

Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC) Virtual Convening

Overall Objectives for Convening:

Attendees will increase their knowledge of:

- The experiences of Opportunity Youth with disabilities and common challenges they face in accessing services needed to achieve employment outcomes
- Successful strategies for identifying, engaging, and retaining Opportunity Youth with disabilities in services
- Strategies for developing collaborative relationships with other agencies and service providers to connect to and effectively serve Opportunity Youth with disabilities

DAY 1 - Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – “What Works to Engage Opportunity Youth”

1:00 – 1:10 pm

Welcome & Introductions

- **Mindy Larson**, Y-TAC Project Director, Institute for Educational Leadership
- **Alicia Bolton**, Minds that Move Us Project Director, Institute for Educational Leadership

1:10 – 1:55 pm

Opening Plenary Session:

“Don’t Dis My Ability: Creating Opportunity for All Youth to Thrive”

Plenary Speaker:

- **Hasan Davis**, Hasan Davis Solutions, LLC

1:55 – 3:10pm

Session 1: Tips, Advice, and Innovative Strategies: Navigating Within the Opportunity Youth Space

Session Objectives:

- Increase knowledge about collaborative community partnerships approach
- Increase understanding of the challenges, supports, best practices, and solutions for engaging Opportunity Youth from the youth perspective
- Increase knowledge about ways to engage opportunity youth in various spaces

Moderator:

- **Francine Francis**, Right Turn Program Director, Institute for Educational Leadership

Panelists:

- **Charles Beard**, Youth Services Specialist/Employment Specialist, Right Turn Program/ Oasis Center (TN)
- **Elizabeth Glaser**, Youth Service Specialist, Right Turn Program/ Peckham, Inc. (MI)
- **Wade Grost**, Youth Participant, Right Turn Program/ Peckham, Inc. (MI)
- **Thomas Thompson**, Youth Participant, Right Turn Program/ Oasis Center (TN)

Breakout discussion, following panel

3:10 – 3:20 pm

BREAK

3:20 – 4:50 pm

Session 2: Recognizing the Diverse Needs of Opportunity Youth & Effective Trauma-Informed Practices to Support Them

Session Objectives:

- Increase awareness of environmental triggers for young people who have experienced trauma
- Increase knowledge of effective trauma informed practices
- Increase understanding of the importance of including youth voice in all aspects of youth programming

Moderator:

- **Karin Grandon**, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Institute for Educational Leadership

Panelists:

- **Karen Bazan**, Youth Participant, Freestate ChalleNGe Program (MD)
- **Muhammed Wishnoff**, Youth Participant, Freestate ChalleNGe Program (MD)
- **Christopher Davis**, Youth Participant, Freestate ChalleNGe (MD)
- **KariLynn Dunmeyer**, Program Director, Freestate ChalleNGe (MD)
- **Adene Karhan**, Yang-Tan Institute, Cornell University

4:50– 5:00pm

Closing Reflection

- **Mindy Larson**, Y-TAC Project Director, IEL
- **Alicia Bolton**, Minds that Move Us Project Director, IEL

DAY 2 - Thursday, January 16, 2020 – “How to Achieve Results in Your Agency & Community”

1:00 – 1:10pm

Welcome & Recap

- **Mindy Larson**, Y-TAC Project Director, IEL
- **Alicia Bolton**, Minds That Move Us Project Director, IEL

1:10 – 1:30pm

Launching A Virtual Network for Ongoing Peer-to-Peer Learning

- **Mindy Larson**, Y-TAC Project Director, IEL

1:30 – 2:40pm

Session 3: Utilizing WIOA to Strengthen Interagency Collaboration

Session Objectives:

- Increase understanding of the unique aspects of supporting opportunity youth;
- Increase knowledge of how to apply strategies for engaging with opportunity youth; and
- Identify partner agencies with whom to collaborate for effectively supporting opportunity youth.

Moderator:

- **Kim Osmani**, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Cornell University’s Yang-Tan Institute

Panelists:

- **Billy Lane**, Youth Participant, Cedar Canyon Adventure Program (OK)
- **Jamie Hooper**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist IV, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OK)
- **Melissa Cupp**, Juvenile Justice Specialist II, Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs (OK)
- **Katie Decker**, Career Manager, Western Oklahoma Workforce Development Board, Odle Management

2:40 – 2:50pm

BREAK

2:50 – 4:00pm

Session 4: Exploring New Partnerships to Reach Opportunity Youth

Session Objectives:

- Increase understanding of programs and organizations serving youth from special populations.

- Increase knowledge of strategies for engaging special populations through partnerships within state and local communities.

Moderator:

- **Andrew Karhan**, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Cornell University's Yang-Tan Institute

Panelists:

- **Andrew Moore**, Director, Youth & Young Adult Connections, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, National League of Cities (DC)
- **Jackie Carrillo**, Youth Leadership Council Member, Jewish Vocational Service (CA)
- **Ivan Corado-Vega**, Manager of High School & Bridge Programs, Jewish Vocational Service (CA)

Breakout discussion, following panel

4:00 – 4:10pm

BREAK

4:10 – 4:50pm

Closing Plenary:

“Relationally-Focused Engagement of Youth”

Moderator:

- **Kim Osmani**, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Cornell University's Yang-Tan Institute

Plenary Speakers:

- **Venita King**, Southeast Division Director, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
- **Krysta Esquivel**, Executive Director of YMCA Youth and Family Services, YMCA of San Diego County

4:50– 5:00pm

Closing Reflection:

“Next Steps to Continue Learning Together”

- **Mindy Larson**, Y-TAC Project Director, IEL
- **Alicia Bolton**, Minds That Move Us Project Director, IEL