



**DENVER HEALTH**  
**PEDIATRICS**  
AT DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## HOW TO IMPLEMENT SUCCESSFUL YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS IN THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SETTING



Tara Melinkovich (she/her)

Jemima Safi (she/her)

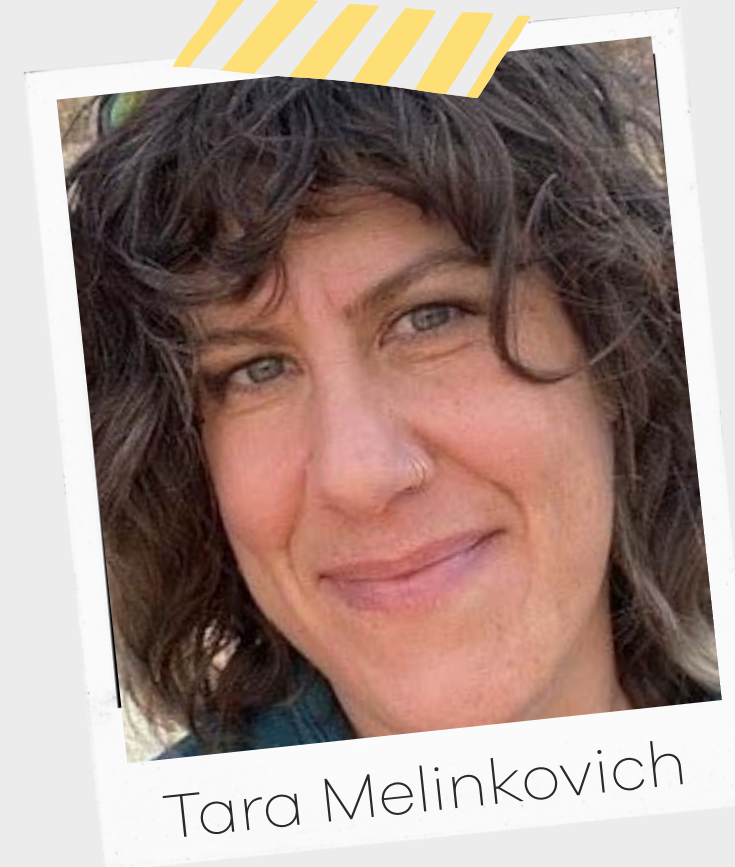
Maryanuth Keang (she/her)

# 6 INTRODUCTION

Tara Melinkovich (she/her)  
Denver Health, 2013  
University of Washington, MPH, 2009  
Youth Program Manager, Denver Health Denver  
Health School-based Health Centers

Jemima Safi (she/her)  
Youth Advisor, 2021  
University of Colorado Denver, BSc  
Denver Health School-based Health Centers, Social  
Media (Instagram), Outreach

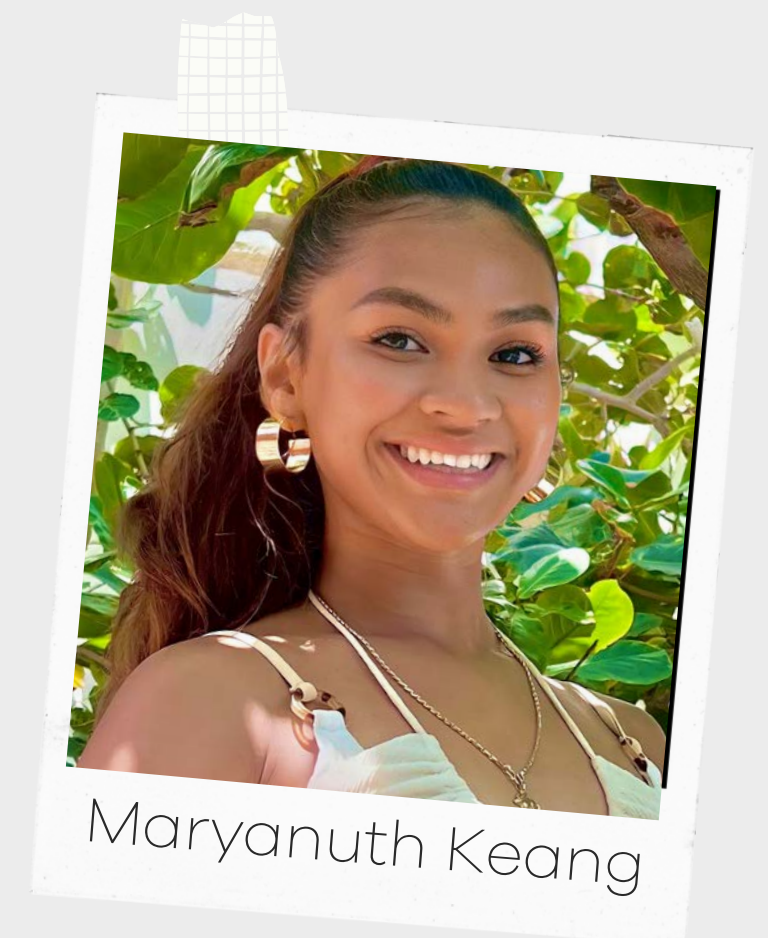
Maryanuth Keang (she/her)  
Youth Advisor, 2018  
Georgia State University, BSc  
Denver Health School-based Health Centers, Social  
Media (TikTok), Outreach, Remote



