



All youth ready for  
college, work & life.

READY BY 21 CONVENING: QUALITY COUNTS AND SOUTHEAST CHALLENGES

# Concurrent Interactive Learning Sessions

# Interactive Learning Sessions, Round One

April 15, 3:20 – 4:20

## **Technology to Track and Align Your Ready by 21® Effort**

Leaders trying to change the way they do business can simultaneously experience information overload *and* a lack of good data. Learn about different approaches to ensure planning processes and community commitments are results-oriented and data-driven. Discussion leaders will share tools for setting baseline goals for improving child and youth outcomes, school and community supports, monitoring progress, creating feedback loops and public reporting.

*Paul Everson, Community Systems Group; Ananda, Roberts nFocus; Adam Luecking, Results Leadership Group; Karen Pittman, Forum for Youth Investment*

Dupont B

## **Improving Youth Program Quality**

Investing in “Point-of-Service” quality – the programmatic spaces where young people and adults meet to advance youth development and learning – is an effective way to change the odds for children and youth. This Interactive workshop will explore *bolder strategies* to improve the quality of experiences available to youth in a wide variety of settings. Presenters will summarize the research based Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) and discuss strategies for building lower stakes accountability systems based on standardized assessment of quality at the point of service. A Quality Counts site representative will share their experiences with system building.

*Charles Smith & Joe Bertoletti, David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality*

Kalorama

## **Emerging Federal Policy Opportunities**

With the passage of health care reform, pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly No Child Left Behind), and some Recovery Act funds still up for grabs, the time is now to coordinate federal funds at the state and local level to support the ever-important insulation of the education pipeline. The “insulation” includes basic services, e.g., health, as well as learning and engagement supports, e.g., after-school programs and youth employment opportunities.

*Elizabeth Gaines, Forum for Youth Investment; Dorian Friedman, Corporate Voices for Working Families; Shawn Stelow-Griffin, The Finance Project; Brad Byrant, GA State Board of Ed*

Georgetown

## **Building Lasting Coordinating Structures**

This workshop will focus on building strong coordinating structures that are broad in scope, have both authority and visibility, and have the staffing and resources to perform key functions. We will share what we have learned about the functions and practices of effective coordinating structures and then the floor will be open for participants to share specific challenges and seek advice from partners and peers.

*Merita Irby, Forum for Youth Investment*

Dupont A

## **Engaging Youth: From Planning to Action**

Involving a “full range of stakeholders” includes finding meaningful ways to involve young people themselves in community efforts to improve child and youth well-being. Young people are participating in big picture planning, policy advocacy, and community change efforts across the country. Join this discussion and learn how your peers have engaged youth in powerful ways in leading their Ready by 21 efforts.

*Rob Schamberg, Forum for Youth Investment; Pat Seppanen & Lynette Ward, Search Institute; Anderson Williams, Oasis Center; Debbi Herr; Black Oak Mine School District*

Dupont A

# Interactive Learning Sessions, Round Two

April 15, 4:30 – 5:30

## Engaging Education and Business Stakeholders in Ready by 21

The education and business sectors represent critical stakeholders in any strategic effort to change the odds for children and youth. Representatives from two of the Ready by 21 Mobilization Partners – the American Association of School Administrators and Corporate Voices for Working Families – will lead this discussion, offering guidance and examples of efforts where schools or business have taken leadership roles or have come to the table as productive partners. Bring your own successes to share and challenges to troubleshoot.

*Bryan Joffe & Angela Johnson Davis, American Association of School Administrators; Sara Toland, Jennifer Webe, & Melissa Hough, Corporate Voices for Working Families*

Dupont A

## Tracking Programs and Participation

Louisville is working to achieve excellence in graduation rates and aligning resources in their community. Gain insight into what Louisville has discovered and what has made others like Boston, St. Louis, Washington DC, Northwest Indiana, Hawaii, and Grand Rapids follow suit. Learn how these communities are using data to better analyze a wide-range of critical information while creating relationships between community-based organizations, social-service agencies, public schools and government entities.

*Ananda Roberts, nFocus*

Dupont B

## Aligning Policies and Resources

Learn how states and cities are tracking their investments in young people in new and exciting ways. Many are moving from the traditional department centered budgeting to youth centered budgeting in order to better understand how their investments align with their goals. The Forum for Youth Investment and The Finance Project together created *Adding It Up: A Guide to Mapping Public Resources for Children, Youth and Families* to assist leaders who want better data to inform their decision making. Practical tools for doing this work will be shared.

