

Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Program Quality News connects education and human service leaders with research, case studies, tools and training to improve the quality of youth programs.

Features

Early Peek at Ready by 21 National Meeting Workshops

On April 22-24, several hundred leaders from across the nation will come together for a common cause: to help improve the odds that all children and youth will be ready for college, work and life. We are proud that the likes of John Kania, Patrick McCarthy and Ralph Smith will join us as guest speakers. Our workshops are the real stars. A few standouts that you won't want to miss:

YPQI 101: Introduction to Performance Management in Extended Learning Time

This session is designed to help those considering a quality improvement system to understand its value as a method for improving system infrastructure, performance-based accountability and building staff and manager competencies. Our focus will be the



Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI), an evidence-based intervention that improves staff skills to deliver developmentally powerful learning experiences in afterschool settings. The United Way of Greater Cincinnati will share organizational reflections on its experience with the YPQI.

Does Quality Matter in Afterschool? Expanded Learning and Youth

New findings from three rigorous evaluations by the American Institutes for Research demonstrate that participation in high quality afterschool programs has a consistent positive association with school success outcomes, particularly behavior and grade promotion. This session will share the findings from these studies, interpret the pattern and magnitude of effects and discuss the implications of this evidence for afterschool policies.

YPQI 2.0: The Next Generation of Performance Management

The Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) is an evidence-based continuous improvement model that has a cascade of effects from the implementation of management practices to staff engagement, quality instructional practices, youth engagement and youth skill development. This session will describe a recent pilot in the Chicago Park District, where multiple measures were employed to assess the quality of programs and provide performance feedback to program sites. This next generation of the YPQI will provide system leaders with a set of metrics to help them allocate resources and incentivize participation in supports.

Moving the Needle: Performance-Based Accountability Systems

This session addresses how Quality Improvement Systems (QIS) and Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO) can continue moving the needle on the quality and effectiveness of expanded learning services. The Palm Beach County QIS and Prime Time, Inc. (a QIO) will be used to demonstrate how the outputs of the afterschool service are defined and measured; how multiple sources of data are composed as site-level performance indicators; how specific levels of "good" performance are identified on various indicators; and how incentives (ranging from improvement supports to funding) are aligned with specific performance indicators.

[Find out more>>](#) about the National Meeting and stay tuned as we release more featured workshops. We hope to see you there!

Reports and Guides

Closing the Achievement Gap After School

Deborah Lowe Vandell, education school dean at the University of California at Irvine, has released new research on the value of afterschool programs. It shows that sustained participation in afterschool activities during kindergarten through fifth grades is linked to higher math scores, with low-income students reaping especially large benefits. Participation in high-quality programs also correlated with higher grades and a better work ethic. Read an [abstract of the study](#) or [browse the findings](#).



Quality Assessment Tool Expands for Summer Programs

The Weikart Center is refining a new quality assessment tool for summer programs and again making it available to select organizations.



In 2013, with support from the William T. Grant, Doug and Maria DeVos, and Packard Foundations, the Weikart Center partnered with the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) to develop a unique program quality assessment for summer programs. The tool combines elements of the Youth Program Quality Assessment with the NSLA's Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs. A [report on the pilot](#) confirms the value of a quality assessment tool designed for summer learning programs.

The Wallace, Raikes and Packard Foundations have granted funding for a second pilot. The 2014 Summer Learning Program Quality Intervention project will include a refined intervention design with revised measures and methods, and with increased opportunities for performance feedback. Contact [Ravi Ramaswamy](#) for more information.

Collaboration Improves Supports for Disadvantaged Youth

How do you increase equity and eliminate opportunity gaps for disadvantaged youth? Providers in Washington state instituted an evidence-based quality improvement process among afterschool providers, which was just named as a finalist in the inaugural [Road Map Project Awards Program](#).

The Road Map Project is a community-wide effort to improve student achievement - with supports from cradle to college and career - in South King County and South Seattle. School's Out Washington and its partners were cited for using the Youth Program Quality Initiative to create a culture of data, improvement, intentionality and professionalization among some 114 participating programs. A group of independent organizations now operate as a system bound by shared language, a common quality framework and assessment tool, and a shared understanding of effective practice.



School's Out Washington explains the initiative [here](#).

Calendar of Events

Youth Work Management Training of Trainers

This Training of Trainers is targeted at managers and site leaders who wish to support their sites throughout the quality improvement cycle. Graduates of the Management TOT can facilitate the Planning with Data and Quality Coaching workshops, as well as provide comprehensive logistical and professional development support to staff who are involved in the process. The course consists of three weeks of distance learning, two days of live training and one week of distance follow-up.



Where & When: Oakland, Calif., April 24-25
[Register Now>>](#)

Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers

Want to learn how to train your afterschool staff to increase the quality of their work? The Weikart Center is offering its Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers course. This session teaches staff how to deliver the Youth Work Methods courses, which empower direct staff with tools to increase the quality of their instruction which can lead to higher youth engagement.



Where & When: Atlanta, Ga., May 1-3; Chicago, Ill., June 2-4
[Registration open for Atlanta>>](#)
[Registration for Chicago>>](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO PROGRAM QUALITY NEWS](#)

The Forum for Youth Investment is the proud parent company of The Ready by 21 National Partnership, the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, the Children's Cabinet Network and SparkAction.org.



[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to plamacchia@cypq.org by plamacchia@cypq.org |

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality | 301 W. Michigan Ave. | Suite 200 | Ypsilanti | MI | 48197