Tara Melinkovich



Jemima Safi



Maryanuth Keang



# TODAY'S AGENDA

1 Introductions and Ice Breaker

2 Why This Matters

3 Theories That Guide Our Work

4 Youth Advisor Projects


5 Successful and Unsuccessful Youth Engagement

6 Applying What You've Learned ; Group Activity

9 Q & A

10 Post-Lesson Reflection





Let's **BREAK** the  
**ice**

Scan the QR code below to enter an ice-  
breaker game.





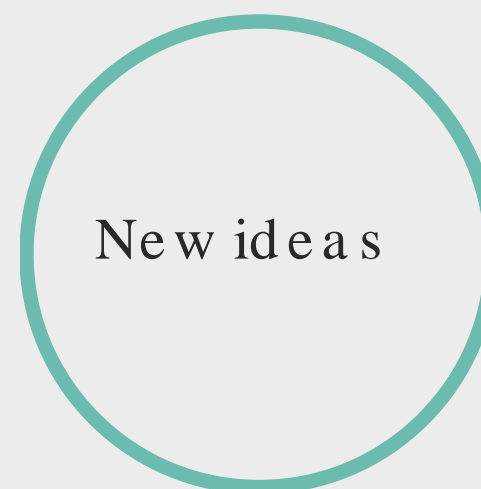
LET'S  
BEGIN!

# WHY DO WE CARE?

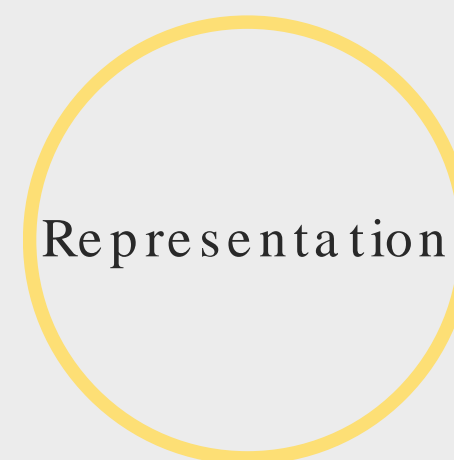
“Nothing About Us, Without Us”

“Young people are effective advocates for and consumers of their own health care. As key stakeholders..youth can shape programs, policy, and outreach activities that affect the health of their peers in their schools, communities, and nationwide.”  
- The School-Based Health Alliance

