Center for School, Health and Education

Public Health Capacity Building Assistance for SBHC Leaders
A CDC Funded Learning Series

Module 5: Partnerships with School Leaders and Youth

Engaging Youth To Address Social Determinants

Bronwyn Lucas, MPH
Executive Director
Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)

APHA

Objectives

- Describe how YES! defines "social determinants" and sustainable change

- Provide a brief understanding of Empowerment Theory

- Describe how Youth Empowerment is a framework that can effectively address social determinants

- Highlight outcomes of integrating Youth Empowerment

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Youth Empowered Solutions
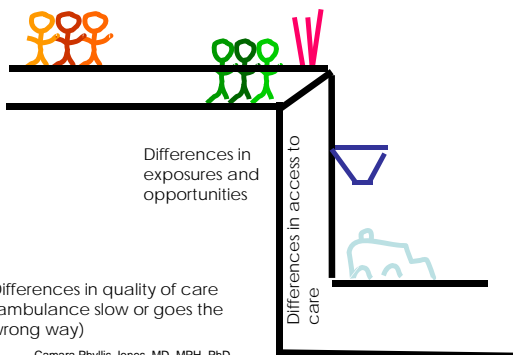

Some questions to think about…

- What structural barriers might there be to applying a youth empowerment framework?

- What capacity would be needed at the organization or within the staff to engage youth beyond the exam room?

- What systems, environments, or policies in your community cause your patients to have poor health outcomes?

Youth Empowered Solutions

Before We Talk about YES! and Youth Empowerment…

Youth Empowered Solutions

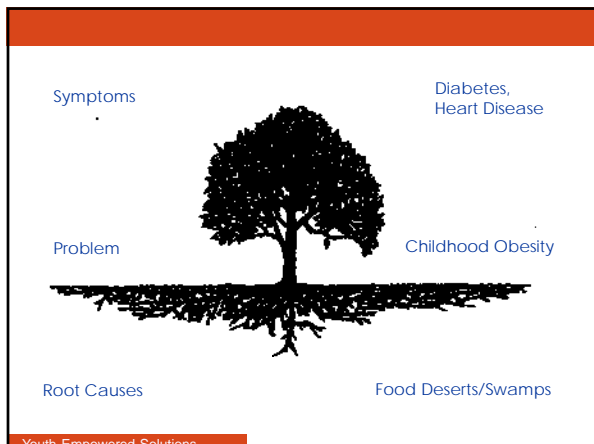
Social Determinants in a Snapshot

Differences in exposures and opportunities

Differences in access to care

Differences in quality of care (ambulance slow or goes the wrong way)

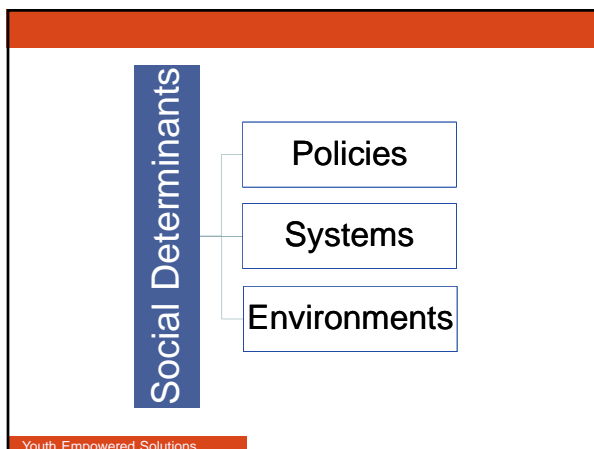- Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

Addressing the social determinants of health disparities:

Why are there differences in resources along the cliff face?

Why are there differences in who is found at different parts of the cliff?

- Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

Slide 1

Symptoms

Diabetes,
Heart Disease

Problem

Childhood Obesity

Root Causes

Food Deserts/Swamps

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Slide 2

Social Determinants

- Policies
- Systems
- Environments

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Slide 3

What Does This Look Like?

- **Clinton Global Initiative** commits to youth empowerment at its 2012 Annual Meeting Topic Dinner in NYC. (System)

- **Southern Obesity Summit**, a conference hosted by The Texas Health Institute – includes a youth track with the goal of reaching nearly 100 youth across the South for the first time in history. (System)

- **Myers Park High School** (Charlotte, NC) implements a Lunchroom Redesign to make the healthy option the easy option for students. (Environmental)

- **Circle K stores in Raleigh, NC** allow placement of stickers on alcoholic beverages called "alcopops" that helps distinguish them as alcoholic. (Environmental)

- **Westminister Properties** establishes a Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Policy to protect it's residents from second hand smoke. (Policy)

- **NC HB693**, which would have required minors to get notarized consent for reproductive health care services was withdrawn from NC General Assembly session. (Policy)

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Youth Empowerment Theory

" Empowerment theory connects individual well-being with the larger social and political environment, and suggests that people need opportunities to become active in community decision-making in order to improve their lives, organizations, and communities.*"*

Mark Zimmerman, Ph.D.
University of Michigan, School of Public Health

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Youth Empowerment Theory

Youth Empowerment is <u>not</u> a…
• PROGRAM

Youth Empowerment is a…
• PROCESS
• OUTCOME

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YES! Youth Empowerment Model

Skill Development
Critical Awareness
Opportunities

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Skill Development

The process of strengthening skills and knowledge to improve effective decision-making, positive peer interactions and strategic community advocacy.

