

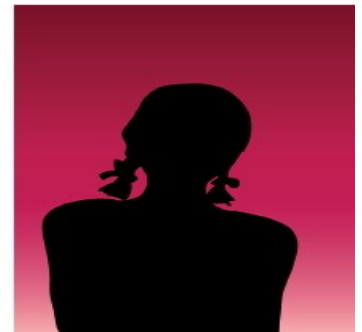
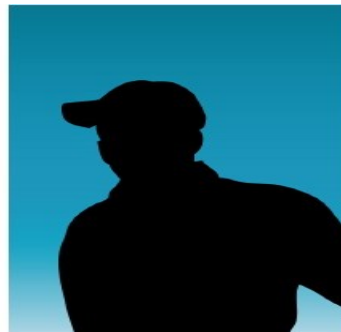


Commit to your health.

Adolescent Health Program

Wyoming Adolescent Health Partnership (WAHP)

The Wyoming Adolescent Health Partnership (WAHP) was founded in 2014 by the Adolescent Health Program in the Public Health Division at the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). The WAHP is tasked with creating the Wyoming Adolescent Health State Strategic Plan, developing the Wyoming Adolescent Health website, and establishing a statewide youth health council. Six compensated adolescents age 16-22 years, representing diverse subpopulations, will serve on the WAHP after receiving training in public health advocacy. The WAHP is structured according to the Collective Impact model with WDH serving as the backbone organization. Collective Impact is a disciplined, cross-sector approach to solving social problems on a large scale through following a common agenda, using shared measurement, fostering mutually reinforcing activities, and encouraging continuous communication.



Youth Engagement

Working with youth in a strategic planning process is no easy task! Below are just a few of the strategies WDH employs for keeping youth engaged throughout the process:

- An adult mentor—a person whose main responsibility is to be accessible to the youth on a regular basis and assist with schedules, transportation, and compensation. This is a part-time contract position with a partner organization.
- Youth/Adult Partnership—strong bonds formed through social activities and team-building with the adult steering committee who fully embrace the value of authentic youth voice and are trained in Positive Youth Development.
- Training—youth are trained with the Public Health Advocacy Curriculum developed by the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program and adapted by the Adolescent Health Program to meet the needs of the youth team.
- A project all their own—the youth team will name and design the Wyoming Adolescent Health Website to ensure that the “look and feel” is youth friendly and inviting.
- Social activities and down-time—youth arrive at meetings and events 30 minutes prior to adult steering committee members and other stakeholders to share food, catch up on gossip, and spend time together. Gathering socially both with adult steering committee members and without, helps strengthen the team.

A Positive Beginning...

On May 6 & 7, 2014 the Adolescent Health Program manager engaged a group of stakeholders from statewide non-profit and government organizations committed to adolescent health in Wyoming. This group was Trained as Trainers in Understanding Adolescents: Seeing Youth Through a Developmental Lens presented by the State Adolescent Health Resource Center/Konopka Institute at the University of Minnesota. Participants included representatives from the Wyoming Department of Education, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Vocational Rehabilitation, Wyoming Department of Family Services, Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming, Uplift/Family Voices, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Wyoming Department of Health, and a student from the University of Wyoming with experience in Colorado's youth advisory council and CO9to25 initiative.

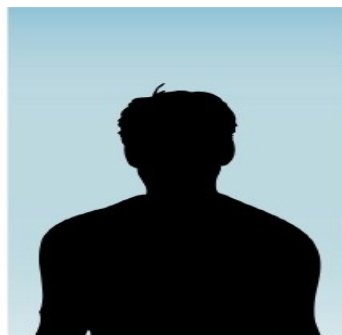
"The training provided a wonderful understanding on the impact of the adolescent's world on their development and the impact of their development on how they interact with their world"

- training participant



More Than Just Another Training

This gathering has proven to be more than just another training. These stakeholders are committed to training their organizations in Understanding Adolescents: Seeing Youth Through a Developmental Lens. They also serve as steering committee members and foundation stakeholders in the Wyoming Adolescent Health Partnership (WAHP). The strong foundation in Positive Youth Development will foster strong youth/adult partnerships and ensure youth are authentically involved in initiatives that are about them and will benefit their health and well-being.



For more information please contact:
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