1 For your organization:



2 For youth:



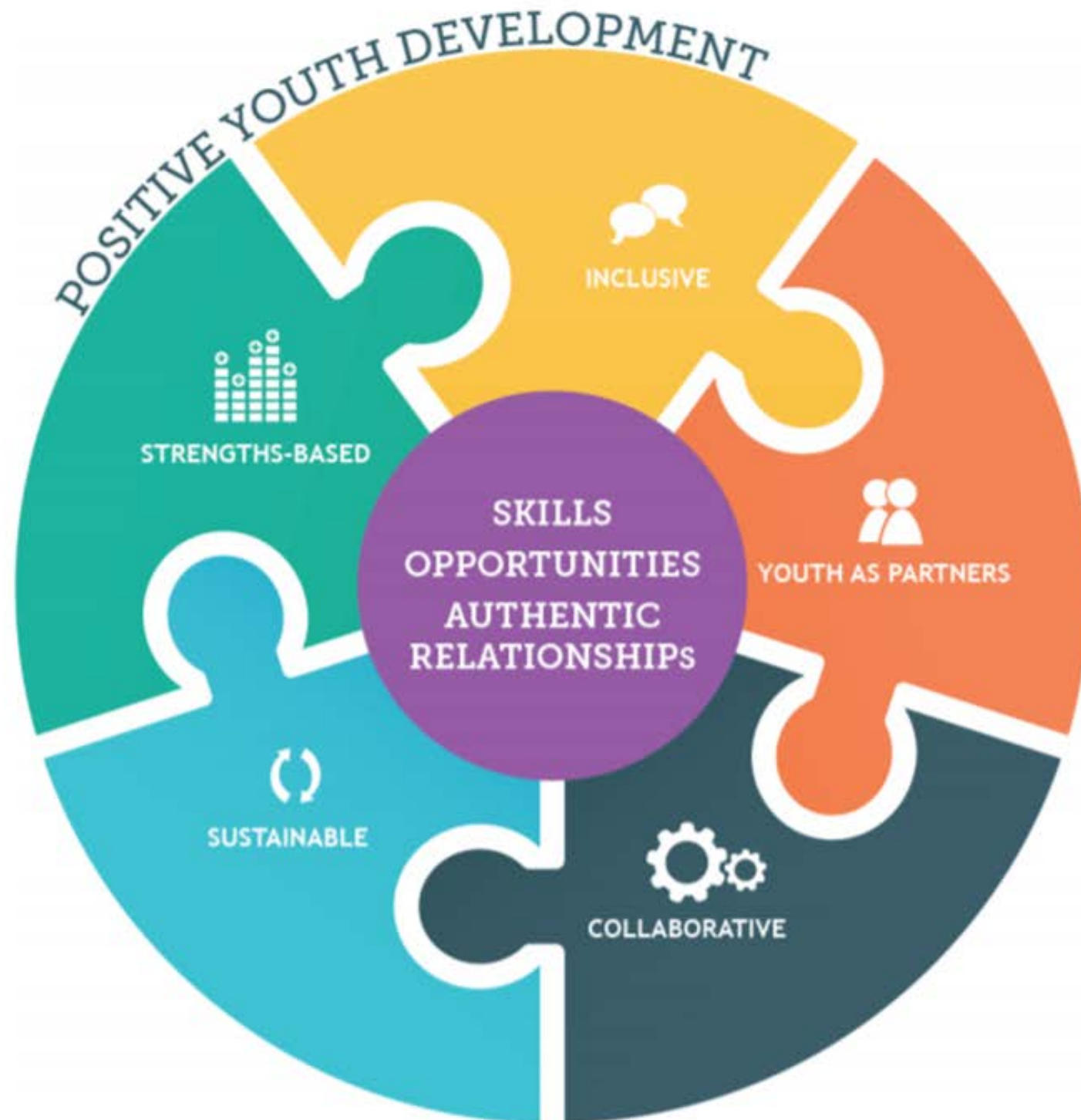
Sounds like a lot, but it's not! We will break it down for you.

Some organizations may find the idea of partnering with youth overwhelming. This session will support participants in taking manageable steps towards incorporating youth voice.

At the end, you will be able to identify strategies for engaging young people in a meaningful and effective manner. You will walk away understanding what it really means to “Bring youth to the table.”



# WHAT IS POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?



## Strength Based

- Use strengths individuals already have and build upon them
- Explore strength, and directing an individual's ideas/ belief/motives

## Inclusive

- Use individuals' ideas to achieve greater things
- Hearing out individuals' ideas
- Being aware of race, gender, culture, language, social comfortability, sexuality, accessibility

## Youth as Partners

- Building relationships w/ youth
- Encouragement of ideas and exploration
- Providing opportunities
- Keeping things simple and interactive
- Asking for youth input
- Shared decision making

