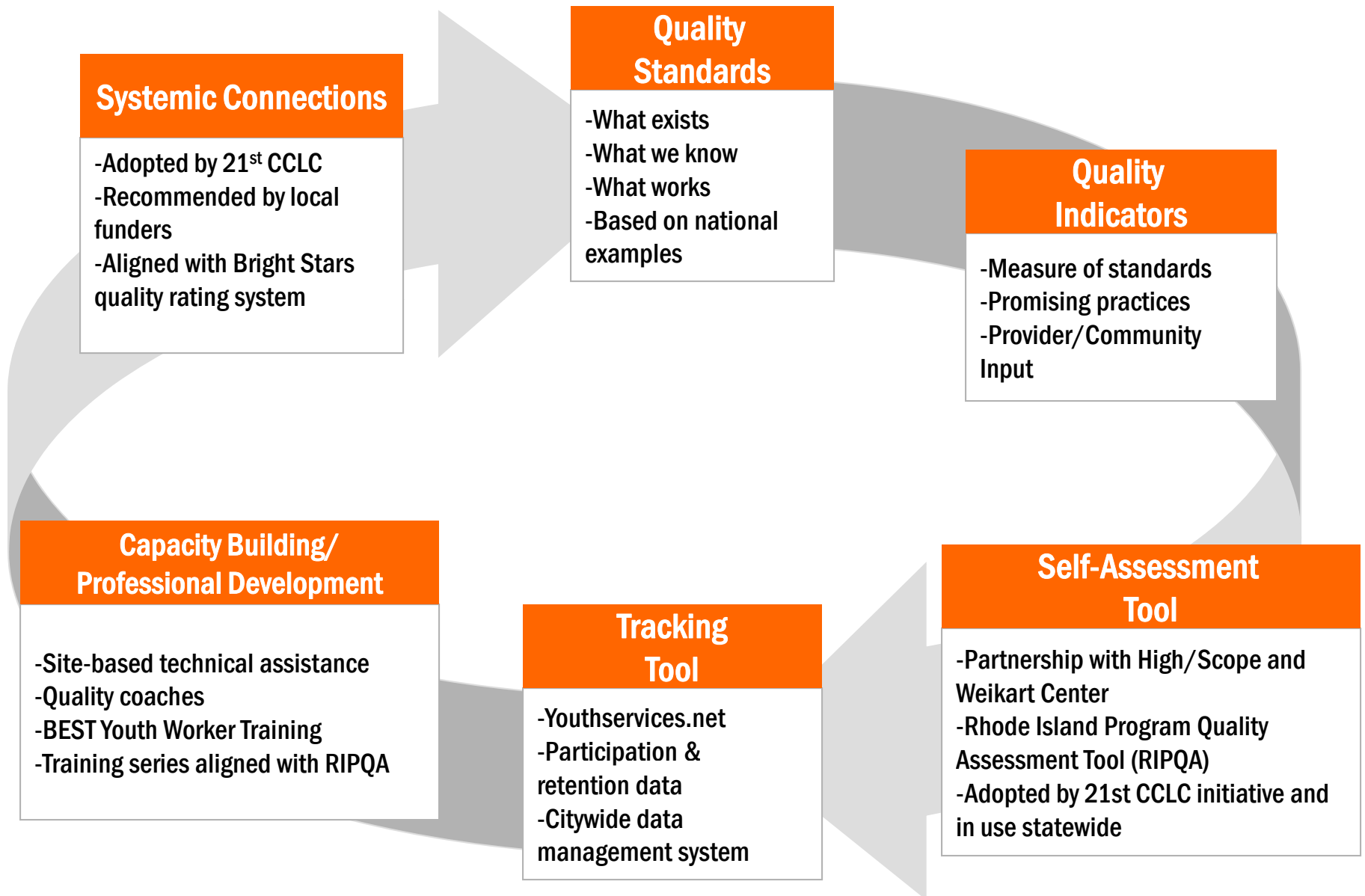
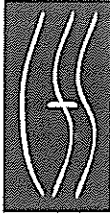


Quality Improvement Cycle: PASA's Approach





New York State
Office of
Children &
Family
Services

David A. Paterson
Governor

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Capital View Office Park

52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY
12144-2796

September 30, 2009

Dear Commissioners, Agency Executive Directors, Youth Bureau
Directors and OCFS Facility Directors,

I am pleased to send you the attached copy of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Youth Development Policy Statement. OCFS developed this policy statement to guide all programs operated or supervised by OCFS that work with children and youth. The purpose is to encourage the use of youth development principles that provide youth with positive social assets, and skills that support a successful transition to self-sufficiency. We encourage all programs to promote the development of multifaceted quality programs that will create an environment where youth can grow, learn, thrive and develop to their fullest potential. Included in this policy statement are specific components of quality youth development programming that cut across all disciplines. These components will help children grow from early childhood, through adolescence and into adulthood to become competent and healthy adults, and develop to their full potential.

