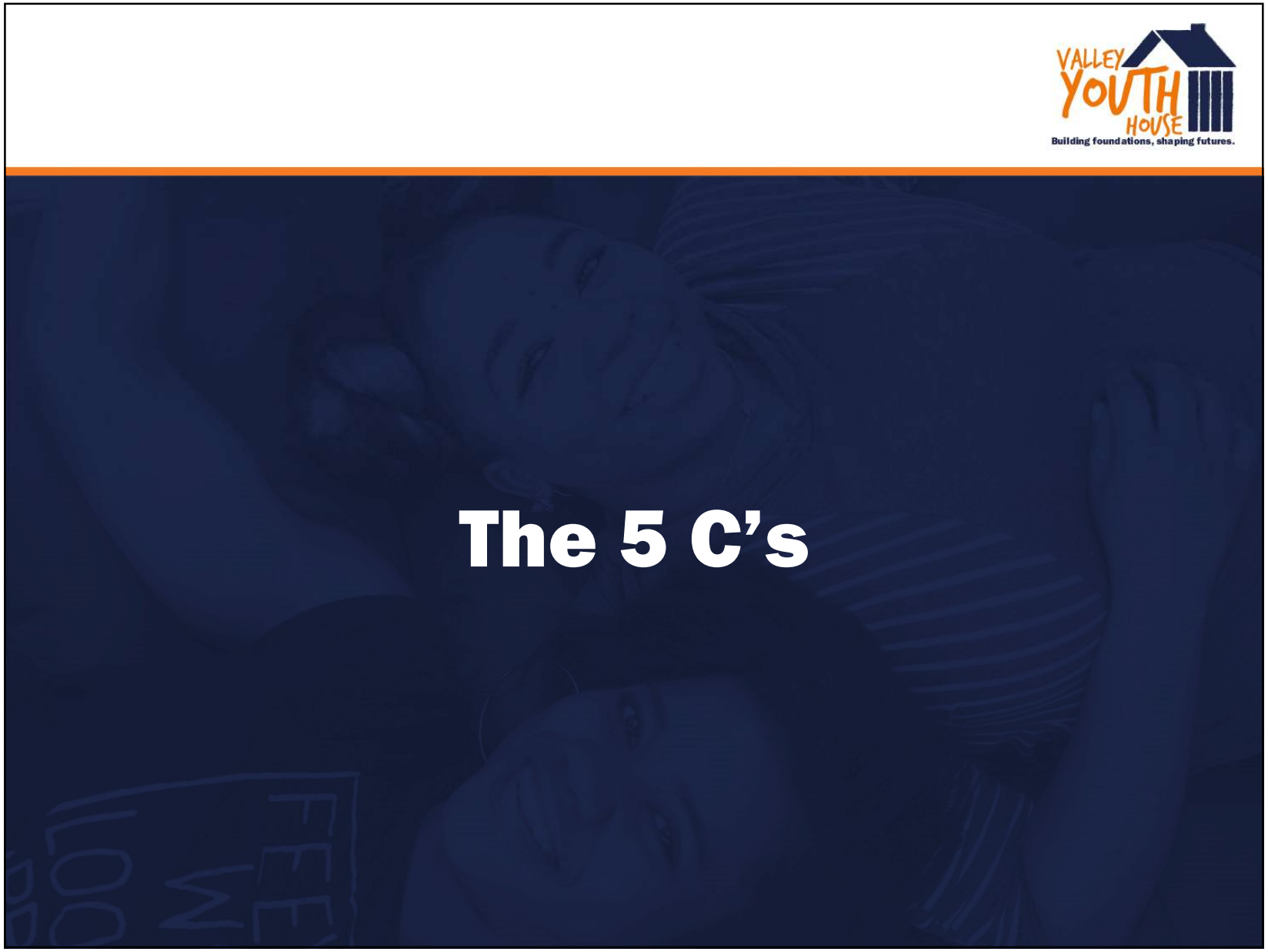
"Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike." — J.K. Rowling

OPPORTUNITY

Give me MEANING in my life

"I want some feeling! I want some team spirit!"

