Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series

Activating the Power of Youth Voice in Mentoring

Thursday, March 19, 2020
One week after the webinar, all attendees receive an email with:

- Instructions for how to access a PDF of presentation slides and webinar recording
- Link to the Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series webpage, where all slides, recordings and resources are posted

Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.
Participate in Today’s Webinar

- All attendees muted for best sound
- Type questions and comments in the question box
- Respond to polls
- Who is with us today?
- What are you interested in learning / hearing about today?
• Why is youth voice important in mentoring?
• What have been some successes and challenges with incorporating youth voice in mentoring programs?
• What are best practices and strategies mentoring programs can implement in order to leverage and center youth voices?
Adriane is the Director of Government Relations at MENTOR National. In this role, she works to mobilize support to advance youth mentoring and strengthen engagement of Congress and the Administration. Adriane began her career in child welfare serving as a Legislative Aide for a California Representative on issues related to foster care and families. She led a bipartisan coalition of over 150 Members of Congress who worked together to advance legislation to improve positive outcomes for foster youth. She directs the Youth Advocates for Mentoring program at MENTOR. Adriane holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University and is from New Jersey, but resides in Virginia.
Grace Edelen
Youth Advocates for Mentoring

Grace is a member of the 2019-2020 cohort of Youth Advocates for Mentoring. She is a junior environmental science major at Bellarmine University in her hometown Louisville, Kentucky. Utilizing her major and a minor in anthropology, Grace uses YAM to advocate for cleaner air in West-end Louisville, a place that has systematically contributed to environmental health problems for decades. She hopes to deliver legislation surrounding her advocacy project to Congress in July, along with her empowered YAM colleagues.
Taariq Brown is a current member of the 2019-2020 cohort of Youth Advocates for Mentoring. He is attending Old Dominion University located in his hometown of Norfolk, Virginia. Taariq is a junior majoring in Psychology looking to become a Fashion Psychologist to use what helped me cope with depression, anxiety, and stress to help others do the same. He hopes to start a non-profit organization help low-income youth, boys & men gain a voice.
Cade is a native Angelino and dedicated to applying theory to practice to the youth development field. Before joining YMAN and completing his M.Ed., Cade managed the CASA Pitzer Academic Program and Community Space for three years, engaged in both research and organizing work ranging from youth mentoring to immigration to environmental justice. He now maintains and runs all of YMAN’s outreach and training efforts in the Inland Empire and elsewhere.
Stephen has a deep personal and professional passion for social justice-centered youth development and college-access work. Stephen’s background in this field came first as an “at-risk” young person himself, then as a volunteer tutor and mentor, a researcher, and now is thrilled to continue this path as a CfY staff member. Stephen firmly believes in the power of mentorships to be a conduit for both mentor and mentee to learn, to grow, and to heal. And that this healing and relationship on the individual level ultimately impacts the health of our community.
Amy Le
Community for Youth

• Cleveland High School, Senior
• 3 year Community for Youth Student, and LeaderCorps President.
Youth Advocates for Mentoring

A 10-month program based out of Washington, D.C. that trains 12 participants on advocacy, policy, and grassroots organizing.

Advocates craft their own policy surrounding an advocacy topic of their choice, which will be presented to Congress at the end of the program.

Training in the form of in-person "kick-off weekend," monthly webinars, check-ins via phone with mentor, assignments.

Each advocate is matched with a mentor.
Youth Advocates for Mentoring

How does YAM encourage the youth voice?

- When help is needed, help is provided.

- The steps to take to get your voice heard.

- New opportunities, new experience.
Youth Advocates for Mentoring

How does YAM encourage the "youth voice?"

- Post-webinar surveys
- Check-ins with program coordinator monthly/weekly
- Asking: What do YOU all need?

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series
YMAN envisions re-imagined, youth-led, multigenerational spaces in which healthy dialogue, community-engaged education, and civic engagement create equitable environments in which youth thrive.
Critical Mentoring?

If young people’s contexts were water and air, it would be impossible to breathe and impossible to drink. The critical mentoring process aims to address this.

Mentoring must move to “clear the water and purify the air.”

*It is not about using mentoring to manage symptoms, but leveraging mentoring to address root causes.
YMAN Organizational Structure

Board of Directors
Includes 2 local HS students
2 college students

Staff
Includes 2 Youth Program Coordinators
1 Music Program Director
1 videographer

Our theories and practice on the ground with our young folks.

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series
Dahrien

“I feel like the youth only have a voice when authority...figures want us to have a voice...and like all these years they’ve been teaching us structure, structure, structure, so much structure everyday”

- Feels that adults already expect less from young people.
- When she feels she is not being listened to, it is easier to check out.
- Sees a connection between who is listened to and their race, class, and social status.
- Points out that when youth are included and make decisions that this is a major first step to empowering youth voice, power and choice.
“Youth voice, power, and choice means to me...is giving young people a say in what is happening around them and in their lives and giving them the power to actually control certain situations...I see the least amount of choice in my life when speaking to adults...”