I ask you to review this policy statement considering the potential implications for your program. This statement places youth development in a larger and more important context. We look forward to using this policy statement as a foundation for our continuing work together.

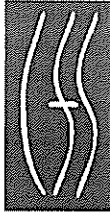
Please feel free to contact your OCFS Regional Office or Facility Coordinator if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión Esq.

cc: OCFS Executive Staff
Regional Directors
Facility Coordinators





New York State
Office of
Children &
Family
Services

David A. Paterson
Governor

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Capital View Office Park

52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY
12144-2796

January 21, 2010

Dear County Youth Bureau:

The NYS Office of Children of Family Services (OCFS) and the Office of Youth Development (OYD) is pleased to introduce the Quality Youth Development System (QYDS) for county use. This system enables OCFS to enhance its ability to serve local governments and communities and be more responsive to our constituents, who have frequently asked for a system that will allow counties and communities to receive funds and collect data in a more efficient and effective manner.

QYDS is the new method OCFS will use to allocate funds to county and municipal youth bureaus and municipalities and community-based agencies. The Resource Allocation Plan (RAP) will no longer entail an extensive paper process, but instead will use the New York State Touchstones framework to focus on county planning, identifying needs and assisting the locally driven funding decision-making process. The system will increase the ability of OCFS and counties to gather and provide information on over 3,000 programs statewide. This information can and will be used for program and policy improvement, as well as quality program development.

Coming at a time of diminished budget resources and growing service needs, a new system will allow OCFS to tie locally developed data into the national research on quality youth programming. QYDS will have the capacity to provide information that not only aligns with OCFS goals, but measure programs effectiveness and quality. Counties and municipalities can now select and evaluate youth programs based on goals, objectives and features for positive developmental settings, improving local services, and opportunities and supports to meet the needs of New York State youth.

On Friday January 22, 2010, OYD will be sending you a training video link, the URL link for QYDS, and technical assistance documents. As you work with this new application, our OYD Central and Regional Office staffs are available to assist either at your location, by phone, or by email.

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner



An Equal Opportunity Employer

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Youth Development Policy Statement

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) serves New York's public by promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of our children, families and communities.

Purpose

OCFS is committed to the promotion and development of self-sufficient families and individuals. OCFS expects that all children and youth in programs operated or regulated by OCFS will receive:

- equal access to quality services;
- appropriate individualized treatment that respects gender and sexual orientation, and cultural, physical, social, emotional and linguistic needs; and
- care in environments that promote developmental assets.

OCFS believes that creating conditions that promote the development of children, youth and families is a responsibility shared by all. OCFS is committed to working inclusively and collaboratively within our own agency and with other state agencies, local governments, community-based agencies, schools, young people, their families and communities as a whole to promote and advance the principles and practices of youth development. The goal is to create an array of practices and tools that help and support young people preparing for college, work and life.

The purpose of this youth development policy statement is to encourage the use of youth development principles that help youth achieve developmental assets and skills that support a successful transition to self-sufficiency. These assets include the following broad development domains: physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional, and social*.

Components of Quality Youth Development Programming:

OCFS seeks to promote the development of multifaceted quality programs that will create an environment where youth can grow, learn, thrive and develop to their fullest potential. Quality youth development programs for children and youth should include the following features*:

- physical and psychological safety
- appropriate structure that provides clear limit setting, rules and expectations
- supportive relationships
- opportunities to belong; meaningful inclusion regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability
- positive social norms
- support for efficacy (ability to produce effects) and mattering (be of importance) by engaging, empowering, and challenging youth to make a difference
- opportunities for skill-building
- integration of family, school, and community efforts

These strategies cut across all disciplines that help children grow from early childhood, through adolescence and into adulthood to become competent and healthy adults, and develop to their full potential.

* From Community Programs to Promote Youth Development by the National Research Council 2002