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# Acknowledgments/Funders



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# Promoting Positive Futures: Evidence-Based Practices in Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health



RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER FOR PATHWAYS TO POSITIVE FUTURES



RECLAIMING FUTURES

A Joint Webinar by  
Pathways Transition Training Partnership and  
Reclaiming Futures National Office  
Portland State University



# Presenters

## Young Adult:

Hernan Carvente

## Pathways:

Eileen Brennan

Pauline Jivanjee

## Reclaiming Futures:

Evan Elkin

Christa Myers

Bridget Murphy

Facilitated by John D. Ossowski



## Collaborating organizations

- The **Pathways Transition Training Partnership** is a project of the Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures that focuses on preparing service providers to work effectively with youth in transition who have mental health needs.
- **Reclaiming Futures** is a national initiative that has created a model for improving juvenile justice through developmentally appropriate and evidence-based treatment responses that are sustained by community supports.



## Objectives of Joint Webinar

- To share information about Promoting Positive Pathways to Adulthood training in evidence-based approaches with youth with mental health needs
- To describe the Reclaiming Futures Initiative and its work to improve outcomes of youth in Juvenile Justice
- To identify shared principles that guide our work which is focused on many of the same youth.





## Hernan Carvente



- Program Analyst for the Center on Youth Justice at the Vera Institute of Justice
- Areas of focus:
  - program development,
  - improving conditions of confinement, and
  - incorporating youth and family partnerships in facility-based and statewide juvenile justice policy reform.

### Affiliations/Awards:

- New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (NYS JJAG)
- Citizens Policy and Complaint Review Council (CPCRC)
- National Youth Chair for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's (CJJ) Emerging Leaders Committee
- Advisory board member:
  - National Academies of Science
  - Annie E. Casey Foundation
- "Next Generation Champion for Change Award" by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- the "Spirit of Youth Award" by CJJ
- Graduate of CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Has lived experience in the juvenile justice system



# Pathways Online Training Series Modules

1. Partnering with youth and young adults
2. Promoting recovery
3. Increasing cultural awareness and building community support
4. Fostering resilience and family supports
5. Promoting cross-cultural and intergenerational relationships
6. Providing individualized and developmentally appropriate services
7. Supporting young people's healthy relationships
8. Planning partnerships with providers of other services and collaborating to bridge service gaps
9. Promoting support from family, peers, and mentors
- 10. Using evidence-supported practices and individualizing interventions**



# What is evidence based practice?

1. Formulating an answerable question regarding practice needs;
2. Tracking down the best evidence to answer that question;
3. Examining the research evidence about relevant interventions and the usefulness of the evidence;
4. Taking your own experience and client values and circumstances into account, and then applying them to practical decisions
5. Evaluating outcomes. (Rubin & Parrish, 2007; p. 407).



## Building an evidence base

- Most programs currently designated as “**evidence-supported treatments**” for emerging adults were developed and tested with other age groups.
- Examples of emerging evidence-based interventions
  - **Transition to Independence** (Dresser, Clark, & Deschênes, 2015)
  - **Better Futures** (Geenen, Powers, Phillips, et al. 2015)
  - **Multi-systemic Therapy for Emerging Adults** (Davis, Sheidow, & McCart, 2015)
  - **Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy** (Cohen et al., 2016)

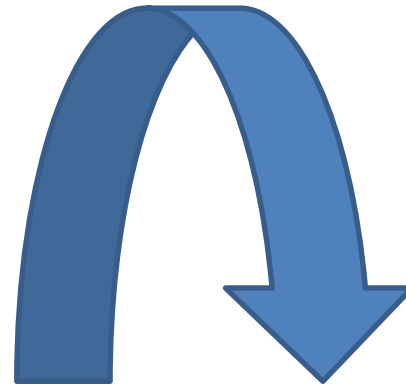


# Pathways Model of Positive Youth Development

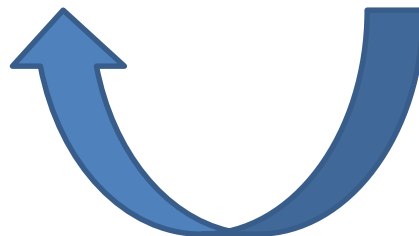
## Key Capacities:

### Increased capacities:

- To be the “driver” of one’s own positive development
- To engage with supportive life contexts
- To be proactive
- To maintain “fortitude”



**Emergence of:  
identity,  
values,  
commitments,  
self-efficacy.**



## Outcomes:

### Increased

- Skills and knowledge for adult roles
- Ability to meet basic needs.
- Positive connections to community, culture and society.

(Walker, 2015).



# Effective PYD Practices

- Promote trust
  - By being transparent, reliable, and following through with commitments.
- Collaborate with young people to develop and implement plans driven by their priorities and perspectives
- Focus on actively promoting thriving and well-being.
- Support and reinforce engagement in positive experiences and relationships.
- Work to enhance the young person's personal skills, confidence, and self-efficacy (Walker, 2015).



## Promoting social justice

Service providers need to:

- Engage in person-centered planning
- Address the young person's experiences of trauma, oppression, discrimination, poverty, and other disadvantages that may have contributed to their current difficulties and may affect their capacity to engage in services.
- Be proactive in using strategies to support youth to engage in services and to remain engaged.
- Collaborate with others at systems levels to advocate for underserved youth and families.



## Addressing cultural preferences

- Many evidence based practices have not been tested for their effectiveness with young people from different cultural groups.
- Key practices that have culturally-focused research to support them are:
  - Understand and honor attitudes, values and behaviors of young people that are based in their culture.
  - Recognize the impact of discrimination and trauma
  - Explore the importance of their ethnic identity, immigration history, and home language.
  - Recognize and incorporate informal family and community support.