## Collaborative

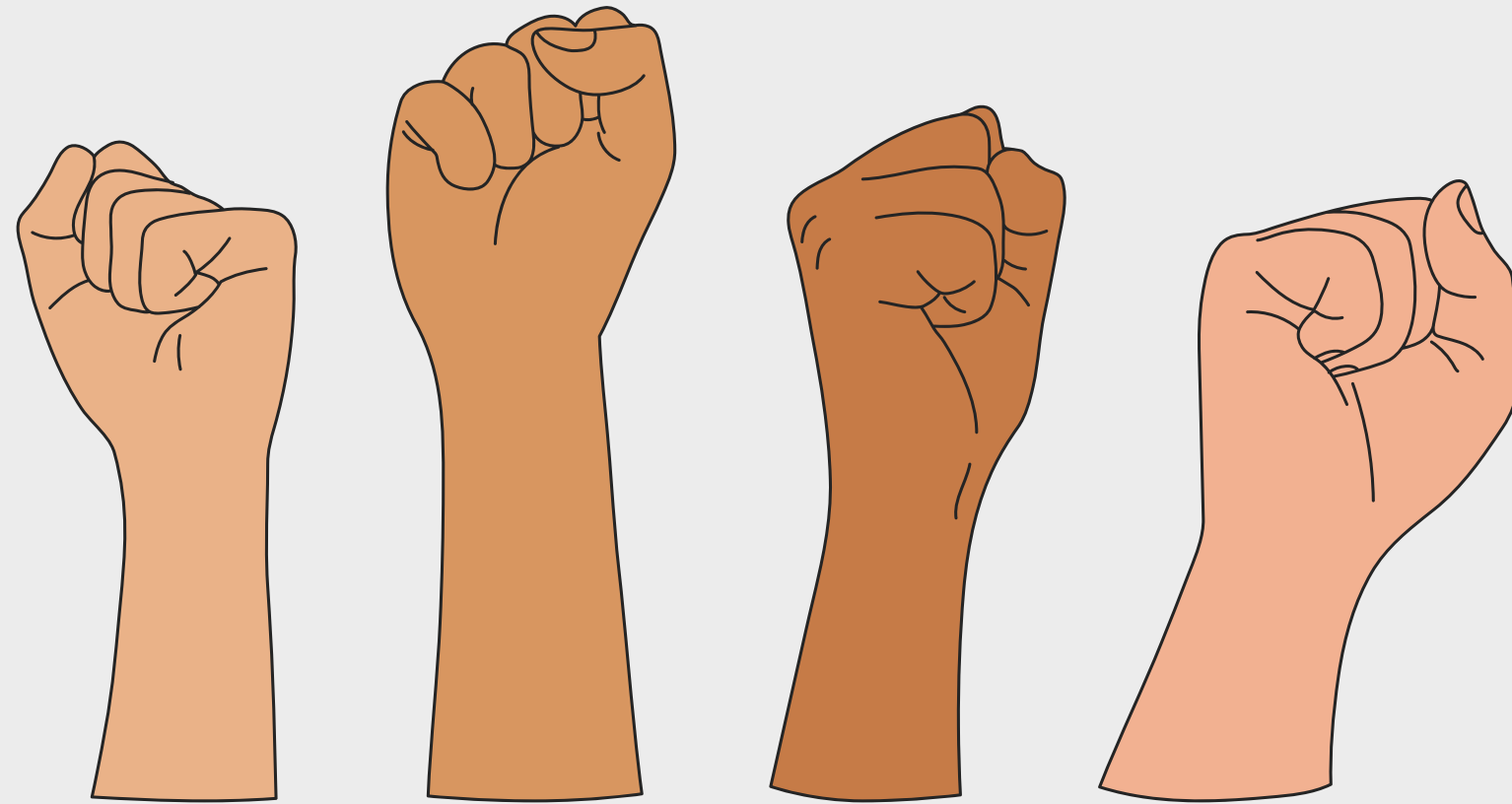
- Acknowledging the caring adults in youths' lives
- Community partnership

## Sustainable

- Ongoing Support
- Leadership buy-in
- Continuous Quality Improvement







**OUR APPROACH TOWARDS  
SOCIAL JUSTICE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

# THE GOAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SJ YD):

## CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

A PERSON'S ABILITY TO CRITICALLY INTERPRET THEIR WORLD AND ACT UPON IT

GLOBAL AWARENESS

**Self Awareness:** When an individual learns, accepts, and acknowledges their relationship with power

**Social Awareness:** understanding and recognizing how power operates in society

SOCIAL AWARENESS

SELF-AWARENESS

**Global Awareness:** Individual/group of people take action to address unjust power

# THE GOAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SJ YD):

## CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

### Embrace Youth Culture

- Celebrate youth culture in organizational culture
- Language
- Personnel
- Recruitment Strategies



### Encourage Collective Action

- Involve oneself in collective action and strategies that challenge local and national systems and institutions
- Community Organizing
- Rallies and Marches
- Walkouts
- Boycotts and Hunger Strikes
- Electoral Strategies