-Jo Bob Priddy, North Dallas Forty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The 5 C's

CARING

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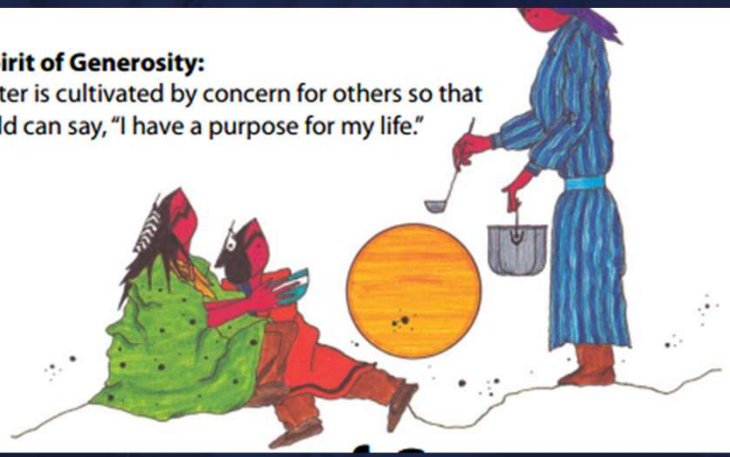
The Spirit of Generosity:
Character is cultivated by concern for others so that the child can say, "I have a purpose for my life."



Community Service VS Service Learning

	Community Service	Service Learning
Primary Intended Beneficiary	Recipient(s)	Recipient(s) and Provider
Primary Focus	Providing meaningful service	Providing meaningful service and enhancing classroom learning
Intended Educational Purpose	Moral, personal and social growth and development	Academic learning, enhancing intellectual and civic engagement
Curricular Integration	None	Fully integrated into the curriculum
Nature of Service Activity	Based on client interest/motivation	Based on treatment plan or goals

COMPETENCE

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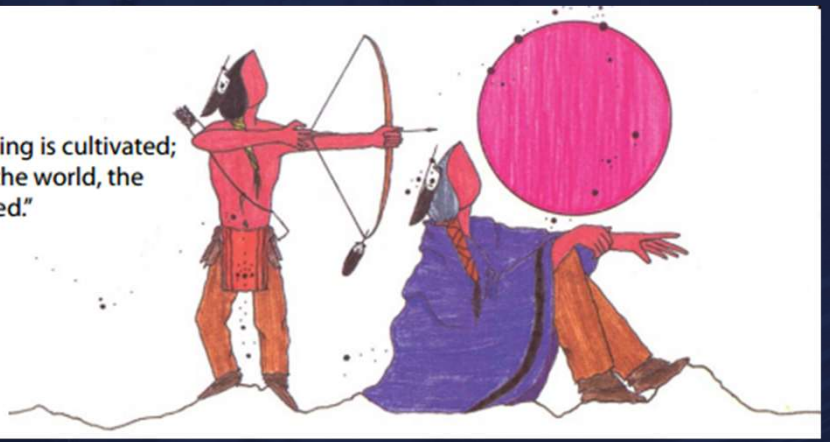
The Spirit of Mastery:
The inborn thirst for learning is cultivated; by learning to cope with the world, the child can say, "I can succeed."



CONFIDENCE

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The Spirit of Independence:
Free will is cultivated by responsibility so that the child can say, "I have the power to make decisions."

