

NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
Office of Youth Development

# Quality Youth Development System

# Table of Contents

- Background
- Purpose
- Touchstones Life Areas, Goals, Objectives and Services, Opportunities and Supports
- Features of Positive Developmental Settings
- Resources

# Why?

## Snap shot of OYD:

- Approximate budget of \$35 million
- Approximate number of youth served: 2.5 million youth 0-21
- Approximate number of programs in NYS: 3,500

# Why?

Current methods for collecting relevant program information are:

- VAGUE
- DEFICIT BASED
- DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY 80'S
- DOES NOT REFLECT RESEARCH ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- NOT CONNECTED TO COUNTY PLANS/NEEDS

As a result, we are unable to obtain relevant data and unable to measure program effectiveness and quality

# NYS Touchstones

# Background

- In 1997, the commissioners and directors of New York State's health, education and human services agencies recognized that to improve outcomes in each of the areas for which they had responsibility, it was necessary to shift to a new model characterized by prevention, early intervention and family / youth involvement

# Background (cont.)

- The agencies embarked on an effort to develop a common set of measurable goals and objectives that lead to improved outcomes for children and families. From these actions, the Council and its 12 member agencies developed New York State Touchstones in 1998.

# Background (cont.)

- Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- Office for the Aging
- Office of Children and Family Services
- Division of Criminal Justice Services
- State Education Department
- Department of Health
- Department of Labor
- Office of Mental Health
- Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives
- Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
- Office Temporary and Disability Assistance



# Purpose

- Touchstones is a tool to help guide State and local efforts - a common set of measurable goals and objectives that lead to improved outcomes for children and families.
- The common set of goals and objectives cuts across all service systems and allows individuals and organization's with diverse missions to come together to improve conditions for children and families.
- 51 counties use the Touchstones framework to develop county plans

# Vision

All children, youth and families will be healthy and have the knowledge, skills and resources to succeed in a dynamic society

- The Touchstones framework is organized by six major life areas:

Economic Security

Education

Family

Physical & Emotional Health

Citizenship

Community

# Overview (cont.)

- Each life area has a set of goals and objectives representing expectations about the future, and a set of indicators-reflecting the status of children and families.
- The goals and objectives are integrally related to each other and call for comprehensive strategies to address any single aspect of children and family well-being.

# Touchstones: a framework for QYDS

# Economic Security

**Goal 1: Youth will be prepared for their eventual economic self-sufficiency.**

- Objective 1: Youth will have skills, attitudes and competencies to enter college, the work force or other meaningful activities.
- Objective 2: Young adults who can work will have opportunities for employment.
- Objective 3: Youth seeking summer jobs will have employment opportunities.

# Services, Opportunities & Supports

- Career Counseling
- Career Days/Fairs
- Career Research & Planning
- College Exploration & Readiness
- College Research & Planning
- Computer/Internet Skills
- Employment
- GED Preparation
- Independent Living Skills
- Interest & Skills Assessment
- Job Shadowing
- Job Training/Employment Skills Development
- Matching with Employers for Internships/Work
- Resume & Job Assistance
- Self-sufficiency Skills Development
- Summer Employment
- Vocational Training
- Work Readiness Skills

# Physical and Emotional Health

**Goal 2: Children and youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.**

- Objective 1: Children and youth will be physically fit.
- Objective 2: Children and youth will be emotionally healthy.
- Objective 3: Children and youth will be free from health risk behaviors (e.g., smoking, drinking, substance abuse, unsafe sexual activity).
- Objective 4: Children and youth with service needs due to mental illness, developmental disabilities and/or substance abuse problems will have access to timely and appropriate services.

# Services, Opportunities & Supports

- Adolescent Sexuality Education
- Alcohol/Substance Abuse Counseling
- Alcohol/Substance Abuse Prevention Activities
- Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment
- Assessment of Service Needs
- Athletic Activities
- Case Management/Referrals
- Child Care
- Counseling
- Counseling-Emotional (Self-Esteem, Other)
- Crisis Intervention
- Crisis Intervention Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Health Education
- Health Medical services
- HIV-AIDS/STD Prevention
- Individual Counseling



# Services, Opportunities & Supports

- Mental Health Services
- Nutrition-Obesity Prevention
- Nutrition and Food Programs
- Peer Counseling
- Pregnancy Prevention
- Recreational Activities (Summer)
- Recreational Activities (Year Round)
- Resiliency Building
- Self-esteem Workshops
- Smoking Prevention/Cessation Activities
- Suicide Prevention

# Education

**Goal 3: Children will leave school prepared to live, learn and work in a community as contributing members of society.**

- Objective 1: Students will meet or exceed high standards for academic performance and demonstrate knowledge and skills required for lifelong learning and self-sufficiency in a dynamic world.
- Objective 2: Students will stay in school until successful completion.

