

Reengaging Disconnected Youth: Municipal Leadership and Public System Collaboration

**National League of Cities
Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
and Center for Schools & Communities**

**Live, Online Learning Seminar
Wednesday, October 25, 2006
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST)**



Opening question: What does “cross-system collaboration” mean?

- Being able to conspire openly with your competitors.
- Putting the money on the table, and taking your hands off.
- To do more with LE\$\$.
- Teaching grown people to share.
- **Collaboration.**



Answer:

All of the above!



National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth



National League of Cities

- National association – 18,000 cities, villages and towns
- Pennsylvania League of Cities and Towns = affiliate
- Institute for Youth, Education & Families



Youth Development program area

- Youth leadership / city youth councils
- Youth master planning
- Childhood obesity
- Disconnected youth (DY)



Definition

Disconnection

Lacking strong ties to school, work, caring adults and the community



Polling question

What percentage of youth, ages 16-24 are currently disconnected from school or work settings?

- A. 1 in 6
- B. 1 in 8
- C. 1 in 10
- D. 1 in 12



One in six older youth disconnected

- 3.8 million between 16-24 neither in school nor employed; number is increasing
- 20% of age group in larger cities
- 20,000 per year leaving foster care
- 200,000 per year leaving correctional facilities
- Overlaps: teen parents, homeless, runaways



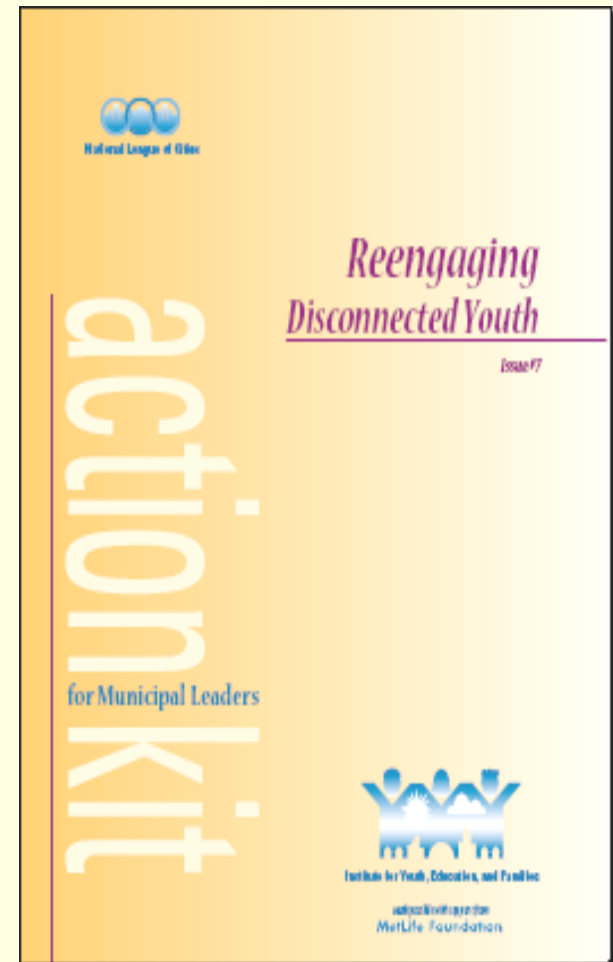
Why focus on “disconnection”?

- Disconnection greatly increases the chances of getting off track – diverts careers, families, futures
- Toward productive reengagement – challenge and opportunity for cities & nation



Early disconnected youth project components

- Documenting cross-system efforts in eight cities as key strategies for disconnected youth
- Action Kit for leaders at <http://www.nlc.org/content/Files/IYEF-Action%20Kit-DY%20Youth.pdf>
- Technical assistance 2007



Polling Question

Has your community documented actual statistics or trends regarding disconnected youth?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know



How much do you know about statistics, trends?

- Youth unemployment
- School dropout rate
- Youth aging out of foster care
- Youth reentering from secure justice settings
- Youth progression to post secondary education



Evanston, Wyoming

Pop. 12,000

■ Issues

- High rates of teen suicide, substance abuse

■ Key early steps

- One year consensus-building process
- Community youth coalition
- Community assets / resources review, gap analysis
- City Youth Services Division



Evanston's cross-system efforts

- **Youth Opportunities Unlimited** – *prevention*
 - Out-of-school time programming for 6th-12th graders
 - VISTA staffing support
 - Adult guided, youth driven
- **Youth Drug & Alcohol Court** – *intervention*
 - 16.7% recidivism
 - Partial state support via tobacco settlement funds



Albany, New York

Pop. 100,000

■ Issues

- High rates of truancy
- Gangs

■ Key steps

- Gather statistics with school district
- Identify best practices
- Assemble potential partners via Safe Communities Advisory Board



Albany's cross-system efforts

- **Service Navigation System**
 - Gateway to training, education, support services
- **Truancy Abatement Program / Center**
 - City, schools, police, community-based organizations
- **Regional Gang Prevention Program**
 - Three counties, school district, correctional facilities, police, community-based organizations



San Francisco, California

Pop. 500,000

■ Issue

- Homelessness, including former foster youth

■ Key Steps

- 2003 Study

45% former foster youth homeless since emancipation

53% unemployed

30% lack high school diploma

33% on public assistance

- 2006 Transitional Youth Task Force



San Francisco's cross-system efforts

- Scattered-site transitional housing for youth ages 18 -21
- Converting hotel as permanent supportive housing
- Youth track in one stop system
- Early transitional planning for 14-15 year olds
 - Savings Accounts
 - One-stop teen center for in-care and emancipated foster youth
 - Scholarships



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Pop. 1.5 million

■ Issues

- Scattered, weak foster youth transition services
- High juvenile reentry, recidivism and violence rates