CONNECTION

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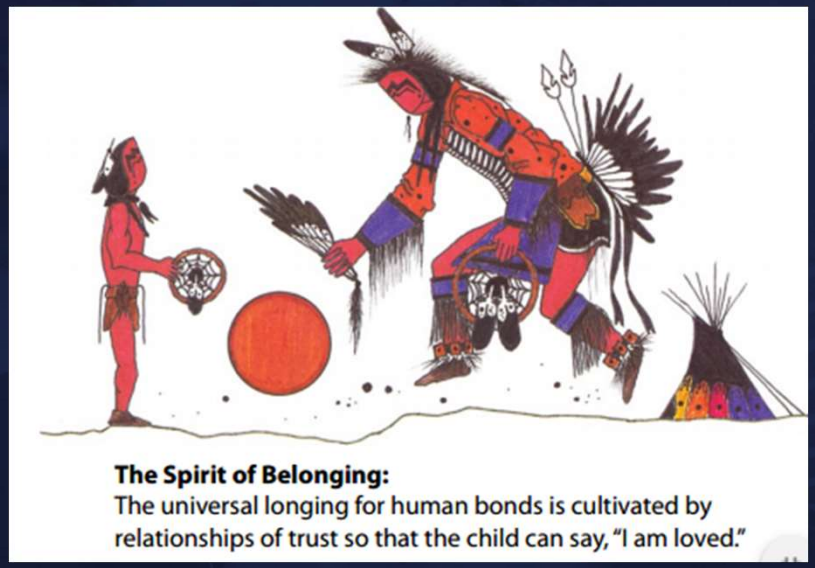

The Spirit of Belonging:
The universal longing for human bonds is cultivated by relationships of trust so that the child can say, "I am loved."

CHARACTER

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO SELF

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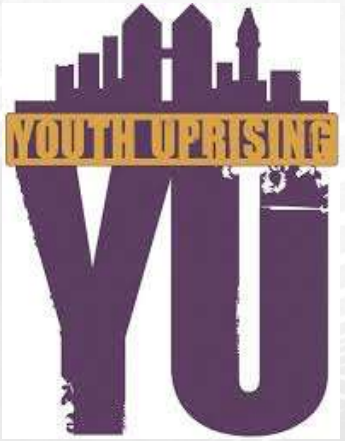
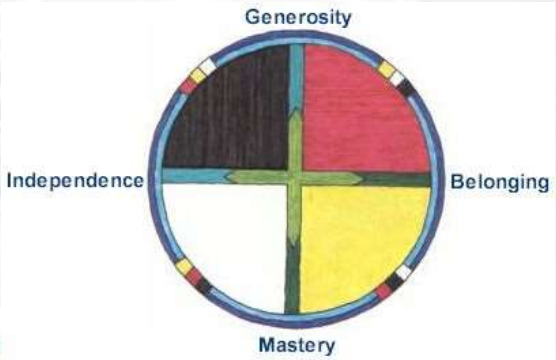
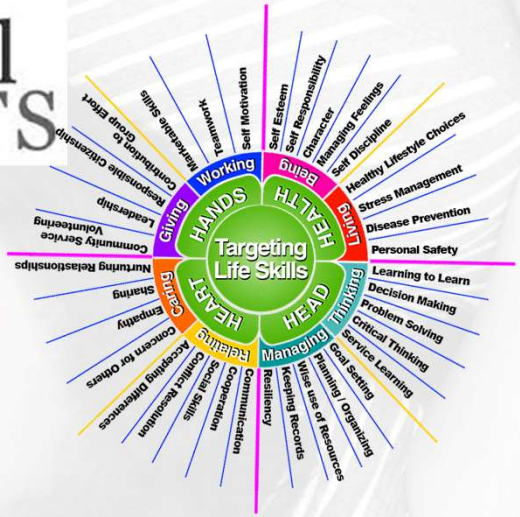
Organizations that use PYD