# Services, Opportunities & Supports

- Academic Services/Education Related Services
- Alternative Education
- Arts & Crafts Education
- Basic Literacy Support
- Basic Math Support
- Bilingual Education
- Counseling-Education
- Dropout Prevention
- Learning Disabilities
- Study Skills

# Citizenship

**Goal 4: Children and youth will demonstrate good citizenship as law-abiding, contributing members of their families, schools and communities.**

- Objective 1: Children and youth will assume personal responsibility for their behavior.
- Objective 2: Youth will demonstrate ethical behavior and civic values.
- Objective 3: Children and youth will understand and respect people who are different from themselves.

# Citizenship (cont.)

- Objective 4: Children and youth will participate in family and community activities.
- Objective 5: Children and youth will have positive peer interactions.
- Objective 6: Children and youth will make constructive use of leisure time.
- Objective 7: Youth will delay becoming parents until adulthood.
- Objective 8: Children and youth will refrain from violence and other illegal behaviors.

# Services, Opportunities & Supports

- After School Programs
- Aftercare/Transitional Services
- Character Education
- Civic/Political Activities
- Classism, Sexism, Racism Workshops
- Community Service/Youth Activism Projects
- Cultural Enrichment/Awareness
- Gang Prevention/Intervention
- Gang Violence/Intervention
- Juvenile Aid Bureau/Officer
- Juvenile Justice Diversion Services

# Services, Opportunities & Supports

- Leadership Skills Development
- Mediation
- PINS Diversion Services
- Safe Place Out of School Time
- School Resource Officer
- Supportive Relationships
- Youth Court
- Youth Leadership / Empowerment

# Family

## **Goal 5: Families will provide children with safe, stable and nurturing Environments**

- Objective 1: Parent/caregivers will provide children with a stable family relationship.
- Objective 2: Parent/caregivers will possess and practice adequate child rearing skills.
- Objective 3: Parent/caregivers will be positively involved in their children's learning.



# Family (cont.)

- Objective 4: Parent/caregivers will have the knowledge and ability to access support services for their children.
- Objective 5: Parent/caregivers will provide their children with households free from physical and emotional abuse.
- Objective 6: Parent/caregivers will provide their children with households free from alcohol and other substance abuse.

# Services, Opportunities, & Supports

- Adoption  
Counseling/Workshops
- Asset Building
- Child Abuse & Neglect  
Intervention and Treatment
- Child Abuse & Neglect  
Prevention/Education
- Community Programs to  
Promote Positive Youth  
Development
- Dating Violence  
Intervention and Treatment
- Dating Violence  
Prevention/Education
- Death & Bereavement  
Counseling/Workshops
- Divorce/Single Parenting  
Counseling/Workshop
- Domestic Violence  
Intervention and Treatment

# Services, Opportunities, & Supports

- Domestic Violence Prevention/Education
- Family Communications Workshops
- Family Support
- Family Violence Prevention/Education
- GLBTQ Counseling/Workshops / Education
- Parenting Skills
- Services for Pregnant & Parenting Youth
- Sexuality Exploited Youth Education
- Stress Management Workshops

# Community

**Goal 6: New York State communities will provide children, youth and families with healthy, safe and thriving environments.**

- Objective 1: Adequate housing will be available.
- Objective 2: Adequate transportation will be available.

# Community (cont.)

**Goal 7: New York State communities will provide children, youth and their families with opportunities to help them meet their needs for physical, social, moral and emotional growth.**

- **Objective 1: Communities will make available and accessible formal and informal services (e.g., child care, parent training, recreation, youth services, libraries, museums, parks).**

# Community (cont.)

- Objective 2: Adults in the community will provide youth with good role models and opportunities for positive adult interactions.
- Objective 3: Communities will provide opportunities for youth to make positive contributions to community life and to practice skill development.

# Services, Opportunities, & Supports

- Administering or Providing Funding for Services/Supports
- Advocacy on Behalf of Youth
- Clearinghouse/Resource Center
- Conferences/Meetings
- Convening Collaborative Groups for Planning/Organization
- Developing or Coordinating Programs/Models
- Evaluation Activities
- Information Dissemination
- Mentoring long term (More than 12-Month Relationships)
- Mentoring short term (less than 12-Month Relationships)

# Services, Opportunities, & Supports

- Monitoring Activities
- Needs Assessments
- Planning & Program Development
- Professional Development
- Research
- RHYA Coordination
- RHYA Part I Emergency Shelter
- RHYA Part I Interim Family
- RHYA Part I Street Outreach
- RHYA Part II Non-Residential Case Management
- RHYA Part II Group Residence
- RHYA Part II TILPS Supported Residence
- RHYA Part I Non Residential



# Services, Opportunities, & Supports

- Management
- Spiritual or Faith-Based Connections/Youth Groups
- Training Technical Assistance
- Violence /Crime /Delinquency Prevention Activities

# Touchstone Life Area

Citizenship/Civic Engagement

## GOAL 4

Children and youth will demonstrate good citizenship as law abiding, contributing members of families, schools and communities

