Authentic Youth-Adult Partnerships in Juvenile Justice
Please let us know through the poll:

What segment of the juvenile justice field do you represent?

Do you participate in today’s webinar as a youth leader or adult leader?

We will cover:

- Benefits and key concepts for authentic youth-adult partnership
- How youth-adult partnership can look in juvenile justice
- Adultism
- How to overcome practical challenges
Myth: A stipend & pizza is enough to support youth participation.
Benefits of Youth-Adult Partnership

★ The organization reaches better decisions
★ Youth build skills and self-empowerment
★ Staff add skills
★ The organization progresses toward anti-oppression
Adultism is a form of oppression. While adultism intersects with other forms of oppression to affect each person differently, people universally experience adultism from both the oppressed and oppressor side as we age. Adults perpetuate the behaviors learned when they were done to us as children and youth.
Reflect on your experiences with adultism

When was the last time you...

...were told you’re too young to know what you want.

...were told something is too complicated for you to understand.

...were followed by staff or security in a store for reasons other than to help you.

...had someone second guess your qualifications to contribute to a conversation until you explained your education or professional experience.

When was the last time you...

...turned to the sole young person in the room and asked them what they thought about an issue.

...asked a young person to share their experience (positive or negative) as the way to gain their input on an issue.

...translated or restated what a young person said in a meeting or other collection of adults because you worried the other adults might not understand.
Youth Engagement Continuum

- Adults inform youth about decisions they’ve made
- Adults ask youth for their input about a defined question
- Youth and adults define a problem and solution together
- Youth lead decision-making
- Youth come to adults with a problem and solve together
- Youth create their own solutions and advocate to adults

Adults lead decision-making

Youth-adult partnership
4 Key Elements of Authentic Youth-Adult Partnership

- Shared Language
- Shared Accountability
- Shared Resources
- Shared Power
What now?

Remaining questions?
How will you use what you’ve learned?

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