### Analyze Power in Social Relationships



- Political Education
- Political Strategizing
- Identifying Power Holders
- Reflecting on power in one's own life

### Make Identity Central



- Join support groups and organizations that support identity
- Read material where one's identity is central and celebrated
- Critique stereotypes regarding one's identities

### Promote Systemic Social Change



- Work to end social inequality
- Refrain from activities and behaviors that are oppressive to others

5  
Core Principles  
S J Y D

# Youth Advisor Projects

DENVER HEALTH SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

1

## TikTok

Proposed a fun-educational approach for promoting services and engaging with youth (during COVID)

2

## Instagram

Proposed alternative/addition social media platform besides Facebook

3

## Senior Packets

Proposed an informational package to help with the healthcare transition after graduation

4

## Youth Ambassador

Working directly with students in schools with SBHCs to achieve a better engagement network and gain better insights from younger students

5

## Content Creation

Creates appealing content, from flyers, to videos, to Instagram posts etc for youth

6

## Patch

Employ 8-10 Teen Educators annually, who lead workshops with medical providers and their peers, focused on improving patient/provider relationships

\*

We've got the foundation. Now it is about how we BUILD off of it!

# COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Youth-led activities, in which decision-making is shared between youth and adults (youth and adults are working as partners)
- Youth-led activities with little input from adults
- Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed
- Adult-led activities, in which youth understand the purpose and have a role in decision-making



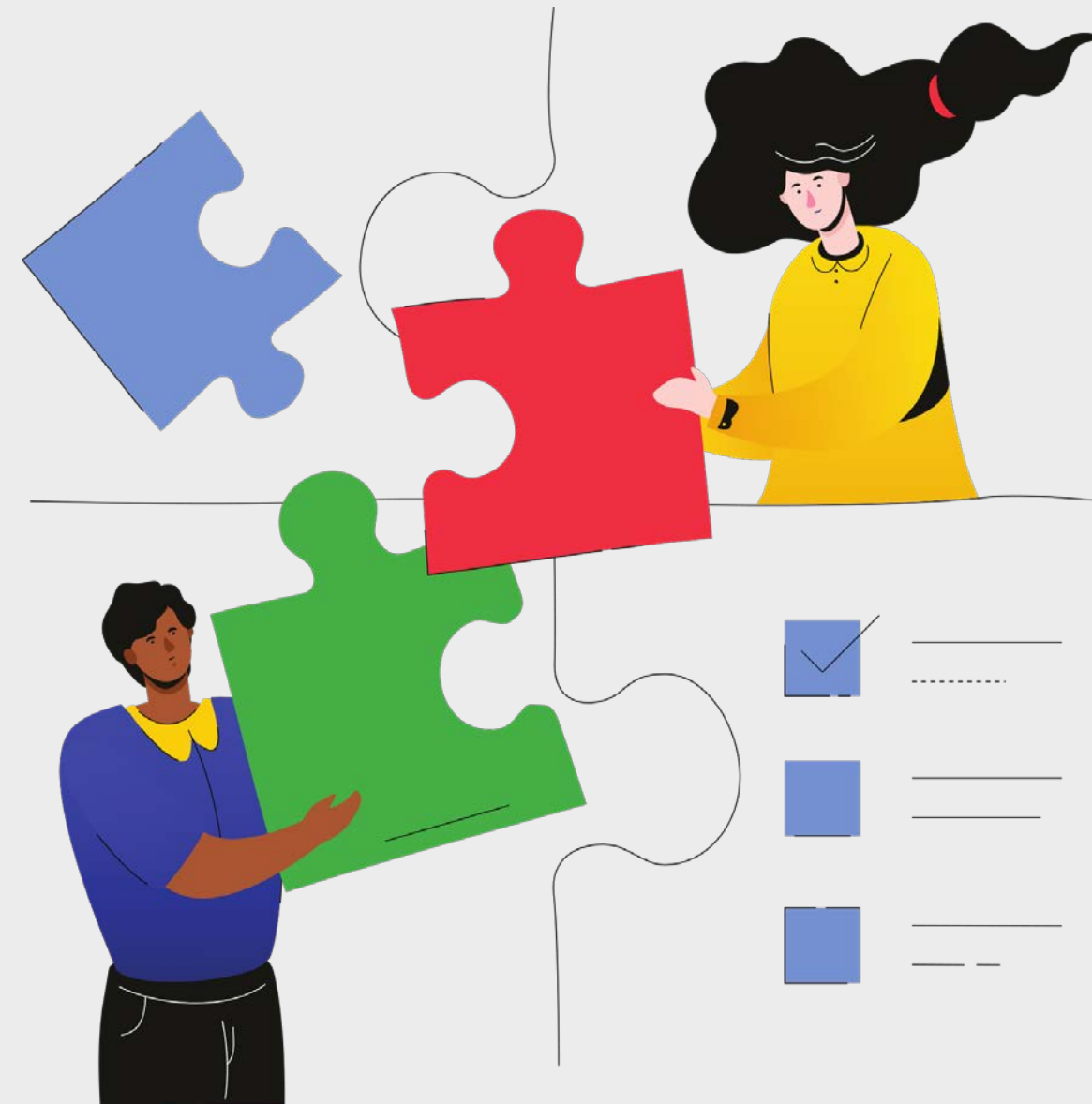
## COMMON COMPONENTS OF UNSUCCESSFUL YOUTH engagement strategies

