

Connectedness

A Fundamental Need of All Young People

LEAH/SAHRC

10th Teleconference

February 11, 2010



State Adolescent Health Resource Center

Joining us today...

- Rhode Island Department of Health
 - Rosemary Reilly-Chammat, Ed.D.

- University of Minnesota
 - Michael D. Resnick, Ph.D.
 - Paul V. Snyder, MSW, Mdiv

Connectedness *a fundamental human need*

Michael D. Resnick, Ph.D
University of Minnesota

Social Connectedness

- Philosophical,
- Programmatic, and
- Measurement Perspectives

Social Changes...

...leading to increased
disconnection in
U.S. society

Protective Effects of Connectedness on Health

- National & International evidence
 - Robust
 - Consistent
- *To whom do these findings apply?*

Promoting Adolescent Social Connectedness

- What funders are saying and doing
- Initiatives & Opportunities

Partnering Across Disciplines to Improve School Connectedness

How two professionals listened to the community; followed their passions; identified and welcomed new partners; increased their knowledge; developed a new idea; and found funding to make the new idea become real.

Paul V. Snyder, MSW, MDiv
Konopka Institute
University of Minnesota

A story of a newly funded initiative to address school connectedness

- **The Story:** Minnesota Partnership for School Connectedness (MPSC)
- **The Process:** A thematic planning approach to funding that can be adapted and adopted by anyone
- **The Material for Today:** Review the approach and provide specific examples how MPSC enacted each theme during the planning process

Listen

- Listen for new funding opportunities at your agency and other agencies that could impact adolescent health
- Create opportunities to hear others' perspectives
- Listen with a critical ear
- Ask questions – lots of them

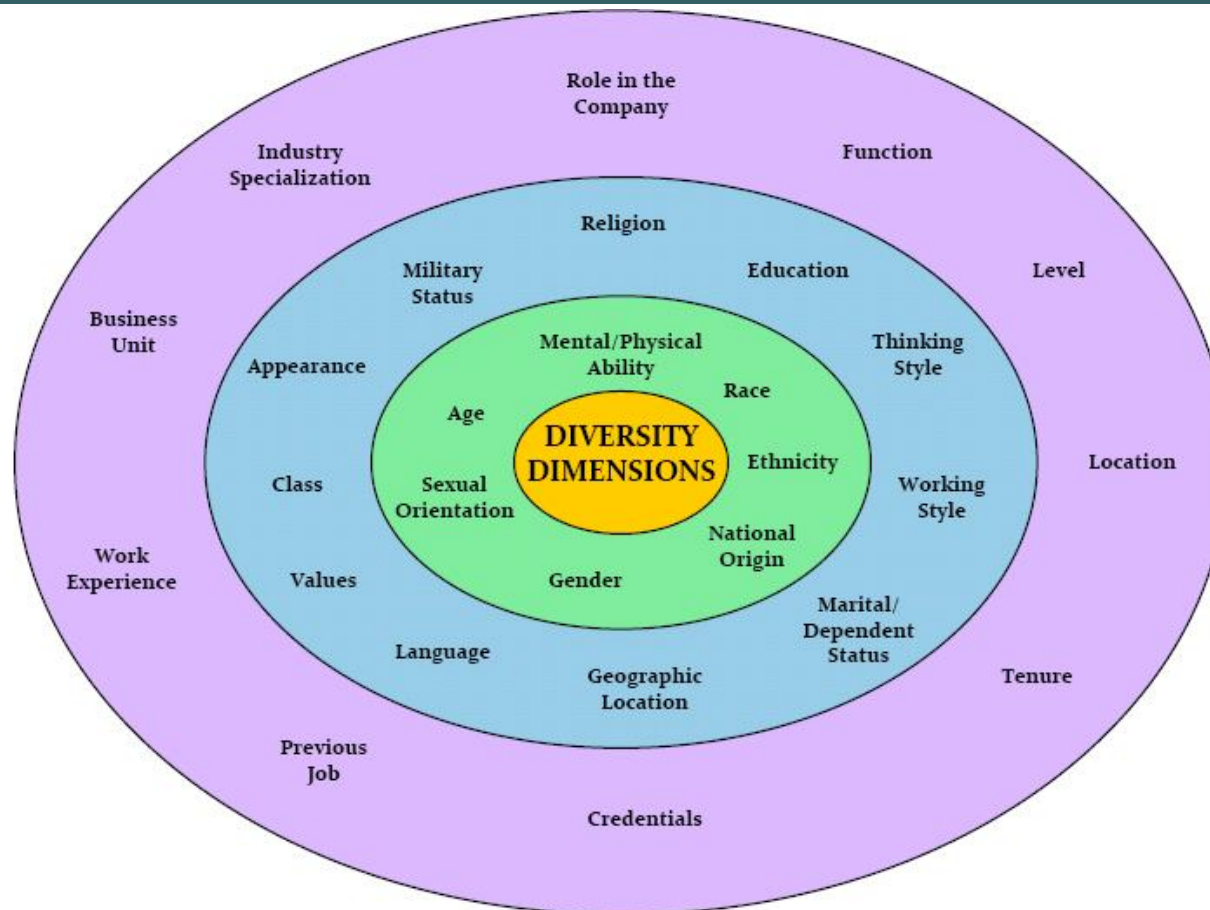
Don't Follow the Money, Follow Your Passion