### Objective 1

Children and youth will assume responsibility for their behavior

#### SOS

Youth Leadership/Youth Empowerment

Program information on population served by individual SOS

#### SOS

Charater Education

Program information on population served by individual SOS

### Objective 6

Children and youth will make constructive use of their leisure time

#### SOS

Safe Places Out of School

Program information on population served by individual SOS

#### SOS

After School Program

Program information on population served by individual SOS

### Objective 8

Children and youth will refrain from violence and other illegal behavior

#### SOS

Aftercare Transitional Services

Program information on population served by individual SOS

#### SOS

Gang Violence Intervention

Program information on population served by individual SOS

- Let's Review the 5003 form

# Features of Positive Developmental Settings

# Community Programs to Promote Youth Development

Published by the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, 2002

- Examined programs that target youth 10 to 18
- Focus on youth development perspective
- Developed a list of features that are likely to provide better supports for young people's positive development and to achieve youth development outcomes

# Features of Positive Developmental Settings

- Physical and Psychological Safety
- Appropriate Structure
- Supportive Relationships
- Opportunities to Belong
- Positive Social Norms
- Support for Efficacy and Mattering
- Opportunities for Skill Building
- Integration of Family, School and Community Efforts

# Physical and Psychological Safety

- Descriptors

Safe and health-promoting facilities; practice that increases safe peer group interaction and decreases unsafe or confrontational peer interactions.

- Opposite Poles

Physical and health dangers; fear; feeling of insecurity, sexual and physical harassment; and verbal abuse.

# Appropriate Structure

- Descriptors

Limit setting; clear and consistent rules and expectations; firm-enough control; continuity and predictability; clear boundaries; and age-appropriate monitoring.

- Opposite Poles

Chaotic; disorganized; laissez-faire; rigid; over controlled; and autocratic.



# Supportive Relationships

- Descriptors

Warmth; closeness; connectedness; good communication; caring; support; guidance; secure attachment; and responsiveness.

- Opposite Poles

Cold; distant; over controlling; ambiguous support; untrustworthy; focused on winning; inattentive; unresponsive; and rejecting.

# Opportunities to Belong

- Descriptors

Opportunities for meaningful inclusion, regardless of one's gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disabilities; social inclusion, social engagement and integration; opportunities for socio-cultural identity formation; and support for cultural and bicultural competence.

- Opposite Poles

Exclusion;  
Marginalization; and  
intergroup conflict.

# Positive Social Norms

- Descriptors

Rules of behavior; expectations; injunctions; ways of doing things; values and morals; and obligations for service.

- Opposite Poles

Normlessness; anomie; laissez-faire practices; antisocial and amoral norms; norms that encourage violence; reckless behavior; consumerism; poor health practices; and conformity.

# Support for Efficacy and Mattering

## ■ Descriptors

Youth-based; empowerment practices that support autonomy; making a real difference in one's community; and being taken seriously.

Practices that include enabling; responsibility granting; and meaningful challenge. Practices that focus on improvement rather than on relative current performance levels.

## ■ Opposite Poles

Unchallenging; overcontrolling; disempowering; and disabling. Practices that undermine motivation and desire to learn, such as excessive focus on current relative performance level rather than improvement.

# Opportunities for Skill Building

- Descriptors

Opportunities to learn physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional, and social skills; exposure to intentional learning experiences; opportunities to learn cultural literacy, media literacy, communication skills, and good habits of mind; preparation for adult employment, and opportunities to develop social and cultural capital.

- Opposite Poles

Practice that promotes bad physical habits and habits of mind; and practice that undermines school and learning.

# Integration of Family, School, and Community Efforts

- Descriptors

Concordance;  
coordination; and  
synergy among family,  
school and community

- Opposite Poles

Discordance; lack of  
communication; and  
conflict.

- Lets Review the 5002 application and examples

# Website Resources for the Quality Youth Development System



# Resources

- **Kids Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse**  
<http://www.nyskwic.org>
- **NYS Kids Count Initiative**  
<http://www.nyscommunityjusticeforum.org/Initiatives/KidCountHome>
- **Kids Count Data Book & Special Reports**  
<http://www.nyscommunityjusticeforum.org/Initiatives/KidCountRelate/KCReports>
- **Annie E Casey Foundation**  
<http://www.aecf.org>
- **New York State Touchstones:**  
<http://www.nyskwic.org/about/touchstones.cfm>

- **Features of Positive Youth Development Settings:**

[http://www.bocyf.org/youth\\_development\\_brief.pdf](http://www.bocyf.org/youth_development_brief.pdf)

<http://www.rcgd.isr.umich.edu/garp/articles/eccles04b.pdf>

[http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/files/ForumFOCUS\\_Jul-Aug2003.pdf](http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/files/ForumFOCUS_Jul-Aug2003.pdf)

<http://www.ncfy.com/publications/pdf/PosYthDevel.pdf> (pg 21 of document)

- **Disconnected Youth:**

<http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/Initiatives/CabRelate/DiscYouth.htm>

[http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/files/back\\_on\\_track\\_report1.pdf](http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/files/back_on_track_report1.pdf)

<http://fcnetwork.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/nyinitiativeyabrecs.pdf>

- **Youth Development:**

<http://www.ncfy.com/publications/pdf/PosYthDevel.pdf>