- Adult-led activities, in which youth follows along as directed without understanding purpose
- Adult-led activities, in which youth understands the purpose but have no input on how it was put together
- Adult-led activities, in which youth have zero to minimal opportunities to give feedback



## GETTING STARTED

Before hiring, investigate what other organizations in your community are hiring youth. Can you leverage that connection to start working with those young people? This is a nice way to dip your toe on the water.



# HIRING YOUTH

## 1 Hiring Youth - Short-term



- Paid as employee but on a short-term contract
- No employee benefits
- Easier to transition on/off

## 2 Hiring Youth - Long-term



- Paid as employee until further notice
- Employee benefits
- Easier to transition on/off

## 3 Experience-Service Exchange



- Volunteer hours/credit
- Class credit - external internship through schools
- Internship
- Professional development training
- Various training opportunities



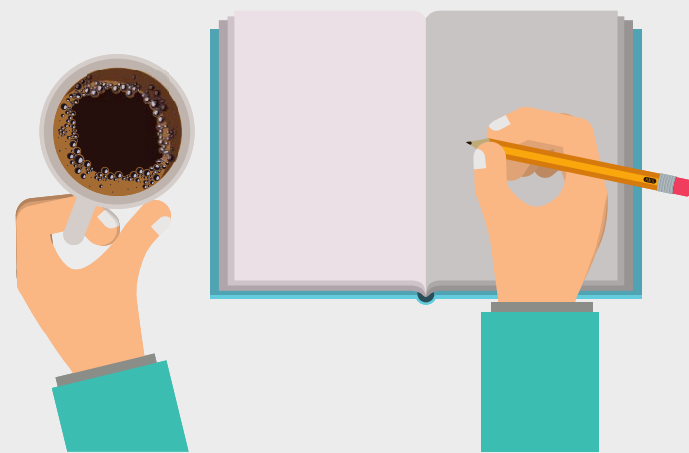
# ACTION ITEMS 4 YOU

DISCUSS WITH YOUR TEAM FOR EACH ACTION ITEM. THEN USE 3 SENTENCES TO ANSWER ACTION 1-ACTION 4.

## ACTION 1

COME UP WITH A:

BENEFIT STATEMENT



## ACTION 2

THINK ABOUT:

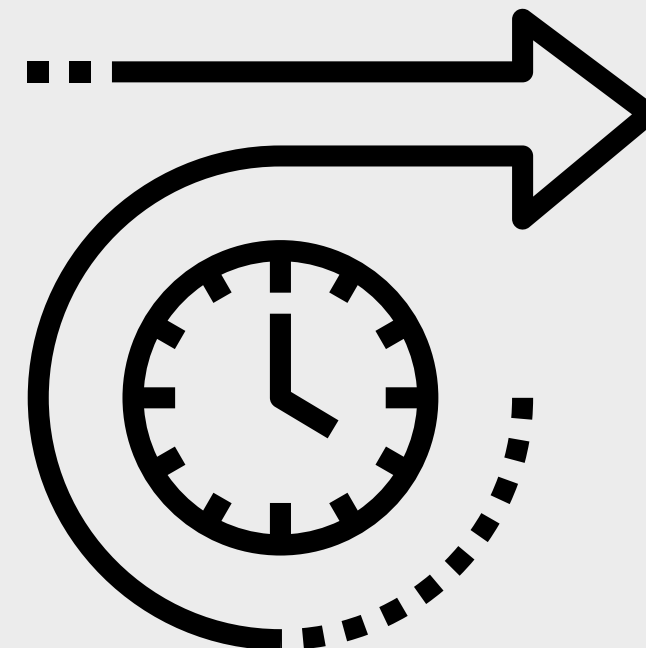
WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY DOING?



