Community Involvement: Broadening the Circles of Support for Dual Status Youth

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Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Be able to identify 3 main purposes of community involvement for Dual Status Youth.

- Learn to use effective strategies to engage community stakeholders in supporting youth.

- Be introduced to examples of effective strategies from other jurisdictions.

- Have an opportunity to discuss challenges to improving collaboration, support, and commitment in their communities.

Community Engagement is a process whereby one party (individual, agency or coalition) motivates (engages) a targeted group (community) to take action.

Community Involvement: A planned process with a specific purpose of working with identified groups of people (connected by geographic location, special interest, affiliation or identity) to address issues affecting their well being with the focus on the collective.

Why are special efforts at community involvement necessary for the success of dual status youth?

- To minimize the stigmatizing effect of involvement in the CPS and JJ systems.

- To mitigate the systemic factors that steer dual status youth toward deeper penetration into the juvenile justice system.

- To repair burned bridges and build new bridges that lead to healthy adult transitions.

Three Main Purposes of Community Involvement on Behalf of Dual Status Youth:

1. "Widen the lens" through which youth are viewed in the community, promoting empathy & understanding.

2. Establish partnerships with community stakeholders that promote positive outcomes for youth.

3. Help the youth to redefine or reestablish a sense of family and community.
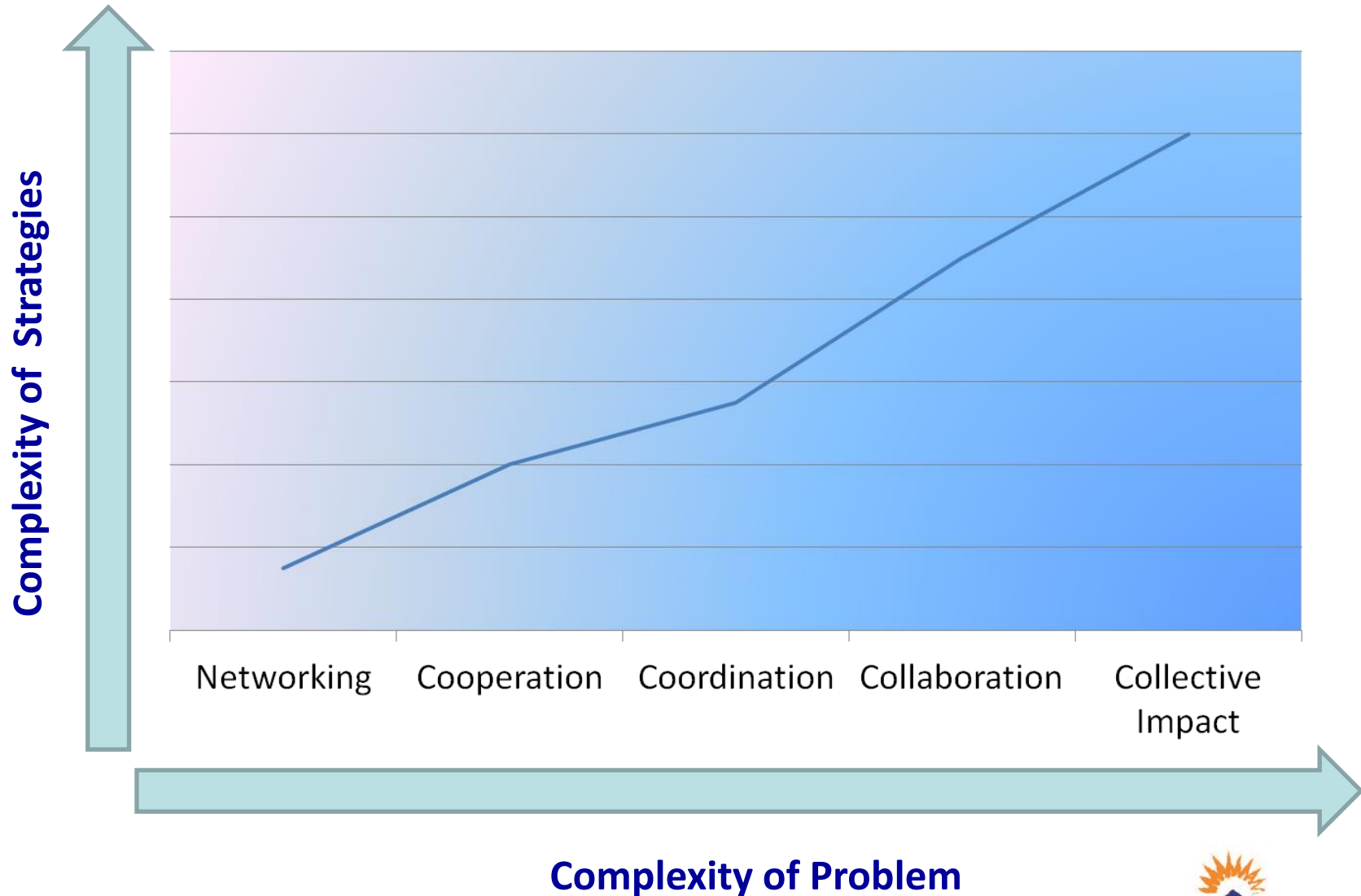
Discussion

- What are the issues in your jurisdiction that may impede dual status youth from getting the support they need?

