

Strategic Youth Initiatives Update

Presented to:

Durham County Board of Commissioners

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- Youth voices absent in local government
- Youth services not coordinated
- Youth not connecting to services
- Centralized support needed to address these challenges



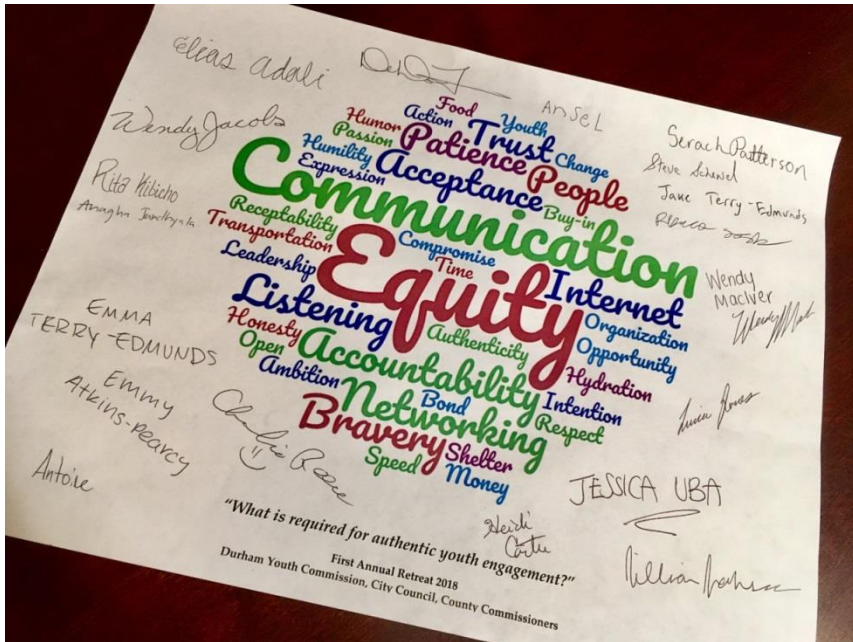
CITY-COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVES MANAGER



- Enhance/create channels for engaging youth voices in local policy-making
- Develop strategies to prioritize use of City/County resources
- Maintain map/inventory of programs, conduct site visits
- Develop/collect performance measures
- Develop data sharing relationships; collaborate with non-profits
- Develop tools that connect youth and families to resources
- Manage OOH, coordinate w/other programs
- Support City-County youth services and their TA needs
- Review new funding requests, provide rec's to City/County

- 1. Increase opportunities for youth engagement
- 2. Strengthen impact of City/County-supported youth services
- 3. Develop OOH org. capacity to support Goals 1 and 2

Goal 1: Create new opportunities for Durham youth, ages 13-24 years, to fully participate in local government planning and decision making



“What is required for authentic youth engagement?”

- Supporting adults to share power with youth, build capacity to change structures and culture
- Supporting youth in shaping policies and programs, leading advocacy projects, connecting with officials

Goal 1 Milestones



- Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!) engaged
- **Youth Engagement Network**: roundtable; social event; May 2019 conference; info-sharing listserv

Roundtable Participants – Oct 2018

Durham County

- Cooperative Extension-4H
- Cooperative Extension-Kids Voting Durham
- Department of Public Health-Project BUILD
- Juvenile Crime Prev. Council
- My Brother's Keeper

City of Durham

- Durham Parks and Recreation
- Innovation Team
- Neighborhood Improvement Services-Comm. Engagement
- Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- **Office on Youth**
- Technology Solutions

City-County

- Planning

City/County Supported

- Durham Housing Authority
- Durham Public Schools-Career and Tech. Ed
- Durham Public Schools-Equity Affairs
- East Durham Children's Initiative
- El Centro Hispano
- GoTriangle
- **Made in Durham**
- Movement of Youth
- **NC Works NextGen**
- **Partners for Youth Opportunity**
- **Student U**
- **Youth Empowered Solutions**

Community Organizations

- Durham Association of Educators
- H.E.A.R.T.S
- **Inside Out**
- Nasher Museum of Art
- NC WARN
- Southern Coalition for Social Justice-Youth Justice Project
- Thomas Mentorship Leadership Academy
- Youth Organizing Institute

Conveners

- Office on Youth, with support from Youth Empowered Solutions
- Made in Durham

2019 conference: planning team (blue); new ppts: Library, DCoPH DINE, Sheriff's Office, DCo Innovation, MDP, City BMS, non profits, others TBD

Goal 1 Milestones

Durham Youth Commission:
restructuring; retreat with
County/City officials;
community wide activities