# Promoting Positive Pathways to Adulthood Online Training

## Brochure Link:

<https://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/pdf/projPTTP-training-recruitment-brochure.pdf>

## Modules Link:

<https://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/proj-pttp-modules>



Spring 2017



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# Reclaiming Futures

Presentation for a collaborative webinar with  
Pathways Model to Positive Youth  
Development, November 1, 2016



RECLAIMING  
FUTURES

Public Health, Justice, Equity.

# Presenters

- **Evan Elkin, Executive Director, Reclaiming Futures, National Office**
- **Christa Myers, Fellowship Program Manager, Reclaiming Futures, National Office**
- **Bridget Murphy, Program and Policy Analyst, Reclaiming Futures, National Office**

# Reclaiming Futures Overview and History

- **Launched in 2001 with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: began with 10 sites, now 42 in 19 US states**
- **Reclaiming Futures constructed a public health blueprint for Juvenile Justice**
- **Originally designed to be implemented across the full Juvenile Justice continuum**
- **In 2007 OJJDP began funding a cohort of 12 sites that combined Juvenile Drug Courts with Reclaiming Futures**





# What is Reclaiming Futures?

- A framework or model rather than a program
- Driven by a set of principles as well as a stepwise but flexible blueprint for implementation
- A core practice to help JJ jurisdictions engineer an effective continuum of services for youth that includes:
  - Universal screening (now integrates SBIRT)
  - Assessment
  - Rational triage into evidence-based treatment
  - Coordination of services
  - Equal weight to non-treatment, youth development oriented experiences
  - Wraparound community supports

Short  
Video

# Core Assumptions

- The epidemiology of substance use in JJ is an artifact of a lack of off-ramps, not a causal link between juvenile crime and drug use
- The concurrent goals of juvenile justice to promote wellness in youth and punish and hold youth accountable for misbehavior puts the system at odds with itself
- The resolution of this conflict lies in empowering community, family and youth themselves to reclaim the responsibility for their lives via community based alternatives to JJ
- A true public health perspective is one that sees racial and ethnic disparities as a risk to population health
- Empirically supported, evidence-based approaches are critical

How we  
work at a  
new site:  
*building an  
influential  
local  
governance  
structure*

- Establish a cross-system leadership structure that includes a project director and senior decision makers in 4 key professional domains
- That team includes:
  - Judge
  - Senior-level juvenile justice professional
  - Senior-level local treatment system professional
  - Community and/or youth development specialist

How we  
work at a  
new site:  
*confer*  
*membership*  
*in a national*  
*learning*  
*community*

- Our “national learning collaborative” is critical to successful local implementation and sustainability:
  - Provides a teaching platform for the national office
  - Provides peer support and technical guidance for sites to take risks in reform and innovation

# Learning Collaborative Results

- Dr. Jeffrey Butts from John Jay College of Criminal Justice has been involved in the evaluation of Reclaiming Futures since its inception.
- Most recent evaluation report (Butts et. al., 2016) offers a history of Reclaiming Futures, policy context, evidence-based practices for substance use disorders, and an overview of multiple evaluations conducted over the years.
- As it relates to the Learning Collaborative, Butts and colleagues surveyed key stakeholders from nine sites each year in 2003, 2006, and 2015. Results show:
  - Sites that remained strongly engaged over time with Reclaiming Futures reported better:
    - Access to services
    - Resource management

## Recent RF Evaluation

- In 2011, OJJDP through an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress funded the National cross-site evaluation of juvenile drug courts and Reclaiming Futures.
- Led by the University of Arizona's, Southwest Institute for Research on Women in collaboration with Chestnut Health Systems and Carnevale Associates, LLC.
- Examined the blended approach of juvenile drug courts and Reclaiming Futures (JDC/RF). The researchers compared results to stand-alone juvenile drug courts and intensive outpatient substance use disorder treatment programs.
- The researchers conducted implementation, process, outcome and cost evaluations.
- As a result of this study, peer reviewed journal articles, a special issue of Drug Court Review and numerous reports and presentations have been developed and disseminated. More are planned.

# RF Evaluation Key Highlights

- Youth enrolled in JDC/RF were younger, male, nonwhite, and had higher rates of depression in comparison to the general population of youth who met criteria for JDC (Baumer et. al., 2016)
- Reductions in substance use and delinquency/crime were evidenced over time (Korchmaros, et. al., 2015; The University of Arizona, 2015)
- Seven program characteristics were found to positively impact substance use and crime/delinquency changes over time including (Korchmaros, et. al., 2016):
  - Having a defined target population and eligibility criteria
  - Imposing sanctions to modify non compliance
  - Conducting random and observed drug testing
  - Coordinating with the school system
  - Providing gender-appropriate treatment
  - Employing policies and procedures responsive to cultural differences
  - Training personnel to be culturally competent
- Eight feasible recommendations for engaging the community to improve health and well-being of youth and families are discussed (Greene, et. al, 2016)
- JDC/RF programs produce a net savings of an average of \$84,569 per youth (McCollister et. al, 2015).



# Reclaiming Futures New Directions

- A new framework for reducing racial and ethnic bias/disparities at key behavioral health decision points
- A new screening and brief intervention model called SBIRT
- An adaptation of our approach for school settings that integrates our public health strategy with school discipline reform

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- The views expressed here are the authors, and do not necessarily represent the official policies of any funding entities nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, individuals, or organizations imply endorsement by the funding entities.



# Question and Answer Session

**Q & A**



# Thank you

- Thank you for participating in this webinar
- The Powerpoint slides and recorded webinar will be available at  
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