## ACTION 3

THINK ABOUT:

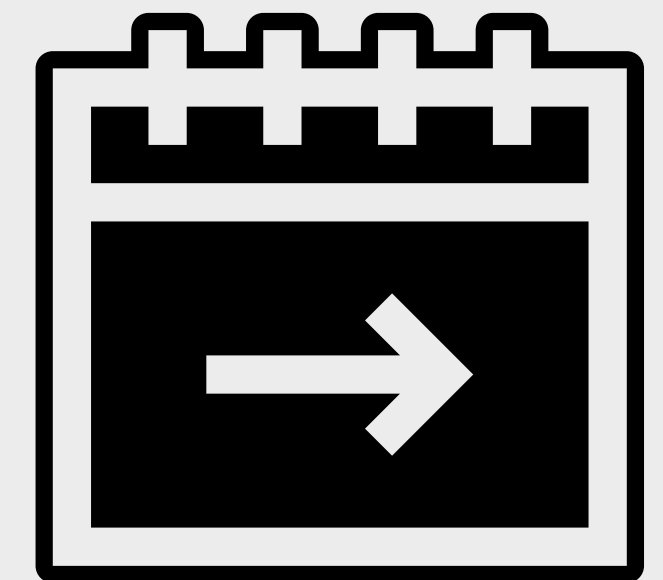
WHAT IS YOUR LONG-TERM GOAL?



## ACTION 4

THINK ABOUT:

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN A YEAR





**PLEASE SHARE WITH US YOUR  
ACTION PLAN!**



Questions?

Comments?



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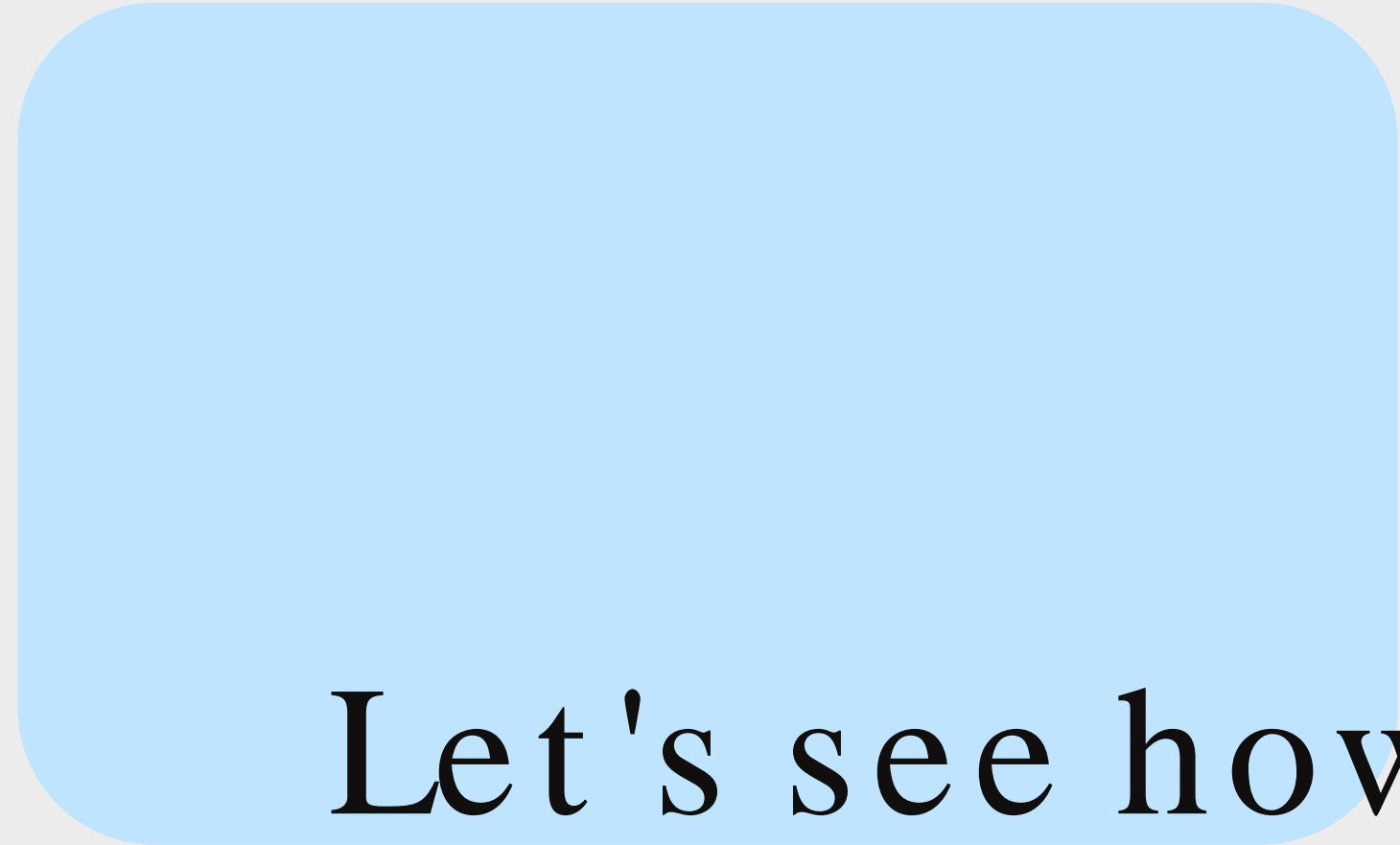
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Tara.Melinkovich@dhha.org