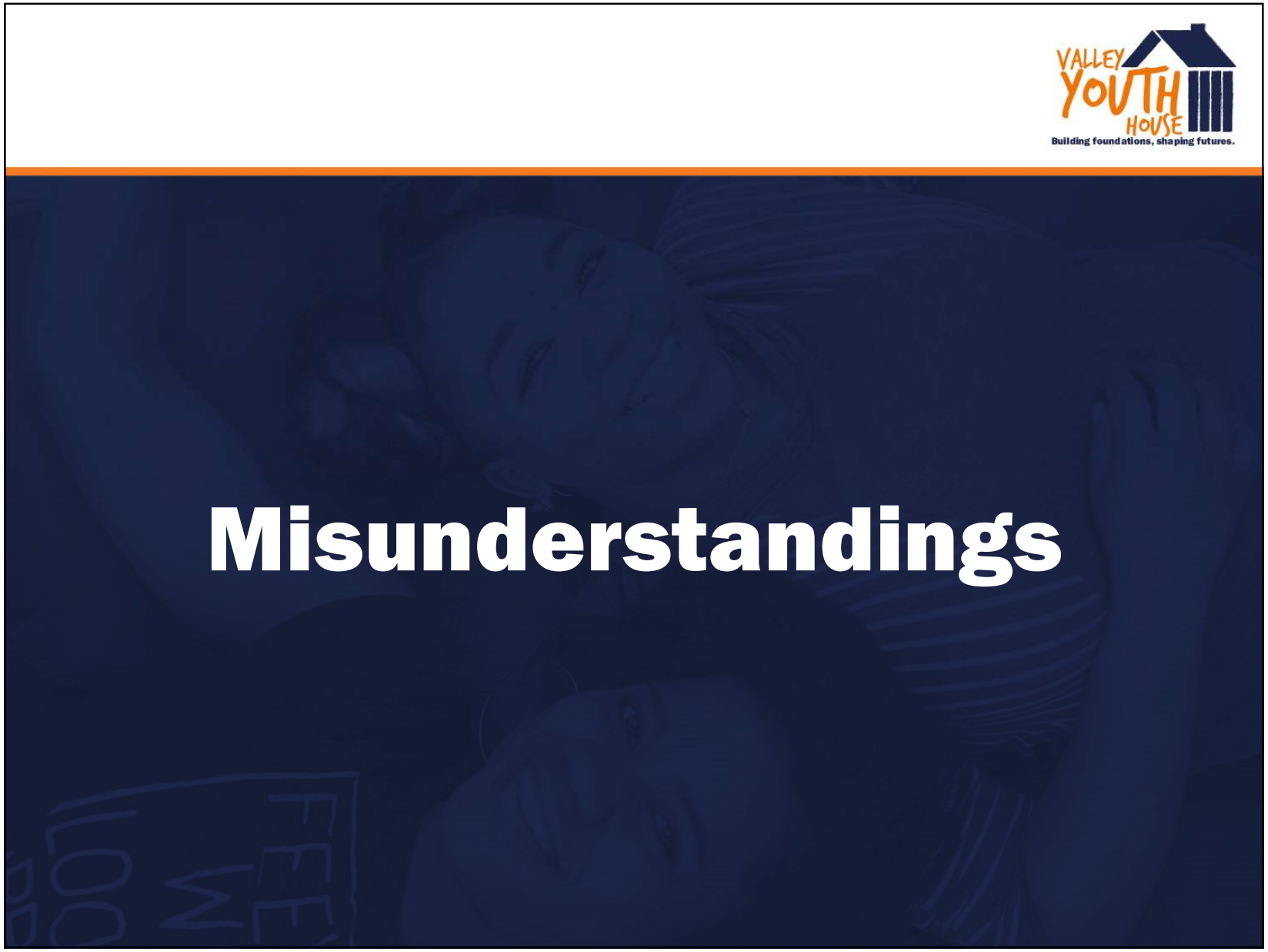


Outcome models with PYD roots



Essential ELEMENTS

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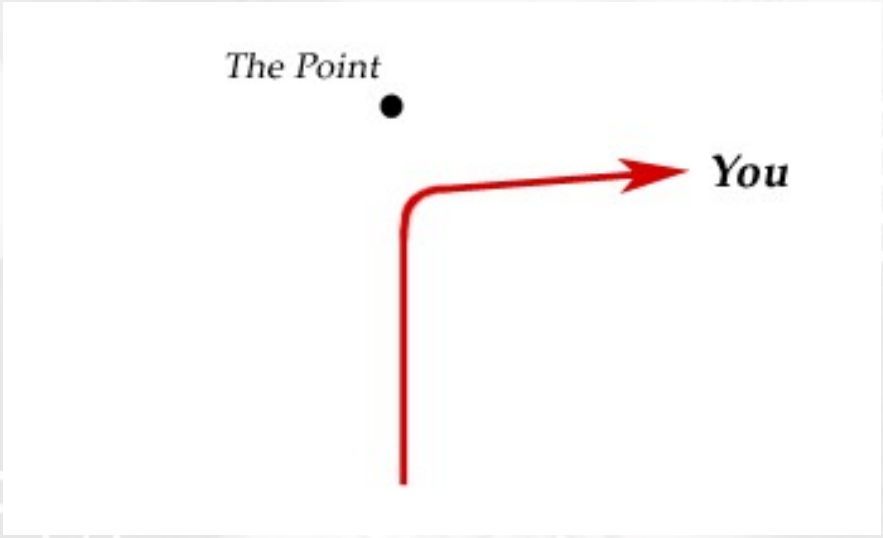
Misunderstandings

