

2013 OR/Adolescent Sexuality Conference

Notes regarding WORKSHOP: Planned Parenthood - TOP Program

Service learning workshop and now it effects youth dealing with Healthcare inequalities. TOP program. How does service learning prevent pregnancy prevention? TOP program...Comprehensive, positive youth development strategy, broadly focused, not just working on youth sexual health, strength based. Meet 40 mins/wk at a minimum throughout entire year. Main components: Curriculum guided group, service learning. Improved Attendance, failure, academic performance, teen pregnancy rate, statistics prove demonstrated results/improvement

We structure it in the health curriculum. It's one of the rare programs that talks about goal setting, healthy relationships, life skills, values, decision making, communication. Skills. Facilitated by a PP staff person are paired with someone/organization from the community who already has a relationship with the school. Students go through 20 hours community service minimum. – through federal grant. So focused on curriculum...and added Community service...adds element of fun for youth. Found that this was the key to making the program working.

Really a comprehensive program...we don't even go in and tell them that this is a pregnancy prevention program. Program serves everyone in room... not supposed to be targeting specific efforts.How is TOP helping to prevent teen pregnancy? Kids gain relevant skills, connections to the community...job ops...learn life skills. Relationships developed with trusted adults.

Schools determine which teacher is willing to have this program...which is one day a week for the whole year. Could partner with counselor to assess students who should be in program. Some afterschool programs...like to be in health classes...as you can reach more students/ more structure...reach students who would otherwise not attend an afterschool club.

Start to engage more in positive things than negative things (make sandwiches for homeless, plant a tree. Clean up...). Feel more empowered that they can make a change in their community. Tons of buy in.

Surveys include questions about sexuality....since we have established a trusting relationship...they are generally more honest. Try to stay connected – try to get kids back the next year to do another survey.

Does it have to be a year-long program? Yes, so that bonding is occurring. (how do you stay in touch with students?) It's a lot of work to stay in touch with students. Someone else does the survey. PP helps out. They pay students to take survey...they have multiple touch points throughout the year with students, random drawings, the bond that has been established that year helps to get contact information, putting up posters, seeing them in the hallways, etc.

Building relationships, negotiations, last minute scrambling, we had this agreement/get them to honor this. Service learning is very easy to sell. Be very assertive with admin, school board. Totally wide open topics. With some schools there have been agreements to not focus on sexuality – so we (PP) have to go with other topics in order to get into the schools. So projects around sexuality can be tricky. It doesn't matter if the topic is sexuality. Comes with the engagement with the community, the school,

trusted adults and learn valuable skills. How can we fit this into kids lives? We rather wanted to build on the youth voice. Funded by federal grant. **Have to stay within our service area (Ptld and Salem).** Always looking for new schools to add...either by talking with teachers or admin that are interested.]

This program does meet the state health standards...just in a slightly different way.

“Youth development focus” rather than sex ed focus...so once parents hear this..they generally are ok with it and let it ride. We’ve only had a handful of parents who have pulled their kids from the TOP program. So students who leave – to library and do alternate assignments...once a week.

There is a curriculum, different levels that are age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate that you work through each year. A mix between the curriculum, very interactive, service learning, read the group as to what they need (ie: explore their values). Curriculum brought into service learning program to support it...to give certain skills.

What is the long term goal is not talking about sexuality...what does the service learning ultimately do for districts? What is the benefit of having PP doing this? “It’s our 45 years of experience educating youth in their...basically having an agency to control their sexual reproductive health that and having the capacity because we have an educational component in all our affiliates...we have the capacity to deliver the program. Long term...reduction in teen pregnancies...we are capable of pulling it off.

Having the capacity to talk with kids about tough issues and looking at other development models...and evidence based programs. Build relationships with students.

It’s not the PP way to have programs that are mild and don’t offend anybody.

Looking for a program that is long enough so we could build those relationships but not so overwhelmingly expensive; relationship/communication building. Wyman group. Maintain quality assurance, teach to fidelity.