■ Key Steps

- Form Out-of-School Youth Subcommittee of Youth Council
- Using TANF funds to serve youth
- Maintain job training capacity by folding in reentry population



Philadelphia's cross-system efforts

- **Achieving Independence Center**
 - Employment/education one-stop for transitioning foster youth, 700 “members”
- **Juvenile Reintegration Initiative**
 - Step-down services for serious offenders at one of three workforce training centers
- **Youth Violence Reduction Partnership**
 - Intensive follow-up/support for targeted youth



Additional cities included in the case study

- Baltimore, Maryland
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Corpus Christi, Texas
- San Diego, California
- San Jose, California



Case Study Findings: Role of Municipal Leaders

- Conceptualizing – vision
- Convening
- Commissioning – research, intermediaries
- Cross-walking – with counties, school districts, foundations, businesses
- Co-financing
- Promoting



Case Study Findings: Co-financing - Key funding streams under city control/influence

- Community Development Block Grant
- Housing, homelessness, health
- Law enforcement block grants
- Workforce
- General revenue + state grants, revenue sharing
- Beyond specific streams – “leadership influence” for child welfare, education, and juvenile justice – underused resource



Additional Case Study Findings:

Cross-system collaboration as a **strategy**

- Two, three or more systems / agencies

Clearly defined **lead agency** or **intermediary**

- Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Corpus Christi Parks Department
- San Jose Mayor' Gang Prevention Task Force

Data sharing + accountability structures

- San Diego Risk & Resiliency Checklist

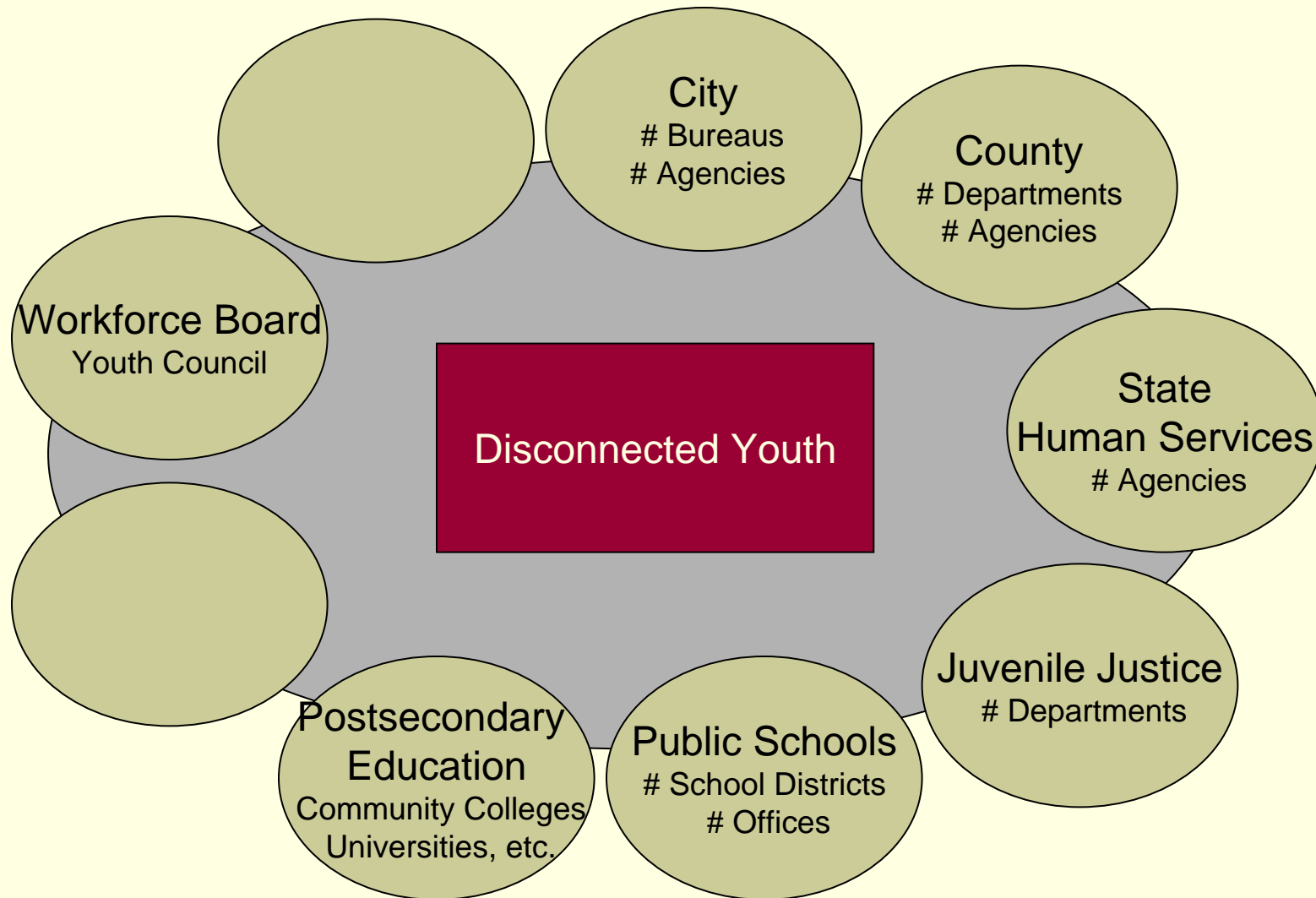


Where does a community start?

- Recruit leadership
- Convene stakeholders
- Assess strengths / needs
- Involve youth
- Use existing resources
- Build public awareness and support



Community Stakeholders



What does success look like?

- Common points – entry, intake, assessment
- Common case management
- Transition / aftercare planning
- Outreach / new capacity
- Financial sustainability / leveraging local funds



Question and Answer Segment



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