

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.

Changing the Odds for Youth: Creating Opportunities that Really Matter

"I don't want to go to any more celebrations in which young people are given 'beat the odds' awards to acknowledge the individual commitment they have made to overcome obstacles. This is not because these young people don't deserve our attention and awe. They absolutely do. It's because we should not in any way settle for individual successes when there is so much more we could have done to ameliorate mass struggles.

I want to go to celebrations where adults and youth are reporting on the concrete work they have done to 'change the odds' for young people. The difference between these two words- beat vs. change - is huge." [Read more from Forum for Youth Investment CEO, Karen Pittman](#)

Self-Regulation and Goal Attainment: A New Perspective for Employment Programs

What are self-regulation skills and what role might they play in readiness? A new study released from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, looks at the role of self-regulation skills in one's ability to obtain and maintain employment. [Read the full study here.](#)

Weikart Center Founder Honored in Community Engagement Event

Each year, Eastern Michigan University (EMU) honors collaborative members of their community. On April 6, Dr. Charles Smith, the Founder and Chief Knowledge Officer of the Weikart Center, was honored for his high level of partnership with the EMU Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Community. As a key partner in the development of the [EMU Bright Futures](#) program, Smith has made it possible to develop a strong cohort of EMU Bright Futures educators who are now skilled in research-based youth development practices. He has worked with the EMU Bright Futures team for the last decade to develop a sustainable professional development model and continuous program improvement strategies.

Chicago's Family Focus Wins Best Practice Program Award

We're happy to share [Family Focus](#) won the 31st annual *Best Practice Program Award*, awarded by the Illinois Afterschool Network. Family Focus works to promote the well-being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening families in and with their communities. They work to help parents gain confidence and competence as the primary caregivers and educators of their children, and to provide parents and their children with critical resources and learning opportunities to encourage healthy development in their communities. The Weikart Center works to support the continuous quality improvement efforts of the Family Focus programs. Congratulations Family Focus!

Upcoming Events

Y4Y Showcase Webinar: Assessing Program Effectiveness with Y4Y

June 15, 1:00 PM ET

Join leaders from Washington State and Vermont 21st Century Community Learning Centers in a webinar hosted by You for Youth (Y4Y). This opportunity offers valuable strategies and tools to continually assess your program effectiveness throughout the year and to support ongoing professional learning for staff. [Learn more and register.](#)

Ideas to Action Conference 2017: Raising Expectations, Lowering Stakes and

Join EMU Bright Futures and the Weikart Center on June 23 in Ypsilanti, MI for the 3rd annual Ideas to Action Conference. This one-day gathering will share the latest research and best practices in Social Emotional Learning for OST staff and administrators, as well as K-12 educators and administrators. [Read more about the conference and register.](#)

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 Methods Training-of-Trainers

- August 2-4 - Seattle, Wash. - [Register by June 16](#)

Youth Work Management Training-of-Trainers

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

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

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