Jemima.Safi@dhha.org

Mary.Keang@dhha.org

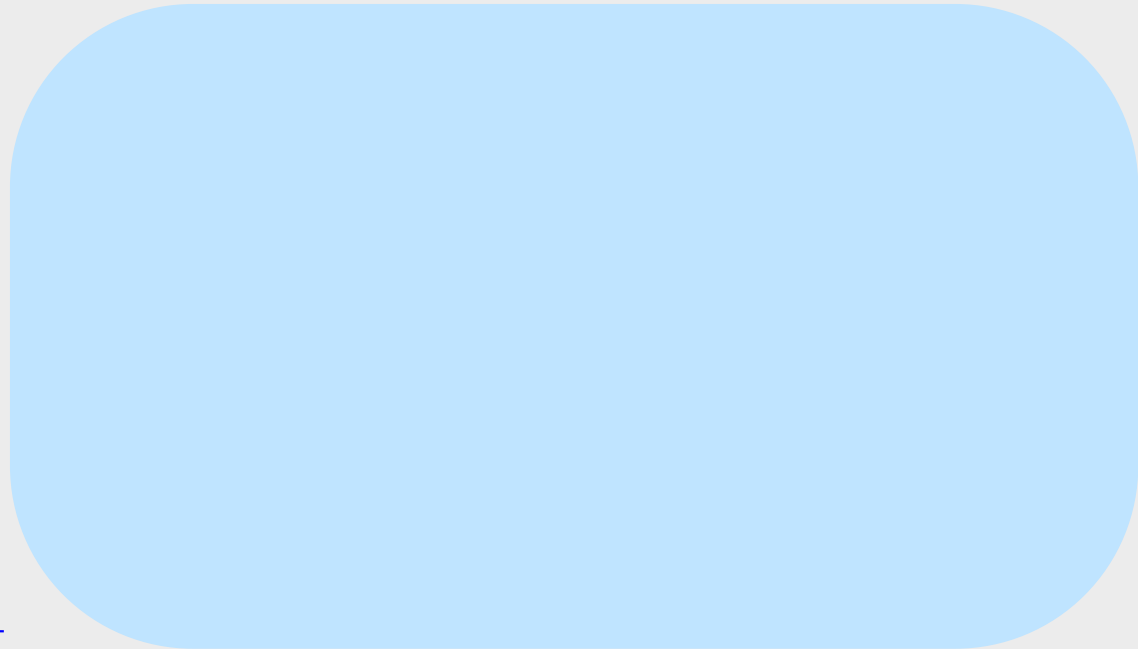


Let's see how

**much you learned**

Scan the QR code below to test your  
knowledge?  
for free!





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Tara.Melinkovich@dhha.org  
Jemima.Safi@dhha.org  
Mary.Keang@dhha.org

Please take a few minutes to  
give us some feedback!