- YMAN elders, young people, adults, students, mentors and proteges talk to each other equally and create safe spaces where no one is exercising power over each other.
- Adults need to pay attention as to how they carry themselves into spaces with youth, young people pay attention.
- Technology can be a barrier relationships.
- Believes young people have to prove themselves to adults so that they can demonstrate that there is a different way.
Black Girls (EM) Power | YMAN

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series
MISSION
We inspire and support students to be their best selves through mentoring, learning experiences, and a powerful community.

VISION
Youth are empowered to discover a future of possibility for themselves and their community.

VALUES
Community Centered
Student Leadership
Diversity/Equity/Inclusion
Integrity
Not School, Not Work
Transformation
Launch

Launch is a weekend camping trip where incoming student mentees, incoming mentors, and CfY staff gather for a weekend of activities and building community.
The week following Launch is when CfY will work meticulously to pair and "MATCH" mentors and mentees. Consideration is given to the connections that mentors and mentees created during Launch and gives us a chance to pair individuals based on meaningful conversations and activities from over the weekend.
Workshops, 1:1’s & Family Groups

Throughout each Learning Community, Students and Mentors will engage in full Learning Community Workshops, 1:1 meetings, and outings with their family groups.
What does CfY do to integrate youth voice?

- LeaderCorps
- Student LeaderCorps Panel in Pre-Camp Mentor Training
- Choice in mentors, family groups
- Youth Facilitation in Programming, youth design
Successes

• LeaderCorps wanted more responsibility

• Increased ownership of programming, and support of new students into our program

• More relevant programming for our students, and more compelling for all of us (staff, mentors, etc.)
Challenges

• How to create a meaningful opportunity for young people that ensures success (not too big of a project, not too tertiary, but still impactful).
• As adults, when you create opportunities for youth voice, you don't get to filter what is important: you have to listen to all of it
  • We had to be prepared to be responsive to not just food choices or workshop topics, but also really evaluate how and why we deliver our program.
• Not all of that was easy to accomplish, but as an organization, we are committed to the hard work
CfY has allowed me to make new connections that I wouldn't have on a daily basis, along with being offered opportunities. Through CfY I'm exposed to other programs, volunteer work, and so on that goes beyond what my school provides. CfY has prepared me for my future by helping me learn to be more involved in a community and having a voice. If I could describe my experience with CfY in one word it would be: discovery.

-Donny - Student Mentee

My favorite experience with CfY is the powerful acknowledgments that are given at the close of every year. It’s amazing to see the students receive sincere praise for their character and growth throughout the year. The change you see in the students from when they were first acknowledged at camp to their final acknowledgment of the year is remarkable. It's very special to witness how much their confidence has grown and how supported they feel by their CfY community.

-Aisling - Community Mentor
Type your questions in the question box:

https://doi.org/10.1080/09518398.2015.1017849


https://doi.org/10.1080/15505170.2016.1138258

https://doi.org/10.1037/a0015073

Contact our Panelists

Cade Maldonado
Director of Training and Outreach
outreach@yman.org

Stephen Song
Executive Director
www.communityforyouth.org
info@communityforyouth.org
206.325.8480

@ymanstrong
#criticalmentoring

@CommunityForYouth

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series
Connection in a Time of Social Distancing
Mentoring Resources and Tips for the COVID-19 Pandemic

www.mentoring.org/coronavirus-resources

• Review this guide on trauma
• Read this Talking to Children About COVID-19 resource
• Share this Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus with youth
• Search Institute Tipsheet: 10 Ways to Respond to Fear and Scapegoating During the Coronavirus Epidemic
• From Facing History: Protect Yourself and Stand Against Racism

Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series
Affiliates

Affiliates serve as a clearinghouse for training, resources, public awareness and advocacy. Find your local affiliate here: http://www.mentoring.org/our-work/our-affiliates/

Mentoring Connector

Recruit mentors by submitting your program to the Mentoring Connector https://connect.mentoring.org/admin

National Mentoring Resource Center

Check out the OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center for no-cost evidence-based mentoring resources
Remember...

After the webinar:

- Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.

- Everyone will get an email with information on how to download the slides, recording, and resources on the CMWS webpage on the MENTOR website:

  http://www.mentoring.org/program_resources/training_opportunities/collaborative_mentoring_webinar_series/
We See You: Mentoring Boys & Young Men of Color Through a Racial Equity Lens
April 16, 2020
1 – 2:15PM ET