

Promoting Science-Based Approaches— Getting To Outcomes Success Stories: Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN)

About The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy:

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supported largely by private donations. The National Campaign's mission is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable, two-parent families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation. Our specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors.

Case Study Participant: Judith F. Clark, Executive Director for Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN)

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) has filled an important gap for teachers and practitioners by providing training and technical assistance (TA) on programs to prevent teen pregnancy. HYSN continually provides workshops on using Promoting Science-Based Approaches-Getting to Outcomes (PSBA-GTO) to lay a useful and practical framework for organizations that focus primarily on teen pregnancy prevention as well as for those that cover a much wider range of health related issues. HYSN uses PSBA-GTO as a framework for planning their training activities, and they have conducted two workshops for service providers on PSBA-GTO (with a trainer from Healthy Teen Network). HYSN staff will continue to conduct workshops on PSBA-GTO over the next year. In addition to broader training sessions, HYSN has systematically moved through the PSBA-GTO steps since the beginning of their intensive partnerships with local providers and are currently working on step 10 (sustainability). The challenges that HYSN has faced while working with their intensive partners fall under steps 4 and 10, program fit and sustainability.

The PSBA-GTO framework has provided HYSN with a sound infrastructure and step-by-step process that facilitates their TA work and serves as a helpful check-list. By using PSBA-GTO, HYSN has been able to help ensure that partners and programs are moving forward in a more systematic way and that all necessary actions are taken, from

setting goals to building organizational capacity to ensuring adequate levels of funding. PSBA-GTO has helped build relationships, remove barriers, and establish a step-by-step process that more easily allows for training of trainers which increases continuity in their organizations.

Fit. In Hawaii, state funding for teen pregnancy prevention is available through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. While many after school programs are able to use TANF funds to establish after school programs, many of the educators need training in teen pregnancy prevention programs, which is not available through TANF. HYSN provides these needed training workshops on programs to prevent teen pregnancy and on the PSBA-GTO process for program educators. Due to the success of workshops, many of the teen pregnancy prevention programs that are implemented are science-based programs. One challenge with respect to selecting an appropriate science-based program is the fact that there are no science-based programs developed specifically with and for Asian and Pacific Islander teens. As a result, program providers must adapt the materials as necessary to fit their population. HYSN serves a critical role in this process and has helped sites adapt the curriculum for use with their teens. One particular adaptation included making a new video for use in the *Making Proud Choices!*¹ curriculum. The video was developed and

produced in partnership with teens who wrote stories that better resonated with their peer groups than the original video provided with the curriculum. The script for the video was written by a public school teacher and a Planned Parenthood intern who is also a public health student. Teens were involved in video production as well—one graduate of the *Making Proud Choices!* course even wrote a new role play. A pilot evaluation of the video will be underway soon. Other technical assistance that HYSN provides related to program fit includes co-hosting parent meeting nights to explain to parents what is included in the *Making Proud Choices!* curriculum. These meetings are generally held jointly with the program site and the school administration. The intensive partner organization presents the curriculum and talks about how they will handle controversial issues. HYSN staff lead a discussion about the effectiveness of using a science-based approach, goes over the lessons, discusses the controversial issues such as sexual abuse, abortion, homosexuality, and express their excitement of participating in evaluation on what works with Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Sustainability. Through the PSBA-GTO process HYSN's sites have realized the importance of private donor cultivation to supplement funding from state and federal grants. HYSN is working with its sites to address the challenge of sustainability by providing fund development workshops in combination with individualized technical assistance. Some of the workshops they have held recently include: Grant Writing, Donorship, and Finding the Fit: Funding Development Planning. HYSN has also provided TA to Planned Parenthood and other agencies in developing applications for multi-year funding and encouraging them to apply to new and different funding sources than they have traditionally relied upon. As in many other states and communities, funding in Hawaii is very limited for teen pregnancy prevention. As a result, two of HYSN's intensive partners

sometimes compete for the same grant funding. One solution to this tension was the development of a joint funding proposal developed from the two HYSN partners.

In summary, the key lessons learned from the PSBA-GTO process are that program fit is key for implementing science-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, and sometimes the program fit includes making adaptations as appropriate. In addition, cultivating private donor and community support is important to improve the long term sustainability of programs and organizations.

***please see update note below**

About the Putting What Works to Work Project

Putting What Works to Work (PWWTW) is a project of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy funded, in part, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Through PWWTW, the National Campaign is translating research on teen pregnancy prevention and related issues into user-friendly materials for practitioners, policymakers, and advocates. As part of this initiative, the *Science Says* series summarizes recent research in short, easy-to-understand briefs.

Author Information

This research brief was written by National Campaign staff member Corinna Sieber.

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* An update: Since this case study was first developed, Hawaii Youth Services Network received the 2008 Horizon Health Education Award for their work with schools and community-based organizations to select and implement appropriate programs with fidelity.

¹ *Making Proud Choices!* (1998) is a curriculum-based program. For more information on this program please refer to *What Works* at <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/works/PWWTWreports.aspx> and *Emerging Answers 2007* at <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/ea2007/>.