*(partners: Kids Voting Durham, Made
in Durham, DHA, DPR, DPS)*



- **2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:** follow up focus groups
(w/DCoHD Epidemiologist, Project BUILD)
- City-County Planning Dept.: **Comp Plan** youth engagement
- **Cooperative Extension** partnership: 4H and KVD *(also JLD 2019)*
- **Participatory Budgeting:** youth leadership, ideas and voting

Goal 2: Through collective processes with stakeholders, develop and implement strategies that strengthen the impact of City/County-supported programs and services for youth (5-24 years)

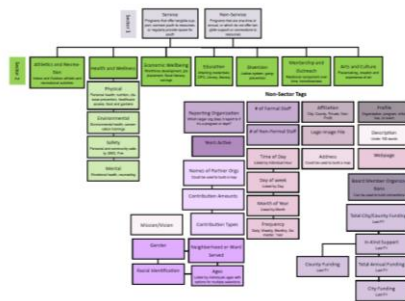


- Better understand current service landscape and stakeholder perspectives
- Partner with youth/adults to create solutions: to connect youth to services, enhance existing services, and create new ones responsive to needs

Goal 2 Milestones

2019 Youth Listening Project

Purpose To understand:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How local government can better engage and communicate with youth and their families• Barriers/facilitators for participating in youth services• How to eliminate barriers and tailor opportunities
Audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth (13-24), caregivers of children (5-12), service providers
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth as leaders• Measurably equitable• Prioritizes families most disenfranchised• Uses multiple methods – traditional and non-traditional• Collects data AND builds trust/relationships/leadership
Deliverable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth-adult action plan with priorities and next steps
Request for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two finalists, group interviews conducted, decision May 2019



- **Kumu map**, inventory of Co/City services, w/perf. measures
- Durham **YouthWork** Team (w/OEWD, DPS, DCo, DTCC, MID, NextGen)
- **Community Schools** Support Team (w/DAE, DPS, DPS Foundation, BOCC, BOE, Duke, DPR, City's Comm. Engagement)
- **Work-based Learning Continuum** Team (w/MID, DPS, DCo, OEWD, others)
- **W.G. Pearson Center** "Dreaming" (w/Student U, Center tenants)

Goal 3: Develop organizational capacity to support goals 1 +2 and communicate current, future priorities



- Staff and interns
- Space
- Integration, partnerships, relationships
- Best Practices



- Strategic Planning
- OOO Communication Plan
- DCo Communication and Engagement Strategy

Milestones Snapshot

(Time period: 16 months)

GOAL 1

- Youth Empowered Solutions engaged as consultants for OOO strategic planning and youth/adult training
- Convened youth engagement network roundtable (near 35 orgs/depts. represented) and social event to identify collective needs
- Convened task force representing 9 organizations to develop follow up plan for network
- Created listerv for Durham providers to share info about youth opportunities, in beta mode
- Convened team representing 7 organizations to plan “building youth engagement” conference on May 31
- Onboarded, trained, and supported Durham Youth Commission in planning several events that connected Durham youth to decision makers/processes

GOALS 1 and 2

- Integration with, participation in, and support of organizations/teams/collective processes: Participatory Budgeting, Cooperative Extension youth engagement; DCoHD YRBS focus groups; OEWD YouthWork; Community Schools Support Team; Work-based Learning Continuum team (DPS/MID); WG Pearson “dreaming” sessions; Neighborhood Improvement Services-Community Engagement collaboration; Planning Dept. Comp Plan

GOAL 2

- Vision developed for youth listening project; RFP released, proposals reviewed, multi dept/agency youth-adult interview panels formed; interviews and debrief conducted; follow up with finalists initiated
- Draft of youth services ecosystem map (Kumu) and performance measures inventory developed

GOAL 3 *(supports Goals 1 and 2)*

- Best practices research conducted on youth service offices, youth listening projects; youth councils; online platforms
- Managed staff and Teen Center transition in OOO;
- Conducted extensive youth-adult hiring process for new analyst; hired/supervised 3 youth interns; supervised work of 2 MPA interns (C/Co)
- Secured community-rooted work space for analyst
- Partnered with UNC to submit RWJF grant proposal to support OOO goals
- Developed communication plan, launched Twitter account
- Conducted OOO strategic planning, refined goals and strategies, began developing performance measures; participate on City and County strategic plan goal teams
- Made 100s of connections, delivered numerous presentations, tabled at several events



- **Our strategy:** experiences of youth/stakeholders ground our work and shape priorities; align people/resources around priorities via collective processes
- **Our approach:** youth/caregivers at the table in decision making roles is key to enhancing impact of youth services (requires culture/structure shifts)
- **Our budding impact:** connecting and convening; centering youth voices; building youth capacity; eventually policy, structure, systems change
- Success depends on relationships, trust, and integration
- One FTE fully dedicated to the charge, <1.5 yrs to date; organizational capacity development is needed