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Critical Awareness

The process of identifying the information and resources in order to have a deeper understanding of the "how" and "why" of positive change.

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Opportunities

The process of creating platforms for decision-making, participation and taking action which can result in community change.

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How do we quantify our outcomes from Youth Empowerment?

2014 YES! Youth Staff Outcomes
(n=15):

100% Described a new skill that they learned
100% Told us about instances of taking action
93% Described impacting a policy, system, or environment

| The average length of employment at YES! is 18 months. | 80% of youth were of color, lived in a rural community, or lived in a community of low-wealth. | 66% of staff at YES! are youth. |

2014 YES! Training Outcomes

942 Adults and 264 Youth
Exposed to the Youth Empowerment Model

157 Adults and 2076 Youth
Trained on Youth Empowerment and Social Determinants

99% of Both
Indicated skill growth
57% of Both
Took action

29 instances of change (Systems, Environments, Policies)
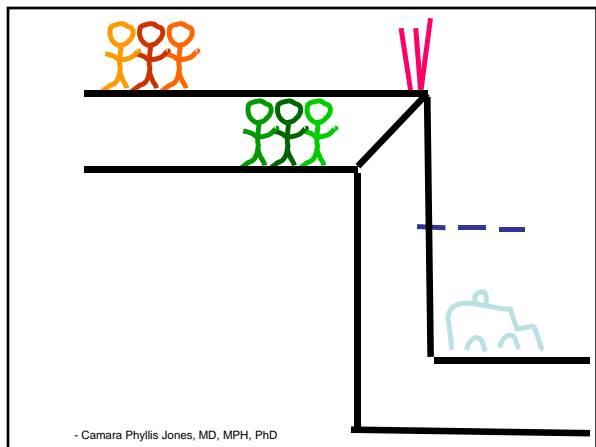Impacting 259,957 people
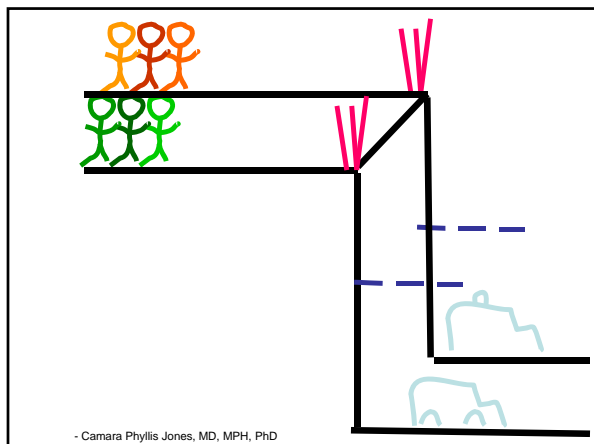
Organizationally

- The Culture Changes

- The Mission Becomes More Clear

- Programming Becomes More Connected and Responsive

- Inclusivity and Representation Are Valued

- Funding As A Result Of Authenticity

- Reach New Sectors Of The Community

Youth Empowered Solutions

Quick Recap…

Youth Empowered Solutions

- Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

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Youth Empowered Solutions

Resources

Youth Empowerment:
the theory and it's application

School-Based Health Centers
And the Intersection of Youth Empowerment and Health Care

www.youthempoweredsolutions.org

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@YES_Forum

Youth Empowered Solutions

Center for School, Health and Education

Bronwyn Lucas, MPH

Bronwyn Lucas, MPH is co-founder and Executive Director of the intergenerational empowerment and advocacy non-profit Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!). YES! empowers youth, in partnership with adults, to create community change and has had remarkable success in policy change on a variety of adolescent health issues, including teen tobacco use, childhood obesity, underage drinking and access to health care. Lucas was part of the NC team that developed the nationally-recognized Youth Empowerment Model © for social change in 2002. YES! makes an impact by providing interactive training and innovative technical assistance to teens, adults, and agencies promoting social change through youth empowerment.

Lucas believes that intergenerational power sharing is essential to creating solutions for the challenges of our world and has a passion for engaging and empowering young people and communities. An avid leader in her community, Lucas has organized coalitions to advocate for policy change at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Lucas received her undergraduate degree from Amherst College and received a Master's in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Thank You

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