- Who are the stakeholders that can be a resource in addressing these issues?

- How can you help to engage these resources with the youth who could benefit from them?

Types of Partnerships

Elements of Org. Design	Types of Partnerships				
	Networking	Cooperation	Coordination	Collaboration	Collective Impact
People (human skills, knowledge, and abilities; relation-ships; vision of change)	No vision. Casual interactions.	Basis for cooperation is between individuals. Organizational mission and goals not considered. Interaction as needed.	Individual relationships are supported by organizations. Mission and goals are reviewed for compatibility. Interaction for specific task (e.g.; jobs for survivors).	Commitment of organization is fully behind individuals. Common mission and goals created. One or more projects taken on for longer-term results.	New mission and goals created. New vision. Initiative with multiple projects to simultaneously address interconnected or intergenerational problems.
Structure (authority, power, accountability; roles or functions)	No structure. No defined roles.	Authority solely with individual organizations. Accountability rests with each organization.	Authority with each organization but there is some coordination. Organizations assume needed roles but still function separately.	Authority is determined by the collaboration to balance ownership; shared control and dispersed leadership. Formal division of labor created.	Separate "backbone" organization coordinates participation of other organizations. Highly formal governance and infrastructure for numerous organizations from multiple sectors.
Strategy (goals, objectives, activities; products or services to realize vision or produce change)	Better understanding of what each organization does.	Improved interactions. Regular interactions.	Project-specific planning. Linkages between existing agencies or services formally established by protocols.	Long-range project planning. Formulation of new services. Strategic objective: solving a specific problem.	Long-range planning for broad-based social change. Strategic objective: social or major systems change. Shared data-base and measurement system.
Processes (communications and interactions; getting things done)	Informal conversations.	Routines established to facilitate regular dialogue and information-exchange.	Communication roles and systems for interagency operations created.	Shared decision-making; formal communication and systems for interaction.	Joint decision-making; continuous communication and systems for interaction. Mutually reinforcing plan of action.
Resources (funds, materials, equipment, places; motivation and incentives)	Exchange of information.	Organizational resources are separate.	Resources acknowledged and made available for a specific project.	Limited acquisition of new resources. Resources pooled among agencies for a long-term effort.	Major acquisition and reallocation of resources across multiple sectors, not just agencies.

Types of Partnerships

Complexity of Strategies (vertical axis)

Networking   Cooperation   Coordination   Collaboration   Collective Impact

Complexity of Problem

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Putting the process to work

- Ask for representation
- Be Inclusive
- Be Humble
- Make it a priority
- Commit to the process (long haul)
- Have the right person/people (plenty of work)
- Find a way to compensate (capacity building)

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Different Worlds, Same Outcome!

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Stages of Community Involvement

➢ Define your goal

➢ Discuss why it is important

➢ Develop plan and process

➢ Decide who is going to do it

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Ten Keys to Success:

1. Align with agency/coalition goals.
2. Focus on target audiences.
3. Involve key partners.
4. Capitalize on existing opportunities.
5. Creatively find and use resources.
6. Utilize effective and efficient channels.
7. Develop meaningful and memorable messages.
8. Have effective messengers.
9. Pay attention to timing.
10. Engage naturally occurring communities.

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Elements of Collective Impact Initiatives

1. Common Agenda.

2. Shared Measurement System.

3. Mutually Reinforcing Activities.

4. Continuous Communication.

5. Backbone Support Organization.

Examples of Effective Community Involvement

- King County Uniting for Youth

- Boy's Town Community Engagement Plan

- Outagamie County Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Steering Committee

Boys Town Community Engagement

➤ 100 year history in Omaha, NE

➤ Historically residential care until transformation in 2005

➤ After community conversations, opened new locations within communities of need

  – Juvenile arrests, child welfare removals, single mothers and crime

➤ Initially served dual status youth – expanded services to youth at risk for system involvement

Boys Town Community Engagement

➢ Hired staff from the community

  – Bi-lingual and bi-cultural

➢ Designated position to build relationships

➢ Prevention focus – 83% of families served at-risk but not system involved

➢ Serve the entire family

➢ Parent advisory committee

➢ Partnerships with education, police, community agencies, government leaders

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Questions and Discussion

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