*Elizabeth Gaines, Forum for Youth Investment; Shawn Stelow-Griffin, The Finance Project*

Dupont A

## Improving Youth Program Quality

Investing in “Point-of-Service” quality – the programmatic spaces where young people and adults meet to advance youth development and learning – is an effective way to change the odds for children and youth. This Interactive workshop will explore *bolder strategies* to improve the quality of experiences available to youth in a wide variety of settings. Presenters will summarize the research based Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) and discuss strategies for building lower stakes accountability systems based on standardized assessment of quality at the point of service. A Quality Counts site representative will share their experiences with system building.

*Charles Smith & Joe Bertoletti, David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality*

Kalorama

## Linking Organizational Performance with Ready by 21

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of the Results-Based Accountability™ (RBA) approach to measuring and improving the performance of organizations and community quality of life in a way that aligns with the Ready by 21 approach. RBA is based on a “change-agent” model that helps communities to align the efforts of various programs, service systems and strategies to more effectively impact results for children, families, adults and communities.

*Karen Finn, Results Leadership Group*

Georgetown

# Interactive Learning Sessions, Round 3

April 16, 9:45 – 10:45

## **Results Based Planning/Master Planning**

Join this session and learn about the power of planning with the end results in mind. Participants will learn about how different communities and states are developing results-based master plans for children and youth. Presenters will draw on tools and resources developed by the Forum for Youth Investment and Results Leadership Group. Learn tips for bringing a broad range of stakeholders together around a shared vision and common goals, and learn what makes a master plan a “Ready by 21” master plan.

*Karen Finn, Results Leadership Group; Merita Irby, Forum for Youth Investment*

Dupont B

## **Improving the Quality of Youth-Serving Systems: Roles of United Ways**

As a key funder of programs and a respected community convener, local United Ways are in a prime position to support, promote (and require!) the development of quality programs for youth. But often they are hamstrung by historic relationships and ways of doing business. This session will explore how United Ways can move beyond the old ways, improve the quality of UW-funded programs, and support the development of community systems and adoption of community-wide quality standards. We will also discuss how quality improvement fits with and supports Ready by 21 efforts in communities. Two local United Ways will share their experiences, and the bulk of the time will be open for discussion.

*Ayeola Fortune & Heather Padgett, United Way Worldwide*

Kalorama

## **Beyond Programs: Tracking Comprehensive Community Initiatives**

We agree that our communities need a well-coordinated and comprehensive effort to assure that young people are Ready by 21 – But how in the world do you keep track of such an effort? What is comprehensive? What do you count? Who does the counting? And, How does it all add up? This session provides an introduction to the basic building blocks of evaluating comprehensive community efforts to improve outcomes for youth.

*Paul Everson, Community Systems Group*

Dupont B

## **Communicating about Ready by 21**

The goal of this session is to increase participants' comfort and confidence with using core Ready by 21 messages. A senior trainer from Douglas Gould & Co. will lead this interactive session which will address the essentials of clear message delivery and persuasion. Participants will learn tips for and have a chance to practice communicating complex materials in a media-friendly manner.

*Jennifer Hahn, Douglas Gould & Co.*

Georgetown

## **Mapping the Programmatic Landscape**

Few communities have a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of what is available for children and youth during the non-school hours. Information about program goals, focus, population served, hours, etc. is difficult to find, if it exists at all. And yet such information is critical for supporting referral systems and missing from most community planning and prioritization efforts. Review principles for effectively mapping the program landscape and see a demonstration of Austin's web-based Youth Services Mapping system.

*Kiley Bednar, Forum for Youth Investment; Suzanne Hershey, Austin Ready by 21 Coalition*

Dupont A

## **Redefining Outcomes: Measuring Youth Readiness**

Though many leaders are committed to ensuring young people are *ready* in a comprehensive sense – ready for college, work, and life – communities tend to know a lot about student success (or lack thereof) in the context of schools. We track attendance rates, dropout rates, grades, test scores. We typically lack information on the total child and on the total array of community supports beyond schools. This session will focus on strategies for filling this critical gap with data on developmental outcomes that can be regularly gathered and reported.

*Pat Seppanen, Search Institute; Justin Bibb, The Gallup Organization*

Dupont A