

Youth-Guided Definition

Youth Guided means that young people have the right to be empowered, educated, and given a decision making role in the care of their own lives as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in the community, state and nation. This includes giving young people a sustainable voice and the focus should be towards creating a safe environment enabling a young person to gain self-sustainability in accordance to their culture and beliefs. Through the eyes of a youth guided approach we are aware that there is a continuum of power and choice that young people should have based on their understanding and maturity in this strength-based change process. Youth guided also means that this process should be fun and worthwhile.

This definition of youth guided was developed originally by Youth M.O.V.E National and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2011).