- View your position as a vocation, not a job
- Re-explore what first called you to your work
- Examine what issues fuel your passion, what issues really *drive you to do what you do* for adolescents
- Be realistic about what you can contribute – and what you can't
- Surround yourself with persons of similar passion

Partner

- To do work in the community, one must partner *with* the community
- To do work with other disciplines (whether across schools in a university or across agencies in state government), one must partner *with* other disciplines
- Acknowledge discomfort
- Express interest in others' work and experience

Dimensions of Diversity



Increase Your Knowledge

- Recognize that interdisciplinary work requires continual learning
- Learn the language of the other discipline
- Acknowledge that universities and state agencies aren't the sole holders of knowledge, but they're a good source for research
- Learn from others doing work in the field on behalf of adolescents

Formulate the Idea...

- Don't do the work alone
- Present the idea to those doing the work in the field, in different ways
- Present the idea to researchers
- Always ask with whom else you should consult

...and then... Reformulate the Idea

Find Funding

- Stay current on funding trends
- Take grantwriting classes
- Expand your network to include funders and successful recipients of funding
- Seek out mentors
- If possible, hire a talented grantwriter

**Make *your own*
new idea
a reality**

How do we apply connectedness to state adolescent health efforts?

Discussion Moderated by:

- **Rosemary Reilly-Chammat, Ed.D.**
 - Adolescent Health, Manager
Perinatal and Early Childhood Team
Division of Community, Family Health and Equity
Rhode Island Department of Health

Related Resources

State Adolescent Health Resource Center

<http://www.med.umn.edu/peds/ahm/programs/sahrc/home.html>

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health

<http://leah.mchtraining.net/about.php>

University of Minnesota LEAH

<http://www.med.umn.edu/peds/ahm/>

Related Resources

- **Healthy Youth Development: Science and Strategies**
Debra Hilken Bernat and Michael D. Resnick, (2006) *J Public Health Management Practice*, 2006, November(Suppl), S10–S16, © 2006 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc.
- **Requirements for healthy development of adolescent youth**
Konopka, G. (1973). *Adolescence* 8(31), 2-25.
- **Key Concepts and Research Findings: What Is Meant by “Connectedness”?**
Chapter 19: Connectedness in the Lives of Adolescents, Debra H. Bernat, Michael D. Resnick
- **Listening to New Voices: Youth Voices on Staying in School & Dropout Prevention in Minnesota (2009)** A report by The Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota, with support from the Minnesota Department of Education’s Dropout Prevention, Retention, and Graduation Initiative, Winter 2009
- **School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth (2009)** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Event Feedback

Please take a moment to answer a few questions about today's event.

If others joined you, please forward this evaluation link to them.

To evaluate this event, go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KZFDL75>