

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.

Better Evidence for Decision-Makers: Emerging Pathways from Existing Knowledge

There is increasingly broad consensus supporting the use of evidence to address critical social problems. Most notably, there has been widespread effort to determine which individual programs can demonstrate strong evidence of impact. A new report from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, "Better Evidence for Decision-Makers: Emerging Pathways from Existing Knowledge" highlights examples and scholars that are moving the field of evidence-based policy forward. One of the scholars highlighted is Dr. Charles Smith, long-time leader of the Weikart Center:

"Smith's work goes deeply into the question of what it means to "implement well," and how that can be achieved, for a specific service type. It includes not only standards of practice, but also specification of how such practices can be observed and the organizational factors needed to support them. In fact, all three of these approaches have produced not only research findings, but also tools that can be used to support more effective practice."

[Read the full report here.](#)

The Future of Children: Social and Emotional Learning

With funding from the Wallace Foundation, editors of the journal, "The Future of Children," review the field of social and emotional learning in their latest issue. They conclude SEL skills are essential for children, professional development is essential for adults and that appropriate measurement is also necessary.

[Read the full issue now.](#)

Upcoming Events

Neutral Zone Youth Engagement Institute

Research demonstrates that providing greater youth voice and leadership in the programs that serve them has many benefits: their participation grows, as does their engagement, interest and investment. Join the Neutral Zone and community-based youth workers and school advisers in a two-day intro to Youth Advisory Council training in Ann Arbor, Mich. August 23-24.

[Learn more and register.](#)

2017 Bridge Conference: "Together We Rise" with Keynote, Karen Pittman

The Bridge Conference is an annually hosted conference for expanded learning professionals in the Pacific Northwest. This year's theme, "Together We Rise," explores what it takes for young people to thrive. Join Forum for Youth Investment founder and CEO, Karen Pittman, as she explores equity, opportunity and readiness at this year's conference in Seattle, Wash. October 16-17.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Save the Date: 7th Annual Ready by 21 National Meeting

Be a part of the unique opportunity to connect with 500+ leaders who are working to improve outcomes for young people in communities and states across the country. The Forum for Youth Investment and the Weikart Center hope to see you in Palm Beach County, Fla. April 18-20, 2018!

[Stay tuned for information.](#)

Weikart Center Capacity Building Opportunities

Are you a manager or site leader who wants to support your program sites through the Quality Improvement Cycle? Are you interested in building your capacity to offer professional development opportunities to your program staff?



Check out these upcoming course offerings, and contact Jennifer@cypq.org with any questions.

Youth Work Management Training-of-Trainers

- November 2-3 - Seattle, Wash. - [Register by September 22](#)

Youth Work Methods Training-of-Trainers

- December 6-8 - Seattle, Wash. - [Register by October 20](#)

[Click here for more information on capacity building training.](#)

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