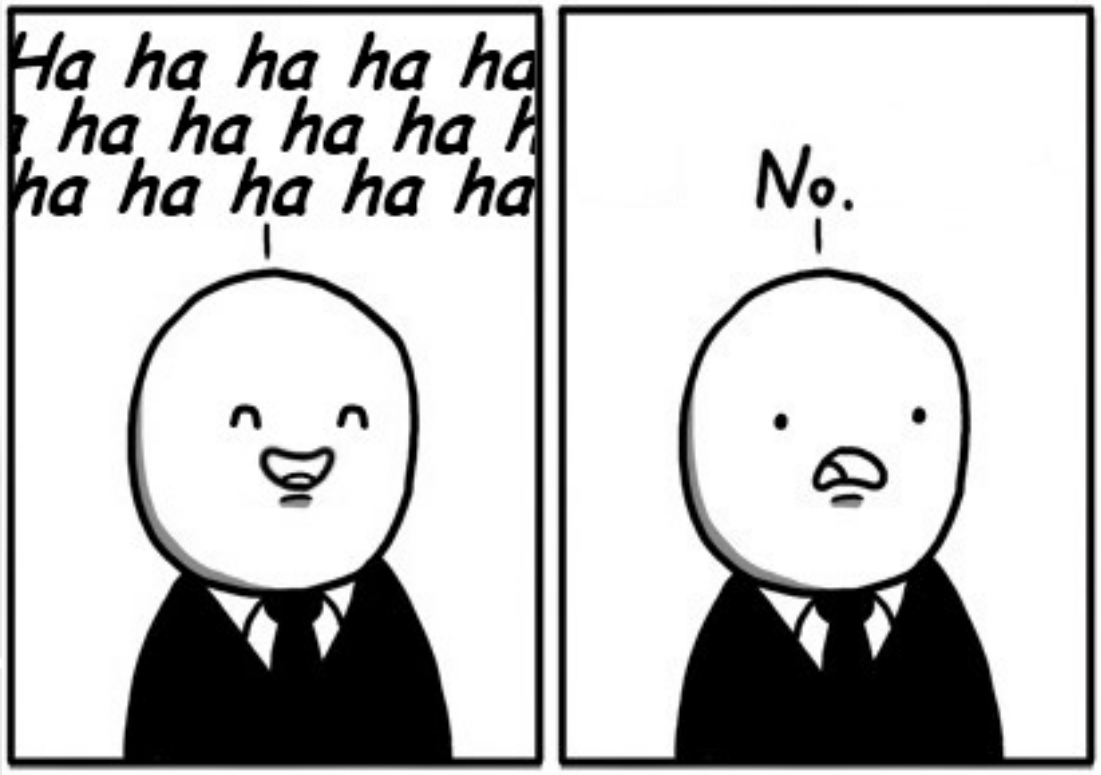
#1 – Client Participation is PYD

#2 – Client Participation is important because it improves programs by considering their input and perspectives

Yes, but.....



#3 – Client participation means giving all the power for decisions to young people



PYHD is just another way of saying we are strength based

Well, Not Exactly

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Ok, Great. So how do I implement & teach this to others?

The adult role

Listen / Act Serious

Demonstrate respect & trust *(equally delegate responsibilities & privileges)*/Offer ongoing recognition

View people holistically

Give reasons (explanations for decisions)

Have Fun!

Discussion

Additional Questions

Thank you for joining us for today's training!

Feel free to send any additional questions you may have related to this webinar to your CoC's email address.

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